

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
FEBRUARY 14, 2022

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

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse (via Zoom)

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

Guests Present: Jeff Shinolt, Kylan Higgs, Tim Hunt, Russell Vaught, Will Spencer, Garrie Ritchie, Keith Messer, Chad Speer, Dave Shaw, Tanya Burnette, Kevin Burnette, and Ray Hughes.

Baron made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 24, 2022 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0.

Tim Hunt, representing HWC Engineering, informed council that Dave O'Mara Contractors was the apparent low bidder for the city's 2021-2 Community Crossroads Matching Grant (CCMG) projects in the amount of \$298,553.15. The project includes milling and overlay for portions of Chestnut, Washington, Clay, and Oak Streets, as well as South Madison Avenue. Jack made the motion to award the contract to Dave O'Mara Contractors and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0.

Council continued their discussion on hiring an event planner and considered a proposal from current mayor's assistant Tanya Burnette to take on the duties of event planner on top of her current workload. The proposal made her responsible for a summer event series from June thru September, as well as the City Cruise-In, Sweet Street, and Christmas in the City in exchange for an additional \$12,000.00 in annual compensation. After a lengthy discussion of duties and how that would coordinate with the current city park events, the decision was made to table the discussion until the next meeting.

Police Chief Keith Messer presented council with a review and recommended changes to police General Orders 12, 13, 14, & 16. Changes include the addition of the definition of "de-escalation", elimination of use of the 12-gauge launched bean bag, and minor grammatical errors. Baron made the motion to adopt the recommended changes and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0.

Other topics of conversation with no motions or action included discussion of the upcoming Walnut Street Reconstruction Project, the need to increase pay and amend the salary ordinance to better attract and retain CDL drivers, and an update on the new North Vernon Main Street organization.

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

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Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor