

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NORTH VERNON EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER
AND VIA ZOOM
MARCH 8, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by Mayor Mike Ochs.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

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

Guests Present: Will Spencer, James Webster, Mike Cole, Elise Allen, Chuck Waggoner, Kylan Higgs, Barbara King, Jon Webster, Anna Walker, Marie Shepherd, Chad Speer, Russell Vaught, Tim Hunt, and Russell Vaught.

Jack made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs presented a “key” to the city to former Judge Jon Webster for his 24 years of service to the community as Circuit Court Judge.

Area Plan Director Marie Shepherd presented council with a rezone request from St. Vincent Jennings Hospital, being represented by Richard Euler. The request would rezone the property at 1040 West O&M Avenue from Commercial to Residential Single Family for the purpose of constructing a single-family home at the sight. Jack made the motion to approve the rezone request and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Further discussion with Marie included the deterioration of the building located at 690 Ertel Lane, the hazardous material being transported between that building and NVIC, an increase in the monthly charge for trash service, and the problem with trash being put out prior to pick up in the Shull Park neighborhood. No motions or actions took place.

Council was presented with Ordinance #997, an ordinance which calls for the placement of stop signs at the intersection of Jennings and Jefferson streets. Jack made the motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance #997 and move to the second reading and adoption and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion to waive the first reading carried 5-0. Jack then made the motion to adopt Ordinance #997 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Next on the agenda was Ordinance #998, an ordinance which reduces the speed limit on Jennings Street from its intersection with East Walnut Street down to Webster Street to its intersection with South State Street to 20 mph. Jack made the motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance #998 and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0. Jack made the motion to adopt Ordinance #998 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

The Mayor named Danial Smith as the mayor’s appoint to the Board of Zoning & Appeals.

Mayor Ochs presented a “key” to the city to Barbara Shaw for her many years of service to the community covering city business for the North Vernon Plain Dealer & Sun prior to her retirement last month.

Tim Hunt discussed with council the options of a sidewalk from the park to Walmart and that he was discussing the project with Madison Railroad.


Jack took the time to thank the street department for their work in removing snow after the last storm, as well as wanting to bring to a discussion the possibility of raising the monthly fee for trash removal. He also informed those in attendance that his appointment to the golf board, Mary Jo Bender, had resigned from the board and that he was not naming a replacement at this time.

Shawn informed council that he had reached out to Designed Sound & Video for a quote to install the necessary equipment to be able to effectively hold council meetings via Zoom at the Carnegie Building. A rough quote for work was presented for \$6344.96 but he noted that could increase if it is determined that additional equipment was needed. Baron made the motion to authorize Shawn to move forward with getting the equipment installed with a not-to-exceed cost of \$10,000.00 to be paid by the city’s Cares Act Fund. The motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.


Police Chief James Webster informed the council that he would be retiring from the North Vernon Police Department effective March 27, 2021.

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

Jerry made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
MARCH 12, 2021 @10:30 a.m.**

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

Board Members: Mike Ochs
Jerry Lamb
Trent Wisner

Attorney: Larry Greathouse
Clerk-Treasurer: R. Shawn Gerkin
Asst. Clk. Treasurer: Rita L. Elmore

Guest present: Chief of Police James Webster and Fire Chief Mike Cole.

Board Member Lamb made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Chief of Police Webster requested to stay on the Cities insurance as a retired Public Safety Officer, the current policy is to allow this at no cost to him until for 2 years ending December 31,2023 then it would be at a cost of 50%. Board Member Ochs made the motion to allow James Webster to stay on the Cities Health Insurance according to the policy; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

Mowing contracts were awarded to the following for the year 2021:

--**Tripton Park**: Board Member Wisner made the motion to continue with the Park & Rec. Dept. mowing Tripton Park; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

--**Hillcrest Cemetery**: Clk. Treasurer Gerkin reported if would not be fiscally responsible to allow the Street Dept. to mow and recommended to award this to Webster Lawn Care at a cost of \$700 per mow. With that recommendation Board Member Wisner made the motion to award the contract to Webster Lawn Care; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

--**Muscatatuck Trail**: Board Member Wisner made the motion to have the City mow the trail; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

Clk. Treasurer Gerkin reported the City will receive \$1.4 million thru the COVID Relief, and has the Carnegie Government Center measured for TV and sound system.


Clk. Treasurer Gerkin reported that he along with the Mayor will have a meeting with Kathy McKalp and Travis Underhill w/INDOT on the Walnut Street Project on Monday, March 15th.

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

At 11:02, Board Member Ochs stated if there was no further business to discuss, he would make the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned.



R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NORTH VERNON EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER
AND VIA ZOOM
MARCH 22, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by Mayor Mike 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	Baron Wilder
	Jack Kelley	Trent Wisner
	Jerry Lamb	

Guests Present: Russell Vaught, Kathy Ertel, Robin Brown, Rick Marksberry, Tara Hagan, James Webster, Keith Messer, Natalie Messer, Joshua Carlton, Ray Hughes, Tim Hunt, Shana Richmond, Andrew Richmond, Adam Jackson, Randall Marshall, Adam Driver, Gary Driver, Ivory Sandefur, Gretchen Mitchell, Annetia Doll, Sandra Graham, Brenda Messer, Nicholas Messer, Jeff Day, Sarah Day, Anne Lawson, Cory Lawson, Kylan Higgs, Lisa Higgs, Wes Thayer, Craig Kipper, Lucas Newsom, Max Marcoux, Mike Holliday, Seth Beville, Austin Grunden, and Shannon Grunden.

Jack noted that the minutes from the March 8, 2021 minutes needed the word “Shaw” changed to “King” on the first paragraph of page 2. Jack made the motion to approve the minutes after the amendment and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster ceremoniously passed on his police chief badge to Keith Messer, who was recently named the new chief of police by Mayor Ochs after Chief Webster announced his retirement from the department at the March 8th city council meeting. Mayor Ochs performed the oath of office to the new chief with his family, friends, and fellow officers in attendance. Messer’s first official day as chief of the department will be on Sunday, March 28th.

Tara Hagan, representing ARA, opened the public hearing portion of the meeting. She explained that the city plans to apply to the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs for a grant from the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) on or about June 25, 2021. The total amount of funds being requested is \$600,000.00. The amount of funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low and moderate-income persons is \$337,620.00. \$171,200.00, or approximately 22%, will be derived from the Utility Stormwater Fund. The meeting was opened for public comment. With no public comment, Baron made the motion to close the public hearing portion of the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn presented the council with Resolution #2021-688, a resolution authorizing an additional appropriation of \$80,000.00 in the 2021 police pension budget. Shawn explained an error in advertising caused the budget to be adopted at a lower than needed amount to pay the pensioners still paid directly by the city. The additional appropriation was advertised as required in the March 4th issue of the Plain Dealer & Sun. Jack made the motion to adopt Resolution #2021-688 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

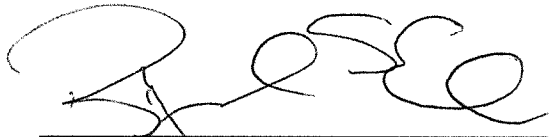
Park Director Chad Speer informed council that the park board had recently voted 4-0 in favor of requesting a nuisance permit from DNR for the removal of geese in Tripton Park. As such, they were requesting from council a temporary lift of the ordinance restricting the discharge of firearms inside the city limits for a day and time yet to be determined. Trent made the motion to approve the waiving of the ordinance and the motion was seconded by Jerry. After discussion, the motion carried 4-1 (Jack).

Police Chief James Webster requested an amended to Ordinance #995, an ordinance fixing the salaries of employees for 2021. With the promotion of Lt. Messer to Chief comes an increase in pay per the police salary matrix from \$27.77/hour to \$30.95/hour. The chief's position is a salaried, exempt position and comes to an annual salary of \$64,376.00. Baron made the motion to approve the amendment and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

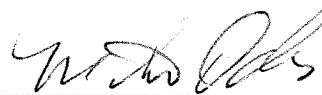
Joshua Carlton, business owner at 227 East Walnut Street, was present to request the use of the ally next to his building for a dumpster to remove trash from the building. Jack made the motion to allow Mr. Carlton to work with Brian to establish dates and times the dumpster would be needed for approval during the ongoing process of the work being completed on the building, and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0. Further discussion with Mr. Carlton included disputed utility bills. No motions or action took place.

Brian 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 Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.



R Shawn Getkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor