

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
MARCH 9, 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

Councilmembers:      Brian Hatfield  
                                 Jack Kelley  
                                 Jerry Lamb

Baron Wilder  
Trent Wisner

Guests present: Chuck Waggoner, Barbara King, Jeff Shinolt, Will Spencer, James Webster, Elise Allen, Robin Brown, Chad Speer, Will Spencer, Kevin Morin, Marie Shepherd, Tanya Burnette, and Tyler Stock.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to approve the minutes carried 5-0.

Area Plan Director Marie Shepherd was present with Kevin Morin representing Morin Properties Inc. They would like to rezone 44 W Walnut Street from Commercial to Residential Two Family to bring the property into compliance with the Jennings County Unified Zoning Ordinance. The request has previously been approved by the Essential Services Committee. Jack made the motion to approve the rezone request and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Lamb abstained).

Council then heard the request to rezone 508 East Buckeye Street from Commercial to Residential Multi-Family to bring the property in compliance with the Jennings County Unified Zoning Ordinance. The property is owned by NV Properties LLC, who was represented at the meeting by Tyler Stock. Following discussion, Jack made the motion to approve the rezone request and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Lamb abstained).

Council heard the first reading of Ordinance #991 concerning the Parks & Recreation Department. The ordinance would repeal prior ordinances #833 and #579. Attorney Larry Greathouse explained he feels the prior ordinances were not applicable and the park board currently does not have the legal authority to enter contracts. One of the differences between the proposed new ordinance and the old is that park board member appointments would be made by the executive of the city rather than the common council. The second reading and potential adoption will be on the agenda for the March 23, 2020 meeting.

Shawn explained to council that the Mayor and he had recently been approached by Willie Steele, representing Vet to Vets, with a request to use the Carnegie Building for a program to honor Vietnam Veterans from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. The program is set to have guest speakers, a tribute to veterans, and a display of material and firearms from the era. Jack made the motion to allow the use of the Carnegie Building for Vet to Vets during the time requested and the motion was seconded by Trent. Following discussion, motion carried 5-0.

Chief Webster requested the city take back a police vehicle into the city's inventory. The department is purchasing two new vehicles in 2020 and have no current use for the 2010 Dodge Charger. Historically, the department likes a motion to accept the vehicle back in the city's inventory so maintenance and insurance becomes the city's responsibility instead of the departments. Baron made the motion to accept the vehicle back in the city's inventory and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Council asked Shawn to add their appointments to the Festival Committee to the March 23<sup>rd</sup> council agenda.

Mayor's Assistant Tanya Burnette updated council on their previously approved commitment to award prizes for the city's Biggest Loser contest. Following discussion on the contest, Jack made the motion to purchase \$200.00 worth of gift cards for contest prizes from the council's civic interest fund and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Updates to the Stellar Building on Short Street, getting quotes for landscaping and mulching downtown, plans for a new police station, and street lighting in the most recently annexed area of the city were all discussion without any motions or action.

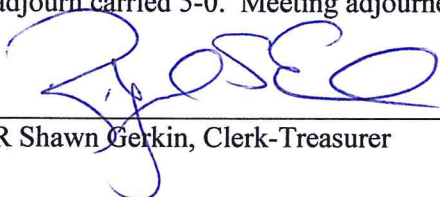
Chief Webster explained that the DNR has recently issued the city a permit to reduce the goose population near and around the pond in Tripton Park. The department has been asked to provide security for the planned shoot. The chief explained the permit allows for the shooting of geese from March 11<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. However, the city currently has an ordinance in place which prohibits the discharge of firearms within city limits without the written consent of the city council. Jerry made the motion to waive the violation of the city ordinance for the date requested at Tripton Park and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 4-1 (Jack opposed).

Council requested an executive session with the North Vernon Golf Board for Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 5:30 PM to discuss and receive information concerning an employee's alleged misconduct.

Jack made the motion to direct Larry Greathouse to pursue an agreement for binding arbitration with all parties involved in the design, construction, and inspection of Buckeye Street. The motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0.


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

Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion to adjourn carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.



---

R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



---

Mike Ochs, Mayor

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY MEETING  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
MARCH 19, 2020 @ 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was opened with roll call by Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin.

Board Member: Mike Ochs  
Jerry Lamb  
Trent Wisner  
Attorney: Larry Greathouse (absent)  
Clerk Treasurer: R. Shawn Gerkin  
Asst. Clk. Treasurer: Rita L. Elmore

Guest present: Chief of Police James Webster; Bob Ertel; Tanya Burnett and Tim Hunt.

Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020 as written and presented; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Bob Ertel presented the Board with Change Order # TP-S-202000318 from Dave O'Mara Construction in the amount of \$28,523.50 for review and approval. After discussion on the items Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve the Change Order in the amount of \$28,523.50; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

Chief of Police Webster presented his recommendation to the Board of hiring Adam Driver for the NVPD. Board Member Wisner made the motion to make the recommendation to the Council for approval of hiring Adam Driver; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0. Chief of Police Webster informed the Board upon Council approval he will request the swearing in ceremony be done outside due to the current health issues.

Tim Hunt w/HWC presented each member a map of all city streets that are currently in the INDOT inventory for reimbursement and explained there are several streets that are not in the inventory; he along with Street Commissioner Marksberry are reviewing over these streets and asked the Board and Council to review over the streets the City wants to request for the upcoming CCMG Grant.


At 10:19, Board Member Ochs stated if there was no further business to discuss he would make the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

Meeting adjourned.



---

R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk Treasurer



---

Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
MARCH 23, 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

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

Guests present: Chief James Webster, Will Spencer, Rick Marksberry, and Barbara King.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief James Webster explained to council that the Board of Public Works & Safety voted unanimously to hire Adam Driver as the city's next police officer at their March 19, 2020 meeting. He will be filling the vacancy filled by the recent departure of Kyle Hall. Chief Webster explained that although the BOW names the hire, council needs to formally ratify the position for financial reasons to make the hire valid. Jack made the motion to approve the hire of Adam Driver as a police officer and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

Council was presented with Resolution #676-2020, a resolution authorizing the application submission and local match commitment for a planning grant. Shawn explained that tonight's original agenda including a public hearing for the grant but explained that, due to the coronavirus, OCRA has suspended the need for a public hearing until later in the process. If awarded the grant, the amount of local funding would be \$4320.00. Jack made the motion to approve Resolution #676-2020 and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Shawn presented council with Ordinance #992, an ordinance amending the 2020 salary ordinance due to emergency circumstances. The ordinance directs the clerk treasurer to pay full time employees that are forced away from work or to work from home during a declared emergency. The ordinance allows the executive officer of the city to approve stay home pay for any period not to exceed 10 days without approval of a majority of the North Vernon Common Council. Mayor Ochs had met with department heads on March 16, 2020 to discuss limiting work to essential workers only in light of Governor Holcomb's recommendation to eliminate all nonessential business due to Covid-19. Brian made the motion to waive the first reading of Ordinance #992 and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0. Brian then made the motion to adopt Ordinance #992 and retroactively pay employees who have been sent home or are working from home to March 16, 2020 and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.



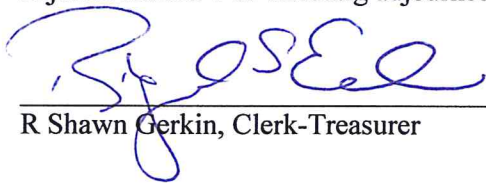
The mayor and council were given a copy of the North Vernon Redevelopment Commission's annual report for the year ending December 31, 2019 pursuant to IC 36-7-14-13.

Council noted that due to Governor Holcomb's directive to close all nonessential business at this time, the golf course clubhouse at St. Annes should not be opened to the general public.

Council was presented with a city map and asked to review the streets in their respective districts to help Tim Hunt and HWC Engineering prepare the city's application for 2020 CCMG Projects.

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

Jack made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 PM.



---

R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



---

Mike Ochs, Mayor