

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 23, 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: Barbara King, Dale & Della Skaggs, Chad Speer, Joshua Skaggs, Jeff Walker, Rick McGill, Cheri Massey, Hope Ferguson, Brian Ferguson, Dan Wright, Carrie Ferguson, Shirley Spears, Tim Hunt, Elise Allen, Mike Cole, James Webster, Robin Brown, Tyler Morris, Chris Lowe, Ray Hughes, and Russell Vaught.

Connie made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2019 council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was opened to the public regarding the 2020 budget. Shawn explained that the budget had been advertised on Gateway as required by statute and that following this meeting, any ten or more taxpayers may object to a budget, tax rate, or tax levy by filing an objection petition with the proper officers of North Vernon not more than seven days after the public hearing. Council answered various questions from Barbara King regarding their opinion on the budget. No one else from the public had any comments. Jack made the motion to close the public hearing portion of the meeting and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Mike Cole explained to council that the Board of Public Safety had recently approved a recommendation to council to hire Joshua Skaggs as the newest North Vernon Firefighter. Chief Cole explained that Mr. Skaggs holds certifications in firefighting and hazardous materials and is currently enrolled in the EMT-Basic class. He is currently a member of the North Vernon Center Township fire department and lives in North Vernon. Trent made the motion to hire Joshua Skaggs as a firefighter with the North Vernon Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Connie. Following discussion, motion carried 5-0. Mr. Skaggs will begin employment, pending final PERF approval, on October 1, 2019. Mayor Ochs performed the oath of office with Mr. Skaggs in front of his family, friends, and fellow firefighters.

Dan Wright, Mayor of Vernon and member of the Next Level Trails Group, explained to council that the Town of Vernon is planning a grant application for trail funding through DNR. He explained the route of the potential trail and explained the next round of funding has an application deadline of November 1, 2019. Mr. Wright explained the locale match of the project is approximately \$275,000.00 and the group has approached the county for funding help as well as Cummins and the JC Community Foundation. At this time, Mr. Wright requested a letter of support from the council and mayor and a consideration for funding help should the grant be

awarded. Jack made the motion to author a letter on behalf of council in support of the project as well as considering supporting the project financially at a later date and the motion was seconded by Brian. Following a discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

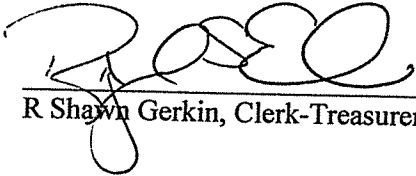
Park Director Chad Speer presented change order #3 from Dave O'Mara Contractor, Inc. for a time extension for completion of the new city pool. The change order would change the substantial completion date from September 6<sup>th</sup> to October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The contractor claims the amount of rain over the summer as well as a truss issue that evolved from the cost savings approach to replace the Kalwall system with the storefront window system on the bath house. Jack made the motion to approve the change order with the condition that the warranty on the pool doesn't start until the opening of the pool in May of 2020 and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0.

North Vernon ETC and Stellar Building manager Elise Allen showed council pictures of the building improvements at the Stellar Building on Short Street. Work on the roof, parapet wall, and interior wall has been completed. Elise stated the interior still needs painted and the security cameras need installed in preparation for the Smithsonian Exhibit scheduled for December.

Jack asked that the golf board be put on the next council agenda so the council can explain their expectations for the newly formed board.

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

Connie made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 PM.



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R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



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Mike Ochs, Mayor