

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
OCTOBER 28, 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	Trent Wisner
	Jerry Lamb	

Guests present: Tim Hunt, Russell Vaught, Rick Marksberry, Will Spencer, Robin Brown, Elise Allen, James Webster, Ray Hughes, Chris Lowe, Chad Speer, Denny Hatton, Brad Bender, and Barbara King.

Connie made the motion to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2019 city council and city council/golf board joint meetings and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

Denny Hatton, representing ARC of Jennings County, was present to request funding from the city council for the organization's 2019 Christmas party. The annual event is scheduled for December 10th at 5:00 PM at the St. Mary's Parish Center. Jack made the motion to contribute \$800.00 from the council's civic interest fund in support of the event and the motion was seconded by Connie. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Park Director Chad Speer was present to give an update on the progress of the city pool and Tripton Park projects. Chad informed council that the pool had been tested and is operational and the only work that remains to be completed is some sidewalk and paving work along with a lengthy punch list of minor items. At Tripton, the contractor is finishing the playground and boardwalk, along with the planting of additional trees but a substantial completion date was not yet known. Trent made the motion to work with Bob Ertel, the contractor, and Chad to get a substantial completion certificate for the project, even if some areas were excluded, so the park could be opened to the public as soon as possible and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0. The tentative date for a grand opening celebration is June 6th, 2020.

Shawn completed the second reading of Ordinance #988, an ordinance fixing the annual salaries of all employees of the City of North Vernon for 2020. Council reiterated that the stipend received for opting out of the city's health insurance plan would be pro-rated and available only to employees currently employed at the time of disbursement would be eligible. Trent made the motion to accept Ordinance #988 and the motion was seconded by Connie. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn informed council the clerk's office has been working on the renewal for the city's health, dental, and vision benefits for 2020. SIHO's health insurance renewal rate came with an increase of less than 5%. Shawn recommended to council that the city renew the policy with SIHO for health insurance, along with a change of provider for dental and vision insurance from Anthem to SIHO, as premium costs and benefits with SIHO were superior at this time. Shawn also recommended that the city pay 90% of the premium for dental and vision benefits, up from 75%

currently, to help employees offset the small increase in health insurance premiums. Following discussion, Jack made the motion to approve the clerk treasurer's office recommendation of going with SIHO insurance for health, dental, and vision benefits, along with increasing the city's contribution to 90%. The motion was seconded by Connie. Following a brief discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Shawn brought to council's attention the desire of several employees to develop a "sick time" bank where employees would be able to donate time that fellow employees in need could draw from in certain situations. Council directed Shawn and Larry to move forward with an ordinance that would allow the donation of sick time for them to consider at a later date.

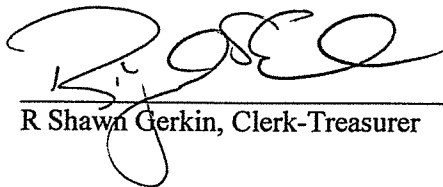
Council confirmed that their next meeting would be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 instead of November 11, 2019 due to Veteran's Day Holiday. They also announced that there would not be a council meeting on December 23, 2019, the week of Christmas.

Utility Superintendent Russell Vaught discussed the sewer construction project, Water Superintendent Will Spencer updated council on the water conservation order, Police Chief James Webster discussed Trick or Treating hours in advance of Halloween, and Street Superintendent Rick Marksberry was instructed to return the "No Truck" signs to areas of 4th and 5th Streets. No motion or action took place.

Connie 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 Connie. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor