

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE BUILDING  
JANUARY 10, 2022

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

Mayor- Mike Ochs (absent)

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin (via Zoom)

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

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

Guests Present: Jeff Shinolt, Jeff Walker, Garrie Ritchie, Marie Shepherd, Kylan Higgs, Russell Vaught, and Jean Gilbert.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Jerry abstained).

Jerry made the motion to appoint Brian the president of the common council for 2022 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0-1 (Brian abstained).

Jerry made the motion to appoint Jack as vice president of the common council for 2022 and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Jack abstained).

Brian made the motion to appoint Baron as the common council's appoint to the Jennings County Area Plan Commission for 2022 and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0-1.

Baron made the motion to retain Keith Stearns and Larry Wasson as council's appointments to the Redevelopment Commission in 2022 and Matt Hurley and Pat Kirchner as council's appointments to the Utility Service Board in 2022. The motion was seconded by Jack. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Mayor appointments for 2022 will remain the same as 2021 except for park board appointments. The mayor had asked that those appointments be tabled until the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Jean Gilbert, homeowner at 545 South Elm Street, requested installation of a handicapped parking sign on the street in front of her home. Her residence doesn't have a driveway and her neighbor is continually parking in front of her home, making it difficult for her to get in and out of her home. Jack made the motion to get a handicapped spot in front of her home as requested and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

Area Plan Director Marie Shepherd was present to request a rezone request on behalf of Kathryn Wernke at 25 Lincoln Avenue. She would like to rezone the property from Commercial to Residential Single Family as the building is no longer used for retail but for personal storage. Trent made the motion to approve the rezone request and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Jeff Walker discussed with council an Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) Bike & Pedestrian Planning Grant application. The IDOH currently has a program in place that would allow communities to receive up to \$20,000.00 in funding with a minimum of \$20,000.00 in matching funds. Jeff asked for approval of a letter of support from the city council to move forward with the application on behalf of the county as a whole, explaining that the additional matching grant funds would come from the county park (\$10,000.00) and the county council (\$5000.00). Trent made a motion to pledge the matching grant funds of \$5000.00 and approve the letter of support subject to the county agreeing to the same. The motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn completed the first reading of Ordinance #1006-2022, an ordinance approving the electronic participation of meetings for the Utility Service Board. The second reading and potential adoption will be on the January 24, 2022 council agenda.

Larry explained that the city would be required to go through the task of redistricting the city voting area as required by law. Baron made the motion to instruct Larry, along with help from HWC and Tim Hunt, to move forward with the project as required. The motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Trent made the motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.



---

R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



---

Mike Ochs, Mayor