

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
DECEMBER 13, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by North Vernon Mayor Mike Ochs with a prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

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

Guests Present: Jeff Shinolt, Tim Hunt, Kylan Higgs, Russell Vaught, Robin Brown, Sue Haase, Garrie Ritchie, Anna Walker, Will Spencer, Terry Thompson, Pam Lovegrove, and, Andrew Klescht.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion to approve the minutes carried 4-0.

The meeting was opened to anyone from the public that wished to comment on the city's proposed ordinances for an increase in rates to water, sewer, stormwater, and trash fees. No comments were made. Trent made the motion to close the public hearing portion of the meeting and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

Brian made the motion to reconfirm the adoption of Ordinances #1004, #1005, #1006, and amended Ordinance #846, ordinances that pertain to the city's water, sewer, stormwater, and trash pick up rates, and the motion was seconded by Jack. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Shawn read an email from Mayor Dan Wright of Vernon, requesting use of the city stage for April 23rd and 24th, 2022, for the Town of Vernon's annual Sassafras Tea Festival. Jack made the motion to allow the use of the stage for those days, free of charge, and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Ochs explained that, due to health reasons, current Street Superintendent Rick Marksberry was unlikely to return to work in the future and the need to appoint an interim street superintendent. Mayor Ochs named current wastewater employee Garrie Ritchie the interim street superintendent. However, Mr. Ritchie requested an annual salary of \$60,000.00 to fill the role. Council agreed to have Shawn amend the 2022 salary ordinance to reflect the requested salary for Mr. Ritchie. Rick Marksberry will remain the street superintendent until he has exhausted all PTO time, in which time Garrie Ritchie will have the interim tag removed from his job title.

Tim Hunt, HWC Engineering, and Anna Walker, Mainstreet Director, discussed with council the building needs for repair work at the Stellar Building on 50 Short Street. The two will work together to gather a project list and cost and then approach the NVRC for help in funding.


Council confirmed that they will cancel the last scheduled meeting of the year as it falls the week of Christmas. Shawn will schedule a Board of Public Works meeting the last week of the year to take care of any unpaid claims or unfinished business.

Tim Hunt informed council that funding for the Walnut Street Project has been secured and he was ready to issue a notice to proceed to Dave O'Mara Contractors. Jack made the motion to approve the notice to proceed and allow the mayor and council president to sign the contract and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 4-0.

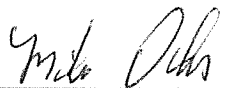
Shawn requested waiving the penalty fees for violation of the mowing ordinance on behalf of the new owner of the property located at 306 South State Street. The previous owner had received nearly \$1400.00 in fines for not mowing the property in a timely manner. The new owner wishes to clean up the dilapidated property and make many improvements and requested the city waive the fees accrued by the previous owner. Jack made the motion to waive the past fees and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 4-0.

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

Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor