

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

The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM 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

Jack Kelley

Jerry Lamb

Connie Rayburn

Trent Wisner

Guests present: James Webster, Robin Brown, Will Spencer, Chris Lowe, Barbara King, Ray Hughes, Tim Hunt, Jeff Shinolt, and Kathy McKalip.

Connie made the motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2019 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn presented council with an email from the Smithsonian Exhibit committee requesting use of the Carnegie Building for programs associated with the event for January 5th, January 12th, and January 19, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Jack made the motion to allow the use of the building for the times requested subject to making sure the city was covered from a liability standpoint and the motion was seconded by Brian. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Shawn completed the second reading of Ordinance #989, an ordinance fixing the salaries for the mayor, clerk-treasurer, and elected officials of the City of North Vernon for the year 2020. Brian made the motion to adopt Ordinance #989 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Director of Golf Robin Brown gave the council updates on the golf course and the progress of the recently created golf board. Discussion included times the course would be opened and closed, the purchase of new golf carts, and plans for updates to the clubhouse. No motions or action took place.

Water Superintendent Will Spencer informed the council that the USB voted last week to lift the water conservation ban that had been in affect the last few weeks.

Police Chief James Webster addressed the previously discussed problem of stormwater coming off the city-owned police gym and causing a water issue for surrounding businesses. He explained that the east side of the building didn't have gutters or downspouts and that installing them would help divert water away from the buildings. He was given a quote to do the work of \$1300.00 but didn't have the funds within the police budget to do the project and asked for financial aid in covering the costs. Jack made the motion to have the work completed and asked Shawn to find the money to cover the costs from within the council's budget, if possible. The motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

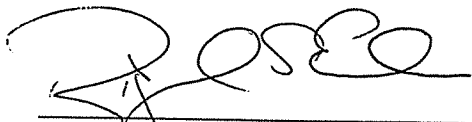
Jack asked about the progress of the city's webpage. Shawn explained to the council that a contract had been executed with Lee-Lee Ernstes to work on preparing the website to go live to the public. Shawn explained that she has been working with him and various department heads to add content to the site and the hope was that the website would be ready to go live to the general public by the end of the calendar year.

Tim Hunt, representing HWC Engineering, was present to discuss with council the condition of the Buckeye Street project. His firm designed the project and feels the project was designed correctly with the road crown and gutters having consistent elevations, but it wasn't constructed that way. The city hired FPBH, Inc. to inspect the project but an email from Brad Bender to Tim Hunt placed the blame of the final road condition on design. It was recommended that a further meeting between the contractor (Milestone Contractors), HWC Engineering, FPBH, Inc., and city officials could come up with a solution to the problem. Jack made the motion that no further payments for construction or inspection be made until then. The motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0.


Trent discussed coming up with a plan to do some sidewalk work within the city, whether it be identifying work the street department could do, applying for grants for such work, or any other avenue available to the city. No motions or action took place. Kathy McKalip, with INDOT, mentioned that INDOT often has grants available if the city would wish to apply. The next deadline for application is December 7, 2019.

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

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



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor