

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
AND VIA ZOOM
JULY 12, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by Council President Brian Hatfield with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs (via Zoom)

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

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

Guests Present: Keith Messer, Robin Brown, Chad Speer, Ray Hughes, Jeff Shinolt, Anna Walker, Tim Hunt, Tanya Burnette in person; Mike Cole, Russell Vaught, Mike Ochs, and Kyla Higgs via Zoom.

Jerry made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 28, 2021 City Council Meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

Area Plan Director Marie Shepherd was present to discuss the commercial zoning ordinance. It has come to her attention that at least one building zoned Commercial Historic Downtown (C-HD) had tenants living on the ground floor, although the ordinance states only commercial use is permitted on the storefront ground level. A show cause hearing was scheduled for the Area Plan Commission. No motions or action took place.

Shawn requested a temporary waiver of Ordinance #878 on behalf of Andy Ertel. Mr. Ertel is planning a previously approved music event at Tripton Park on September 4, 2021 and requested that the city temporarily waive the ordinance that prohibits the use of alcohol at Tripton Park so a beer garden can be utilized during the concert. Trent made the motion to allow the temporary waiver for September 4th and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-1 (Jerry).

Anna Walker asked council for a financial commitment for the new Main Street program. Council had previously made a verbal commitment to the program, along with use of the Stellar Building on the plaza. Anna estimated a \$60,000.00 operating budget for the program and asked council for a \$45,000.00 annual commitment for three years. Jack made the motion to commit \$45,000.00 annually for the program for three years and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-1 (Jerry).


Police Chief Keith Messer informed council that he had chosen Officer Wes Thayer to fill the position of detective within the department left by the recent departure of Nick Megel. Thayer is a 7-year veteran on the department and will start his new role on July 18th. The change in title calls for an increase in pay from \$22.34/hr. to \$23.59/hr. as outlined on the department's matrix. Jack made the motion to ratify the decision of Chief Messer and authorize the pay increase and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Jerry made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion to
adjourn carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JULY 22, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.**

The meeting was opened with roll call by Asst. Clk. Treasurer Rita L. Elmore

Board Member: Mike Ochs (by phone)
Jerry Lamb
Trent Wisner

Attorney: Larry Greathouse (absent)
Clerk-Treasurer: R. Shawn Gerkin
Asst. Clk. Treasurer- Rita L. Elmore

Guest present: Fire Chief Mike Cole; WW Superintendent Russell Vaught; Tanya Burnette and Tim Hunt w/HWC.

Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve the June 24, 2021 meeting as written and presented; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

Tim Hunt w/HWC presented an agreement to provide services for the Walnut Street Construction Inspection not to exceed \$1,083,600 for approval. Board Member Lamb made the motion to approve the agreement; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

Easements for the Walnut Street project for Michaela N Robinson for \$1,000 and for Scott Brown for \$6,000 were presented for Board approval for payment. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve payment for the easements; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Russell Vaught, WW Superintendent informed the board of the USB decision to install a curb and gutter in the alley by Am Vets business due to excessive water being directed into their building and was present to request the city to pay for the \$7,200 resurfacing. After discussion Board Member Lamb made the motion to pay for the resurfacing; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

Clk. Treasurer Gerkin informed the Board Members Chief of Police Messer is requesting a Public Board of Works and Safety next week, it was decided the meeting will be on Monday, August 2nd at 9:30 a.m.

Russell Vaught, WW Superintendent presented pictures of the erosion around the solar panels at the Wastewater Plant to the Board, no action was taken. Also, WW Superintendent Vaught reported to the Board, the JC Health Department informed him the decorative fountains located at the Stellar Plaza will need a sign stating they are not for recreational use. If the City wants to make this into a splash pad an appropriate filtration and UV lights need to be installed to be up to Indiana State Code. No action was taken.

Mike Cole, Fire Chief informed the Board that an official swearing in ceremony for Travis Jones will be at the next City Council Meeting on July 26, 2021. Also, Fire Chief Cole requested to give the 1996 Ford Expedition to the Jerry Shepherd w/ Jennings County EMA. After discussion Board Member Lamb made the motion to give the Expedition to the JCEMA; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

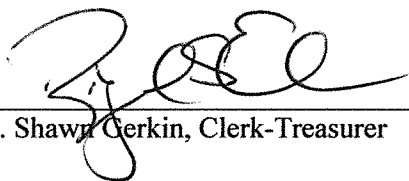
Tim Hunt w/HWC informed the Board of a driveway request from Monty Polly to install a driveway off of Gum Street which would require crossing over the Muscatatuck Trails to log the trees and build a house. After much discussion no action was taken.

Tanya Burnette informed the Board she had received a phone call from Mike Poer requesting a sidewalk be installed due to safety reasons of persons walking from the corner of Sunnyside Drive & White Street to the Muscatatuck Trail. After discussion of the location, it will be looked at to see if a sidewalk would be a possibility.

Board Member Ochs made the motion to approve payment for the claims that were submitted for payment; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

At 10:58 a.m., Board Member Wisner stated if there was no further business to discuss, he would make the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned.



R. Shaw Cerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
AND VIA ZOOM
JULY 26, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by Council President Brian Hatfield with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

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

Guests Present: Russell Vaught, Robin Brown, Chad Speer, Mike Cole, Travis Jones, Jeff Shinault, Rick & Marcia McGill, Dean & Susan Jones, Brian Biehle, Bob Ertel, Keilah Jones, Ang Davis, Heather Maschino, Connie Ochs, and Elizabeth Maschino.

Baron made the motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Brian Biehle, representing St. Mary's Parish, requested permission to close a portion of Clay Street from Scott Street to Washington Street and Washington Street from Pierce Street to Madison Avenue for the annual St. Mary's Community Festival from September 8 through September 12, 2021. Trent made the motion to allow the closure of the street to vehicular traffic for the days requested and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Following discussion, motion carried 5-0.

Park Director Chad Speer and Park Board Member Bob Ertel were present to request funding for new playground equipment at the city park. Total cost for the equipment with installation is \$228,430.40. The equipment costs of \$115,798.80 would come from the remainder of the 2018 park/pool bond and the recreation fund. Shawn informed council that the installation cost of \$112,631.60 could come from the park/pool fund that was created by the reimbursement of the Tripton Park project expenses prior to bond issuance. Jack made the motion to approve the purchase and funding and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs performed the swearing in of firefighter Travis Jones with his family and fellow firefighters in attendance.

Shawn presented a request for funding for the Mainstreet Program prepared by Anna Walker. The request was for \$20,925.00 for salary, taxes, and benefits to cover costs through 2021. Shawn indicated the money would come from either the council's general fund budget or the Rainy Day Fund. Jack made the motion to approve the request and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn presented to council a proposal from New Focus HR to design and develop a legally compliant employee handbook. The proposal has a fixed rate fee of \$4800.00 with an additional

\$125.00 annual fee for annual updates. Brian made the motion to move forward with the contract and Baron seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Other topics discussed during the meeting included the Board of Health's directive to shut down the fountains in Stellar Plaza until proper signage prohibiting their use was installed, council's opinion that the mayor should be a board member of the new Main Street program, the potential for a code enforcement officer, the need for an event planner, erosion issues around the solar panels near the wastewater treatment plant, and the need to pass an ordinance to continue to hold electronic meetings. No motions or action took place with any of these topics.

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

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor