

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
NORTH VERNON EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER
AND VIA ZOOM
MAY 10, 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 (absent)

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield

Baron Wilder

Jack Kelley

Trent Wisner

Jerry Lamb

Guests Present: Russell Vaught, Marie Shepherd, David Yux, Sheila Yux, Tracy Thompson, Chuck Waggoner, Rick Marksberry, Kylan Higgs, Marie Shepherd, Ray Hughes, Matt Montgomery, Keith Messer, Elise Allen, Tim Hunt, Melinda Gabbard, and Scott Brown.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2021 City Council Meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Following discussion, motion carried 5-0.

Area Plan Director Marie Shepherd requested a rezone request on the behalf of Leonidas & Brenda Bennett to rezone the property at 231 West Walnut Street from Commercial to Residential Single Family to bring the property into compliance with how it is being used. Jack made the motion to approve the rezone request and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Matt Montgomery, owner of American Manufacturing Solutions, Inc. (AMS) located at 1440 East Buckeye Street, was present to discuss with council the operation of his business. AMS receives, dries, and ships back iron scrap after drying it. A similar operation at another location has caused some concern among the community and city officials as the dust from the process can contaminate surrounding properties and roads if not done correctly. Mr. Montgomery assured the council his business would not be processing the material like the other facility and environmental issues would not be a problem. Tracy Thompson, Scott Brown, David Yux, and Melinda Gabbard were all presented to voice concern. No motion or action took place.

Marie Shepherd explained to council that the Area Plan Commission was working on a campaign to advertise to the public the recently revised city/county joint code enforcement ordinance. The campaign efforts hope to educate and inform residents of the new rules prior to enforcing them. Costs of the design, purchase, and mailing of material is not budgeted within the APC budget and Marie requested help from council in the cost. Trent made the motion to donate \$1000.00 to help fund the cause and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Shawn completed the second reading of Ordinance #999-2021, an ordinance establishing a local American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to receive the allocation allotted to the City of North Vernon in accordance with State Examiner Directive 22021-1. Jack made the motion to adopt Ordinance #999-2021 and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Following discussion, the motion carried on a vote of 5-0.

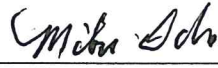
Other items of discussion with no motions or action included using a portion of the stone quarry for a potential camping site, installing additional solar panels at the stone quarry, and the police department has taken delivery of four new police cars. Police Chief Keith Messer also reminded those in attendance of the retirement party being held for former Chief James Webster on Friday, May 14th at Willow Lake Event Center.

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

Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
MAY 21, 2021 @ 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was opened with roll call by Asst. Clerk 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: Chief of Police Keith Messer; Fire Chief Mike Cole; Tim Hunt w/HWC and Tanya Burnette.

Fire Chief Cole reported to the Board that Travis Jones has received approval from PERF and his hire date would be 6-1-21. However, Clerk Treasurer Gerkin reported that he has not received notification from PERF and he cannot start until this is received. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve hiring of Travis Jones as a firefighter pending final approval from PERF; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

Fire Chief Cole reported Squad 69 has been setting behind the fire station since 2016 and requested to donate to the Westport Fire Department. After discussion Board Member Lamb made the motion to approve of the donation of Squad 69 with a letter stating they accept as is and there be no liability held against the City; seconded by Board Member Wisner, motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin informed the Board the Firefighters are receiving cell phone allowances which are in the claims submitted for approval.

Chief of Police Messer reported to the Board that he has appointed Todd Beam to the position of Captain effective June 13, 2021 and requested approval of the appointment. Board Member Wisner made the motion to approve Todd Beam as Captain for the NVPD; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0. The appointment will become effective June 13, 2021.

Chief of Police Messer presented a letter from Nick Megel informing of his resignation from the NVPD effective June 4, 2021 and he is requesting to stay on the Cities insurances until December 2023. Board Member Wisner made the motion to accept the resignation and allow Nick Megel to remain on the Cities insurance until December 2023; seconded by Board Member Ochs, motion carried 3-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented a quote from Dave O'Mara for removal of trees and stumps on the Muscatatuck Trails of: N. Side of trail approx. 1200 ft. \$19,950.00; S. Side of trail approx. 1600 ft. \$30,000.00 with does not include tree removal which would be the responsibility of the City. No action was taken on this quote.

Tim Hunt w/HWC presented a Project Cost Breakdown for the Walnut Street for Board to review over.

Pb. Bd. Wks. & Safety

May 21, 2021

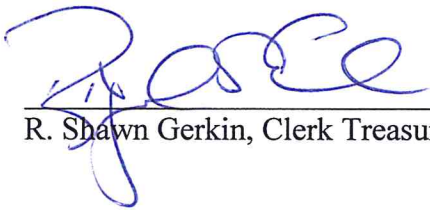
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Board Member Wisner made a motion to accept INDOT offer to go with the State Exchange from a Federal Project to a State Project for the Walnut Street Project; seconded by Board Member Lamb, motion carried 3-0.

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 10:19 a.m., Board Member Lamb state 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 BUILDING
AND VIA ZOOM
MAY 24, 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 (absent)

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield

Baron Wilder

Jack Kelley

Trent Wisner

Jerry Lamb

Guests Present: Police Chief Keith Messer, Todd Beam, Natalie Messer, Wyatt Messer, Russell Vaught, Tim Hunt, Jeff Shinolt, and Robin Brown.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 City Council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief Keith Messer informed council that the Board of Public Safety approved the promotion of Sergeant Todd Beam to the position of Captain based on his recommendation. Officer Beam is a 14-year veteran of the department. Jack made the motion to ratify the decision of the Safety Board and promote Sergeant Beam to Police Captain and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0. He will officially start his new duties on June 14, 2021.

Chief Messer also notified the council that Detective Nick Megel will be retiring from the department after 24 years to take a new position at Columbus Regional Hospital. His last day will be June 4, 2021.

Council reviewed a letter from Andy Ertel asking for \$3000.00 of financial support and use of the city stage for a free musical event on September 4, 2021. The letter explained that there will be four different bands that will play approximately one hour each and that he had volunteers that would take care of all necessary planning and promotion of the event. Trent made the motion to approve the \$3000.00 from the city's festival fund and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Other items of discussion without any motion or action included an update on the construction work being done on the former Greathouse building, the city website, the purchase of benches for the downtown area, and the scheduled site visit by an OCRA representative to discuss the city's upcoming stormwater grant.

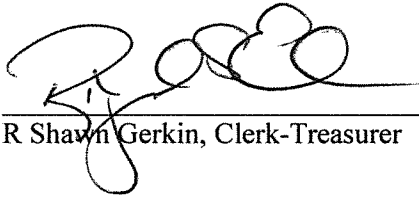
The council discussed the possibility of funding home building within the city limits, whether it be helping a developer or contractor or being the developer. Brian made the motion to form a committee to study the feasibility of the city incentivizing housing financially and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Council discussed the composition of the committee. Following discussion, Trent made the motion that the composition of the committee should include two city councilors, Mayor Mike Ochs, Clerk-Treasurer Shawn Gerkin, and NVRC President Greg Hicks. The motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

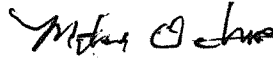
Baron made the motion to appoint Brian and Jack as the two city council members to the committee and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Trent made the motion to pay the claims presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to pay the claims carried 4-1 (Jerry).

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor