

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
APRIL 7, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was opened with roll call by Asst. Clerk-Treasurer Rita Elmore.

Board Member: Mike Ochs  
Jerry Lamb  
Trent Wisner  
Attorney: Larry Greathouse (absent)  
Clerk-Treasurer: R. Shawn Gerkin  
Asst. Clk. Treasurer: Rita L. Elmore

Guest present: Tim Hunt w/HWC; Chief of Police Keith Messer; Fire Chief Mike Cole and Bob Ertel w/NV Park Board.

Board Member Lamb made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2021 meeting as written and presented; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Chief of Police Messer requested Board approval to hire Adam Jackson to the NVPD; his start date will be April 11<sup>th</sup>. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve hiring Adam Jackson to the NVPD; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0. Mayor Ochs will perform the swearing in ceremony later today due to his absence at the next City Council meeting.

Also, Chief Messer requested to purchase 4 patrol cars at \$27,411 with a \$3,500 trade in per vehicle for a total cost of \$95,644.00 for approval. After discussion, Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve the purchase of 3 vehicles outright and 1 vehicle with the trade in; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Fire Chief Cole presented quotes to purchase 700/800 MHz Portable Radios from:

-- Electronic Communication Systems, Inc.- for 32 handhelds with installation and a trade in allowed for \$64,413.81

--Motorola for 32 handhelds with no installation for \$115,412.00

Board Member Wisner made the motion to award the quote to Electronic Communication Systems; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Bob Ertel w/ NV Park Board informed the Board of the improvements at the City Park which included soccer fields; converted the skatepark into a pickleball court; renovations are being looked at for the restrooms at the park. After discussion on the restroom renovations the Board was not against having this work done.

Tim Hunt w/HWC gave the Board information on the Walnut Street Project; Clerk Treasurer Gerkin reported a meeting with INDOT that the water and sewer will not be funded by INDOT on Walnut Street. However, one alternative was to go from a Federal funded project to go thru the State Exchange Program where the money is given to the City and the City would be responsible for contract and paying for the project. No action was taken on this.

Mr. Hunt reported he was contacted by the Mayor's office to get the cost associated with two drops for Duke services at the start of the Muscatatuck Trail which would be \$1,014.51 and the other at Walnut & 5<sup>th</sup> Street would cost \$1,054.56. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve of the two drops for Duke services; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

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Board Member Wisner reported the meeting with Kurt Schneider of Johnson Melloh was postponed by Mr.Schneider request due to himself not being vaccinated yet.

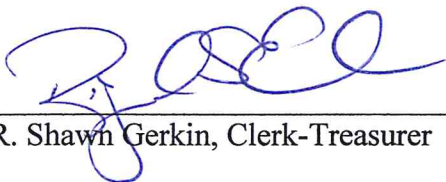
Board Member Lamb, presented two appraisals for the property currently owned by the City at 2520 N CR 75 W, North Vernon which consist of 1.229 acres: JC Realty for \$22,500.00; and Lawson Real Estate for \$16,000.00. No action taken

Anne Walker, Good Samaritan Board Treasurer submitted a request to use the City Stage for June 5, 2021 for their annual fundraiser and requested the \$300 fee be waived. After discussion it was decided the fee could not be waived, however Mayor Mike Ochs stated he will pay the \$300 fee out of the Mayor's budget for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

Board Member Ochs made the motion to approve payment for the claims that were submitted for payment; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

At 11:12 a.m., Board Member Lamb stated if there was no further business to discuss, he would make the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned.



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R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



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Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
NORTH VERNON EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER  
AND VIA ZOOM  
APRIL 12, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by Council President Brian Hatfield with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs (absent)

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield

Baron Wilder

Jack Kelley

Trent Wisner

Jerry Lamb

Guests Present: Russell Vaught, Elise Allen, Joannie Van Horn, Kylan Higgs, Robert Brown, Keith Messer, Anna Walker, Rick Marksberry, Chad Speer, Jennifer Voris, Pam Lovegrove, and Will Spencer.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Anna Walker, along with OCRA representative Jenny Voris, discussed OCRA's Main Street Program. The program identifies an area of downtown with the goal of getting the commercial district in top physical shape, organizing a unified vision among the businesses and community, marketing the district's characteristics and assets, and diversifying the district's economic base. Many steps go into the approval of a Main Street program prior to the application, including identifying board members and supporters, creating a 501c3, choosing a name, drafting bylaws, and filing as a non-profit with the secretary of state. Anna asked council to give their support before moving forward by resolving to support the organization, to allow the organization to operate from the city's Stellar Building, to give financial support, and to appoint a member of council to the organization's board of directors. Jack made the motion to resolve to support the organization, allow the use of the Stellar Building, and appoint a council member to the board. The motion was seconded by Jerry. Discussion included waiting to support the program financially until a financial and sustainability plan was presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Jerry made the motion to nominate Jack as the council appointment to the board and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion about the condition of city-owned properties, website updates, and holding events and festivals was tabled until the April 26 council meeting.

Police Chief Keith Messer presented council with recommended changes to the department's general orders. Minor changes were presented for orders 20, 22, and 25 while orders 21, 23, 24, 27, 28, and 29 had no changes. Jack made the motion to approve the changes and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Messer also asked council for a motion to ratify the decision of the Board of Public Works & Safety's decision to hire Adam Jackson as the city's newest police officer. Mr. Jackson's hire


is a result of the departure of Anthony Bagby from the department in October of 2020 and he becomes the 17<sup>th</sup> officer on the department. Trent made the motion to approve the hire and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

The city was recently contacted about whether the property located at 2520 North CR 75 West could be purchased. The city recently received two appraisals for the 1.229 acre property of \$16,000.00 and \$22,500.00. Jerry made the motion to direct attorney Larry Greathouse to move forward with selling the property as allowed by statute and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Other items of discussion with no action included progress on the former Greathouse property by Indiana Landmarks, updating the city's employee handbook, and the city's solar project.

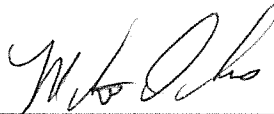
Baron made the motion to pay the claims presented and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion to pay the claims carried 5-0.

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.



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R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



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Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
NORTH VERNON EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER  
AND VIA ZOOM  
APRIL 26, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by Council President Brian Hatfield with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs (absent)

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers:	Brian Hatfield	Baron Wilder
	Jack Kelley	Trent Wisner
	Jerry Lamb	

Guests Present: Russell Vaught, Elise Allen, Carla Marsh, Kyla Higgs, Roy Herr, Teresa Brown, Keith Messer, Kathy Ertel, Chad Speer, Will Spencer, Ray Hughes, Tim Hunt, Bud Beesley, Mike Cole, Rick Marksberry, and Tara Hagan.

Jerry made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Jennings County School Corporation Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown and Maintenance Director Roy Herr presented council with their ideas on how additional sidewalks, painting of crosswalks, added security lighting, or lighted pedestrian crossings would make students walking to school safer while also eliminating the need and costs of having a custodian at the crossings for kids coming to and from school every day. HWC representative Tim Hunt and Roy Herr agreed to meet in the near future to discuss a plan to make the area safer. No motions or action took place.

Carla Marsh expressed her concerns about theft, drug use, and other crimes being committed inside Hillcrest Cemetery, including items that have been stolen off of the head stones of her relatives. She requested permission to place a trail camera on the grounds in hopes of identifying the individuals responsible. Chief Messer said the department would do some extra patrolling in the area. No motions or action took place.

Bud Beesley, representing the Jennings County Farmer's Market, presented council with the 2021 market's "Rules & Violations Procedure" for signature. The document had already been approved and signed by the park board. Jerry made the motion to allow Brian to sign the agreement as council president after the document had been reviewed by Larry and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0. (Larry reviewed and approved the agreement on 4/27/21 and it has been signed by Brian)

Council had previously requested an update to the construction work and repair of the former Greathouse Building on O&M Avenue by Greg Sekula of Indiana Landmarks. Shawn informed council that he had reached out to Mr. Sekula for an update but he couldn't make the meeting. Shawn read an email from Mr. Sekula which outlined the progress of the work. No motions or action took place.

Council discussed with Park Director Chad Speer, Police Chief Keith Messer, and Fire Chief Mike Cole the plan for a firework display for the Fourth of July Holiday this year. Chief Cole and Chief Messer are concerned about safety if the event would be held at the city park. Discussion to partner with the county and have the event held at the county fairgrounds ensued. Chad said the park board will be voting to determine the best location in the near future. No motion or action took place.

JCEDC Director Kathy Ertel requested approval of compliance forms for the following businesses: Hilex Poly, GT Industries, Injection Mold, Erler Industries, NVIC, Metaldyne SinterForged, RA Highway 3 LLC, Decatur Plastics, and Layman Holdings. She commented that all companies are in compliance and all forms were returned in a timely manner. Jack made the motion to approve the CF-1s as recommended by the JCEDC and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Messer requested the transfer of equipment to police retiree James Webster. The sale of police issued equipment is allowable by the department according General Order 29 and by IC 5-22-22-6 for appraised value. Appraised value of the Sig Sauer .223 rifle is \$775.00 and value of the Sig Sauer 365 9mm handgun is \$289.00. Payment for the equipment will be deposited into the general fund. Jack made the motion to allow the transfer of equipment and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn presented council with Resolution #2021-689, a resolution for the allocation of funds received through the American Rescue Plan (ARP). Tara Hagan, representing ARa, explained that the Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA) requires that a least a draft resolution be presented PRIOR to the application of the Stormwater Grant being requested. The application deadline for the grant is Thursday, April 29, 2021. No motion or action took place.

Shawn completed the first reading of Ordinance #999, an ordinance to establish a local ARP fund to receive the allocation allotted to the City of North Vernon in accordance with State examiner Directive 22021-1. The second reading and potential adoption of the ordinance will be at a later date, after more information is received about the ARP funding from the State Board of Accounts and after a review by Larry.

Baron announced that his appointment to the golf board, Donnie Stewart, has resigned his position.

Larry explained that he needed council to agree upon a minimum price for the sale of city owned property located at 2520 North CR 75 West that council approved to sale at a prior date. After that agreed amount, Larry would take the proper steps to advertise the property for sale. Jerry made the motion to sell the property for a minimum price of \$10,000.00 and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

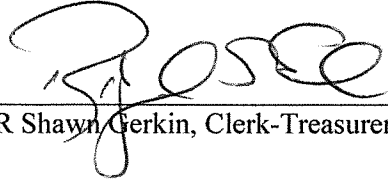
Other items up for discussion with no motions or action included the condition of the city owned building at the former stone quarry, concerns about city projects not being completed in a timely manner, and homeless people using an area up under the bridge in town to sleep.

Trent made the motion to pay the claims presented and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion to pay the claims carried 5-0.

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Jack made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.



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R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Ochs, Mayor

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
APRIL 29, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was opened with roll call by Asst. Clk. Treasurer Rita L. Elmore.

Board Member: Mike Ochs (absent)  
Jerry Lamb  
Trent Wisner  
Attorney: Larry Greathouse (absent)  
Clerk-Treasurer: R. Shawn Gerkin  
Asst. Clk. Treasurer: Rita L. Elmore

Guest present: Chief of Police Messer; Fire Chief Mike Cole and Tim Hunt w/HWC.

Board Member Lamb made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2021 as written and presented; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 2-0.

Fire Chief Cole made the recommendation to the Board for approval hire Travis Jones as the replacement for Josh Hall pending acceptance by the NV Council and passing of the PERF 77 physical and psychological testing. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve hiring of Travis Jones; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 2-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin reported he was approached from a school bus driver with concerns of turning around their school bus on Shakers Way in Quaker Hills Subdivision, no action was taken.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin reported to the Board he along with the Street Department have been working on the trash violations according to the Ordinance.

Tim Hunt w/HWC reported his firm are working on putting a final documentation together for Council's review on going with the State Exchange with the Walnut Street Project, instead of the construction only INDOT which will bid on October 1, 2021.

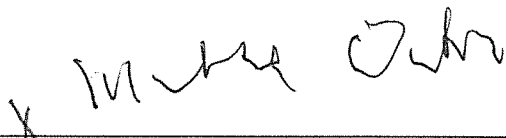
Board Member Wisner stated he is pursuing the idea of turning the stone quarry into a campground.

Chief Police Messer reported his department is looking into hiring the open position of the 18<sup>th</sup> Police Officer in his office.

At 10:25 a.m., Board Member Lamb made the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned.

  
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R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer

  
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Mike Ochs, Mayor