

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
MAY 9, 2022

The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Mike Ochs with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin completed roll call.

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse (absent)

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

Guests Present: Jeff Shinolt, Lee Baker, Tim Hunt, Kylan Higgs, Shannon Grunden, Keith Messer, Garrie Ritchie, Ray Hughes, Robin Brown, and Anna Walker.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes April 25, 2022 Minutes as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to approve the minutes carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs presented Councilman Hatfield with a plaque to thank him for his 10+ years of service as a council member. Brian announced that this would be his last meeting as a councilman as he is moving out of his current district.

Lee Baker, owner of 46 South Gum Street, was present to address the following concerns at his property. A tree located at 42 South Gum is a current danger to his property and he would like it removed. A city light has been out near his property for months. The hillside behind his property is eroding due to the city killing the vegetation. The road the city installed next to his home and the driveway work done by the contractor is causing a nuisance and a problem. Tim Hunt and Garrie Ritchie will look into the complaint and report back to council.

Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin and Mainstreet Director Anna Walker asked council to consider giving a grant to help the small business owners in Phase I being impacted by the Walnut Street construction. The contractor has done as much as possible to leave room for foot traffic, but with the street closed, some business owners have claimed losing up to 90% of their revenue. 15-18 local businesses could be affected throughout the project. National chain businesses and not-for-profits would not be included at this time. Shawn explained that the funds could come from the council's City Improvement line or an additional appropriation could be done to use CARES Act funding. Jack made the motion to grant the small businesses in Phase I \$1500.00 as a thank you for their efforts to stay in businesses during the construction and to help them offset lost revenue, and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Following discussion, the motion carried 5-0.

Council reviewed a sample ordinance discussing storage units within city limits from attorney Larry Greathouse. No motion or action took place at this time.

Council discussed paying the fee for employees to obtain their Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). Employees would need to sign an agreement with the city to stay a certain period of time after receiving their CDL's or risk having to pay the city back for the fees associated with paying for them. No motion or action took place at this time.

Police Chief Keith Messer informed council that two of the city's officers are currently at the police academy and will be for the next 16 weeks. He also reminded those in attendance that the department's Back Lot BBQ would be held on Friday, May 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM.

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

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



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor