

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
OCTOBER 15, 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 Connie Rayburn
 Jack Kelley (absent) Trent Wisner
 Jerry Lamb

Guests present: Jeff Shinolt, Baron Wilder, Matt York, Barbara King, Wes Thayer, Courtland Harrod, Peyton Gerkin, Shane Lakins, Michelle Harrod, Halie Harrod, John Harrod, Samantha Harrod, Andrew Richmond, Brad Bender, Chasity Gerkin, Sidney Gerkin, Sydney Brown, Robin Brown, Marie Shepherd, Elise Allen, James Webster, Russell Vaught, Will Spencer, Ivory Sandefur, Seth Beville, and Todd Beam.

Connie made the motion to accept the minutes of the September 23, 2019 as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Ochs swore in the three newest reserves for the North Vernon Police Department. Those taking the oath with family, friends, and fellow officers present were Peyton Gerkin, Courtland Harrod, and Shane Lakins.

The next item on the agenda was the second reading and adoption of Ordinance #987, an ordinance setting the budget for the City of North Vernon for the year 2020. Connie made the motion to adopt Ordinance #987 and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0. Shawn will submit the budget to the DLGF for final approval.

APC Director Marie Shepherd was present to request from council an approval for a rezone request at 321 N 5th Street and 311 N 5th Street. The properties are currently zoned Heavy Industrial and Residential Duplex and wish to be rezoned to Residential Single Family. The property will ultimately be rezoned into one property by Raymond Gilpin. Jerry made the motion to approve the rezone and the motion was seconded by Connie. Motion carried 4-0.

Shawn completed the first reading of Ordinance #988, an ordinance setting the salaries of city employees for the year 2020. Shawn explained that by statute, the ordinance must be passed by November 1st. The second reading and potential adoption of the ordinance will be on the agenda for the October 28, 2019 meeting.

Council was presented with a written request from the North Vernon Senior Housing Board for help in funding their annual Christmas Event. In the past, an anonymous donor had funded the event but that funding ceased last year. After discussion, Connie made the motion to donate \$1000.00 from the council's civic interest fund to the Senior Housing Christmas Event and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0.

Jerry informed the group that he was approached by a citizen with a request to add additional lighting to the Muscatatuck Trail. Council directed Brad Bender to look into options and costs so they could consider at a later date.

Director of Golf Robin Brown informed council that the tree removal project at the course was complete and invited all of them to come out and take a look at the improvements.

Connie made the motion to donate \$2000.00 to the Jennings County Coordinating Council for their annual Christmas Basket Project from the council's civic interest fund and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

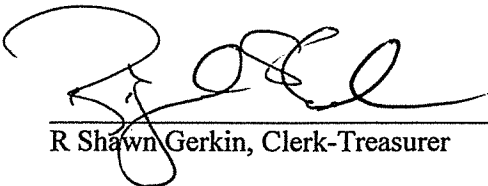
Connie made the motion to name Matthew Hurley as a council appointment to the Utility Service Board to replace Soup Campbell, who recently passed unexpectedly. The vacancy left is a council appointment and must be democrat. The motion was seconded by Jerry. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

City Attorney Larry Greathouse explained to council that he had an agreement in place with Joe Spurlock to equally split a parcel of land near the water plant that both Mr. Spurlock and the city thought they owned. The city began looking into using the property for the solar project for space for additional panels at one time. Larry explained that the value of the property was not near as much as the costs of legal remedies to getting it all and recommended the approval of the agreed 50/50 split. Jerry made the motion to approve the agreement and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0.

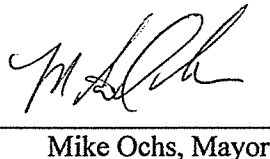
Brian asked Russell to look into improving the stormwater issue in the ally behind the Plain Dealer as the water running off of the city's former garage is running into the Plain Dealer during heavy rains. Russell said he would look into having it included in the current stormwater planning grant being done by Lochmueller.

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

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor