

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

The meeting was opened by Councilman Jack with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:00 PM.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield

Jerry Lamb

Connie Rayburn (absent)

Jack Kelley

Trent Wisner

Guests present: Jeff Shinolt, Barbara King, Chris Lowe, Ray Hughes, Tim Hunt, Brad Bender, Gary Beck, James Webster, Dan Norris, and Elise Allen.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 City Council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Hatfield abstained).

Police Chief James Webster addressed council about the possibility of allow ATV/UTV vehicles on city streets. He recommended tabling any discussion on the issue until city attorney Larry Greathouse and he could look further into the changes in language to Indiana Code since the request last came to council in 2012. Dan Norris asked council to please consider passing an ordinance that would allow the vehicles inside city limits. No motions or actions took place.

Shawn introduced Resolution #2019-672, a Resolution of the City of North Vernon, Indiana adopting uniform internal control standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions. IC 5-11-1-27 requires each political subdivision to maintain a system of internal controls to promote accountability and transparency. The Uniform Internal Control Standards for Indiana Political Subdivisions is available at www.in.gov/sboa. Following a brief discussion, Jack made the motion to adopt Resolution #2019-672 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 4-0.

Brian spoke to council about the need to form an ad hoc committee to discuss the housing study and be a liason between the city council to receive information and data from HPG Networks, developers, contractors, etc. Brian made the motion to form a five-member committee that will meet with interested parties to discuss development and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to form a committee carried 4-0.

Jack made the motion that the five-member committee consist of APC Director Marie Shepherd, NVRC President Pat York, JCEDC Director Kathy Ertel, and council members Brian Hatfield and Jerry Lamb. The motion was seconded by Trent. Following discussion, motion carried 4-0.

Discussion continued on use of the former Pickelseimer's Building located at 50 Short Street. The topic has been discussed at length at previous council meetings. The city had made a \$200,000.00+ financial commitment to the building in 2013 so they would own and control use of the building on the newly formed Stellar Plaza. Current utility bills for the building have

exceeded \$400/month recently and the city had not been charging a fee for use of the building. Discussion continued on the need to finish work on the building, such as restoring the interior brick wall and other work needed, and then have a city employee manage, maintain, and schedule uses for the building with the help of the recently formed Festival Committee and come up with a fee schedule for use of the building. Mayor Ochs commented he was in agreement. Conversation also included renewing the commitment to allow the use of the building for the Smithsonian Crossroads Exhibit in December 2019 and January 2020 free of charge, as well as free use of the building for Jennings County High School Art use. Trent made the motion to resolve that the city council and festival committee take over scheduling and control of the Pickelseimer's Building and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0. Council asked Shawn to author a letter to the current tenants to let them know the wishes of the mayor and city council.

Council continued to discuss the possibility of creating an ordinance that would prohibit use of shipping containers inside the city limits. It was recommended that perhaps a better avenue to make sure the containers are only used in property zoned industrial and add language to the county area plan language. Larry said he would discuss options with county attorney Ellie Bright and report back. No motions or actions took place at this time.

Brad Bender informed council that he had been contacted by the APC and told the city is responsible for renaming the portions of US Hwy 50 and State Road 3 that have been turned over to the city following completion of the bypass. Jerry made the motion to rename the portion of Highway 50 inside the city limits east not already Buckeye Street, Buckeye Street and the portion inside the city limits west not already West Walnut Street, West Walnut Street. The motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0. The renaming of State Road 3 south of the bypass was tabled.

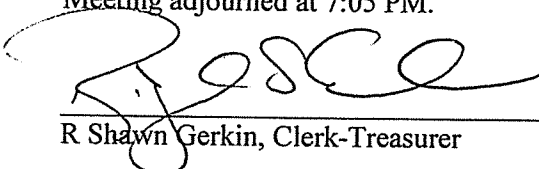
Gary Beck told council he could not get water to his property at 64 Norris Avenue as the street was a no cut street and he was subsequently being sued by the Area Plan Commission. Council advised him to get on the agenda for a USB meeting for discussion.

Brad Bender told council that Gosman Construction has requested a time extension of 60 days for demolition of the old pool that was awarded to them in December 2018 with an original completion date late March. Discussion ensued that the extension might get into activities scheduled in the park by that time. Trent made the motion to grant a 30-day extension for completion of the project and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

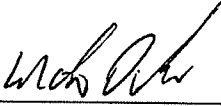
Jack requested that Shawn ask Bob Ertel to attend the next council meeting, scheduled for March 11, 2019, to give council an update of the Tripton Park project and planning for the grand opening.

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

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting with a second by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.
Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor