

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE BUILDING  
AND VIA ZOOM  
JUNE 14, 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: Tanya Burnette, Jeff Shinault, Terry Thompson, Pat Kirchner, Keith Messer, and Tara Hagan in person, Chad Speer, Mike Cole, and Kathy Ertel via Zoom.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

The first item on the agenda was the public hearing for the city's stormwater grant application. Tara Hagan, representing ARA, was present to explain the city's intention to apply for a stormwater grant through OCRA on June 25<sup>th</sup> in the amount of \$600,000.00. The city's match of \$171,200.00 will come from the city's stormwater fund. The project areas include Lincoln Street and North Crestwood Drive. Utility Board Members Terry Thompson and Pat Kirchner were both present to give support to the project. No other public comment was made. Baron made the motion to close the public hearing portion of the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn presented council with Resolution #2021-689, a resolution for the allocation of funds received through the American Rescue Plan. Trent made the motion to adopt Resolution #2021-689 and the motion was seconded by Jack. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was Resolution #2021-690, a resolution of the city council authorizing the submittal of the storm water improvement grant application to OCRA. Trent made the motion to adopt Resolution #2021-690 and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Council was presented with a grant of permanent easement request from Midwest Natural Gas. The company wishing to extend a gas line along 350 North and needs an easement from the city. Jack made the motion to give the city council president the authority to execute the agreement giving the permanent easement to Midwest Natural Gas and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

Council had previously been approached about vacating an alley near Summit Street by realtor Tyler Stock. Since that time, property owners adjoining the alley have signed off on the vacate and the request has been advertised properly in the North Vernon Plain Dealer. Jack made the

motion to vacate the alley described in the notice (see attached) and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Jerry).

Council was presented with amended Ordinance #865, an ordinance establishing the cash change funds for the City of North Vernon. Shawn explained that the current ordinance called for cash change on the pool of \$50.00, but that weekend pool times with banks closed are creating a change shortage. The amended ordinance calls for cash change of \$150.00 at the concession stands and \$300.00 for the city pool. Baron made the motion to amend Ordinance #865 and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Keith Messer presented council with suggested change orders for police general orders #31, 32, 33, and 37. The suggested changes are minor and grammatical. Trent made the motion to accept the updated general orders and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

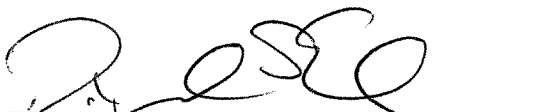
In January 2003, the city entered into an agreement with Decatur Plastics in which the city agreed to provide the company with the same fire fighting services and apparatus as are available to residents of the city, even though Decatur Plastics is located just outside city limits. The company has recently requested that the city renew that commitment, and Decatur Plastics has committed to continue to pay the city \$2000.00 annually for those services. Fire Chief Mike Cole informed council that the city would respond to that location regardless of the agreement so it made sense to renew the commitment. Jack made the motion to renew the contract for fire services and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

In light of two golf board members already resigning and the board not meeting since January, Trent made the motion to repeal Ordinance #986, the ordinance which created the golf board. The motion was seconded by Baron. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0. The golf board is immediately dissolved. Shawn said he would reach out to the remaining members to let them know and thank them for their service.

Baron made the motion to allow the Jennings County Fair Board to use the city stage for the week of the county fair free of charge. The motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

  
R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer

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Mike Ochs, Mayor

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
JUNE 24, 2021 @ 9:00 a.m.**

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

Board Members: 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: Tanya Burnette; Fire Chief Mike Cole; Chief of Police Keith Messer and Captain Todd Beam.

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

Chief of Police Keith Messer presented the Board his recommendation of Chris Knight, who is currently a Reserve Officer for the position in the NVPD for approval. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve the recommendation to hire Chris Knight; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0. This will be presented to the City Council at their next meeting.

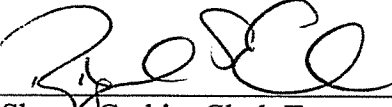
Tim Hunt w/HWC reported the attorney is reviewing the new inspection contract since the City is going with the State Exchange and will present back at the next Board of Works meeting.

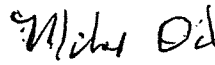
Tanya Burnette informed the Board of inquires she has received as to whether the city will be installing electric charging stations within the city for vehicle recharging.

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 9:50 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.

  
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R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk Treasurer

  
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Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE BUILDING  
AND VIA ZOOM  
JUNE 28, 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 (via Zoom)
	Jack Kelley	Trent Wisner (absent)
	Jerry Lamb	

Guests Present: Albert Jackson, Carol Jackson, Jeff Shinolt, Alex Zimmerman, Russell Vaught, Chad Speer, Robin Brown, Dean Jackson, Debbie Jackson, Tim Hunt, Tanya Burnette, Keith Messer, Morgan Webster, Gary Driver, Ray Hughes, Chris Knight, Tyler Wilkens, Kathy Ertel, Adam Jackson, Dale Deburger, Mike Cole, and Richard Euler.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2021 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0.

Officers Adam Jackson and Chris Knight, along with reserve officer Tyler Wilkens, were sworn in by Mayor Mike Ochs via Zoom with family, friends, and other officers in attendance.

The city had previously advertised the sale of a 1.229 acre lot located at 2520 North County Road 75 West with a reserve of \$10,000.00. An auction was held with the only bid of \$10,000.00 by Mr. Dale Deburger. A closing will be set up at North Vernon Abstract in the near future.

Sandy Vance and Susan Mills, representing the North Vernon Senior Center, were present to request signage and striping at the parking lot they share with Don Trowbridge on East Buckeye Street. Traffic safety has become a concern and Sandy suggested directing traffic one way. It was determined the lot is on private property and not a city easement. Jack made the motion to pay for the signs and striping that Senior Housing and Mr. Trowbridge agree is in the best interest of safety and traffic flow. The motion was seconded by Jerry. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Alex Zimmerman, an attorney representing Tyler Stock, presented council with Ordinance #2021-1000, an ordinance to vacate certain alleyways near Summit Street and O&M Avenue. Council previously approved the vacate but it was later determined that an ordinance describing the vacated alleyways was needed. Baron made the motion to confirm the previous motion vacating the alleyways and adopting Ordinance #2021-1000, and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Jerry abstained).

Police Chief Keith Messer presented council with a review of police general orders #40-49. The biggest recommended change discusses when officers can and cannot turn off their body cameras. Jerry made the motion to approve the recommended changes and the motion was seconded by Jack. Following discussion, the motion carried 4-0.

Chief Messer also informed council that the department would be giving away two old bullet proof vests to Animal Control after they requested the department donate two.

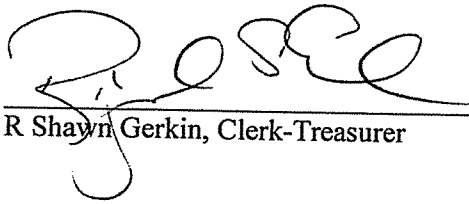
JCDED Director Kathy Ertel and C/T Shawn Gerkin explained the READI grant and the decision to move forward with an application with Jackson and Bartholomew counties. A request was made to authorize Mayor Ochs the authority to sign a Letter of Intent to IEDC defining the city's intention to apply for the READI grant with Jackson and Bartholomew counties, as well as a commitment of \$10,000.00 to leverage matching funds for the READI regional strategic plan. Jack made the motion to authorize the signing and match and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Golf Director Robin Brown requested use of the city stage for the Daeger family's annual Chris Daeger Memorial Scholarship fundraiser, scheduled for August 21, 2021, at no charge. Jack made the motion to allow use of the stage at no charge for the event and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Tanya Burnette, mayor's assistant, requested the purchase of two flag poles to be installed in front of the Carnegie Building for up to \$5000.00. Jack made the motion to allow the purchase and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 3-1 (Jerry opposed).

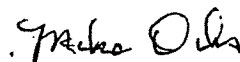
Jerry made the motion to pay the claims presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to pay the claims carried 4-0.

Jerry made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 PM.



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R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



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Mike Ochs, Mayor