

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
MARCH 25, 2019

The meeting was opened by Mayor Ochs with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield

Jerry Lamb

Connie Rayburn

Jack Kelley

Trent Wisner (absent)

Guests present: Jeff Shinolt, Barbara King, Chris Lowe, Joanie Van Horn, Steve Elsner, Jeff Walker, Greg Martin, Elise Allen, Craig Kipper, Stephen Sollman, Annie Payne, Robin Brown, and Russell Vaught.

Connie made the motion to accept the minutes of the March 11, 2019 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Jeff Walker, NEP Community Wellness Coordinator, discussed with council the progress made by the "Joining Jennings for Healthy Living" group. The group, formerly called the "Jennings County Action Team", shared with council their action plan that includes five initiatives: Web-based information resource, tree planting, adult fitness equipment, a pedestrian corridor, and a fruit & vegetable prescription program. Action team member Dr. Stephen Sollman discussed the need for continuous sidewalks throughout the community. No motions or action took place at this time.

Joanie Van Horn and Steve Elsner, representing the Jennings County Community Foundation, informed council that the foundation is planning a Summer Fun Fest at the Community Foundation on July 19th to celebrate the foundation's 25-year anniversary. The hope of the foundation is to promote the foundation, grow funds, and increase operating expenses. The foundation requested from council use of the city stage for the day of the event, as well as permission to close a portion of East Main Street. Connie made the motion to allow the street closure from North State Street towards Gum Street as far as necessary to hold the event pending notification of the event to the neighbors and surrounding businesses. The motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0. Brian made the motion to allow use of the city stage for the day of the event and to waive the fee for rental of the stage and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0.

Joanie also explained to council that the group tasked with putting on the Smithsonian Exhibit Event scheduled for late 2019 and January 2020 had decided to use the county's Historical Society in Vernon for the display instead of the previously approved Pickelseimer Building. Council asked that their board reconsider and would like to see the event held downtown.

Shawn informed the group that Jennings County Clerk Amy Thompson had inquired about using the Carnegie Building as a polling location for the primary and general city election. After a lengthy discussion of alternative places, Brian made the motion that the council would prefer the

county use the NV ETC building as the polling location if possible, but that the Carnegie would be OK if an alternative location could not be found. The motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 3-1 (Connie).


Shawn told the council that Fair Board President Randy Shepherd had contacted him inquiring about the county using the city stage for the 2019 Jennings County Fair from June 10 thru June 15, as well as the city waiving the usual fee for using the stage. Jerry made the motion to allow the county to use the stage during fair week with no charge and the motion was seconded by Connie. Motion carried 4-0.

Shawn informed the council that he would schedule a Board of Public Works meeting to begin discussions on an improved city travel policy, as well as come up with a recommendation to an amendment to the salary ordinance.

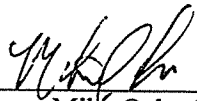
Connie made the motion to pay the claims presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to pay the claims carried 4-0.

Brian made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor