

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JANUARY 13, 2020

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 (absent but represented by Chris Doran)

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

Guests present: Jeff Shinolt, Nick Megel, Barbara King, Terry Thompson, Andrew Richmond, Michael Holliday, Kyle Hall, Craig Kipper, Chief James Webster, Chief Mike Cole, Rick Marksberry, Elise Allen, Ivory Sandefur, Todd Fleetwood, Lucas Newsom, Keith Messer, Scott Willis, and Russell Vaught.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Baron abstained).

Jerry made the motion to name Brian as council president for 2020 and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Brian abstained).

Trent made the motion to name Jerry council vice president for 2020 and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Jerry abstained).

Police Chief James Webster and Mayor Ochs presented NVPD detective Ivory Sandefur with a gift commemorating Detective Sandefur's 30 years of service with the police department, 22 as a detective.

Shawn completed the first reading of Ordinance #990, the Animal Control Ordinance of Jennings County. The ordinance is an amended joint ordinance that the city shares with the county. The ordinance has previously been approved by the county commissioners. The second reading and potential adoption of the ordinance will take place at the council's January 27th meeting.

Shawn completed the first reading of amended Ordinance #878, an ordinance which would limit persons in Tripton Park between the hours of one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise. The second reading and potential adoption of the ordinance will take place at the January 27th council meeting.

Baron expressed to the rest of the council his desire to create a "Safe Spot Swap" within the City of North Vernon. The designated swap would be a place for the exchange of goods sold online, the exchange of children among parents, and other transactions that might occur with a stranger. Following a discussion about safety, security cameras, and an ideal location, Baron made the motion that the city move forward with the creation of a Safe Spot Swap with details to be determined at a later date. The motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

January 13, 2020 City Council Minutes, Page 2

Appointments for 2020 were discussed at length. The following were made:

-Shawn reaffirmed that Rita Elmore would remain his appointment as Deputy Clerk Treasurer.

-Brian made the motion to make Pat Kirchner and Matt Hurley council appointments to the utility service board. The motion was seconded Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

-Shawn informed council that the festival committee appointments were not interested in being reappointed. Jack volunteered to meet with Facility Director Elise Allen and Park Director Chad Speer to discuss how to best move forward with organizing future events.

-Mayor Ochs confirmed Jerry and Trent as members of the Public Board of Works & Safety.

-Council confirmed Pat York as their appointment to the 911 Board.

-Appointments to the NVRC by the city council were tabled until the question of whether the commission required a political balance could be answered. Mayor Ochs appointed Josh Leonard to replace the vacancy created by Baron.

-Council appointments to the golf board were named. Mary Jo Bender (Jack), Jarrod Daeger (Trent), Tony Starkey (Baron), Kathy Eaton McKalip (Brian), and Philip Marsh (Jerry) will continue to serve.

-Council appointments to the park board were named. Tracy Eder (Jerry), David Fox (Trent), Denny Hatton (Brian), Joe Wahlman (Jack), and Bob Ertel (Baron) will continue to serve.

Other business discussed included:

-The handling of sick time and sick time payouts for employees who are retiring or resigning.

-The need for a code enforcement officer within the city to enforce city ordinances and violations.

-The need for sidewalk repairs within the city and the best, most economical way to accomplish the repairs.

-The need to remove junk and debris from the property behind the Plain Dealer & Sun which is owned by the city.


-Russell informed council that the sewer construction project in the most recently annexed area of the city has been completed. Customers can now hook up at any time.

-No motions or action took place for these items.

Chief Cole and council discussed the desire to sell Fire Station #1. Shawn and Chris Doran will work to advertise the building properly. Jerry made the motion to advertise and sell the building and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Brian made the motion to pay the claims and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

Jerry made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JANUARY 27, 2020

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 (absent but represented by Chris Doran)

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

Guests present: Jeff Shinolt, Tanya Burnette, Wade Eaglin, Kathy McKalip, Barbara King, Chris Lowe, Chuck Waggoner, Tim Hunt, Michelle Matern, Chad Speer, Brad Bender, Elise Allen, Chief James Webster, and Robin Brown.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2020 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

Council was presented with the second reading of Ordinance #990, a joint ordinance with Jennings County which establishes animal control regulations within the city and county. The ordinance has previously been approved by the county commissioners. Jerry made the motion to adopt Ordinance #990 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was the second reading and potential adoption of amended Ordinance #878. The ordinance restricts any person to be in or upon the confines of Tripton Park between the times beginning one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, except by written permit. Brian made the motion to accept amended Ordinance #878 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Discussion ensued. Baron noted that he would prefer to see more consistent timing across all city parks and Jack noted his concern that persons that work 2nd or 3rd shift might be burdened by the time restriction. After discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Council had tabled their appointments to the North Vernon Redevelopment Commission at the last meeting until the question on whether or not the NVRC had to be politically balanced. It does not. Jack noted that the NVRC has historically worked well with a party balance and thought it should remain that way. Jack motioned to appoint Pat York to the NVRC for 2020 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion failed two votes for (Jack & Trent) to three votes against (Brian, Jerry, and Baron).

Jerry made the motion to appoint Larry Wasson to the NVRC for 2020 and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 3 to 2 (Trent and Jack opposed).

Trent made the motion to reappoint Keith Stearns as the second council appointment to the NVRC for 2020 and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn provided council with a handout from Archive Social, a company which archives all social media content for other companies and municipalities. Chris Doran explained case law is

clear that municipalities must archive all content. Shawn explained that he was meeting with a company representative on Wednesday to discuss price and would have approval of moving forward with the requirement on the next agenda.

Council considered the payout of sick leave benefits upon separation of employment with the city. Council had previously amended the ordinance to pay out accrued sick time to all employees upon retirement, but payout for resignation or termination is not addressed. A question about personal time versus sick time was also raised. Trent made the motion to table the discussion until the next council meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to table carried 5-0.

Chief Webster updated council on the progress of the Safe Swap Spot. Details on video surveillance and enhanced lighting at the location were still being looked at before the designation of the spot at the police station parking lot could be official.

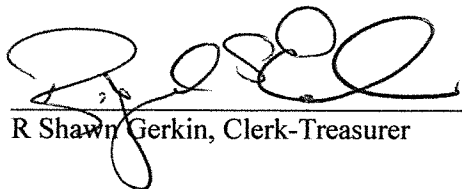
Chris explained the legal process for selling Fire Station #1. Council had previously voted to accept bids for the building but Chris explained that an appraisal must first be done and the appraised value of the building determines the proper legal requirements to sell the building. It was also recommended that a title search be completed.

Robin Brown updated council on the work being completed at St. Annes golf course, including the interior work at the clubhouse and the clubhouse bathrooms, along with plans for dredging of the lake, the repair of the pumphouse, and getting quotes for hooking up to the city sewer.

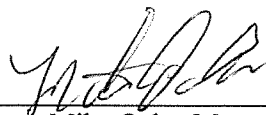
Mayor's Assistant Tanya Burnette presented council with the idea of sponsoring a contest for city employees to increase health awareness. Employees that lose the most weight over the three-month contest would win prizes to be determined at a later date. Jack made the motion to set up the contest and prizes and awards could be determined after establishing the contest rules and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

Brian 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 Brian. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor