

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
AND VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by North Vernon 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	Baron Wilder
	Jack Kelley	Trent Wisner
	Jerry Lamb	

Guests Present: Chad Speer, Will Spencer, Russell Vaught, Robin Brown, Mike Cole, Tim Hunt, Jeff Shinolt, Tanya Burnette, Noah & Blaiklee Burton, and Rick & Diana Marksberry.

Baron made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 23, 2021 City Council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs recognized Noah & Blaiklee Burton as winners of the city's Solar Scavenger Hunt contest, presenting them with their own city flag.

Council discussed the possibility of creating an Employee Sick Bank, where employees could voluntarily pool together sick hours that fellow employees could use in instances where they were out of their own time but facing severe or critical illness. Baron suggested reaching out to New Focus HR for recommendations. No motions or action took place.

Council and Shawn briefly discussed salaries and the 2022 budget. Council was presented with initial department head requests for budgets. A special budget workshop will be scheduled in the next week to further discuss the budget. No motions or action took place.

Shawn requested funding help on behalf of Bea Murphy and the Jennings County Coordinating Council. Council had historically given the Coordinating Council an annual contribution from their civic interest fund but didn't do so in 2020, perhaps due to COVID-19. Baron made the motion to give \$3000.00 from council's civic interest fund for 2021 and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

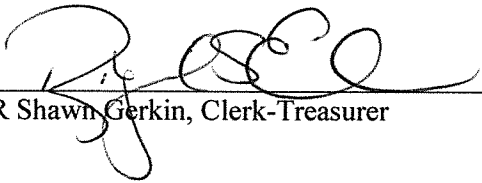
Jack showed those in attendance a drawing/design created by retired art teacher Karen Chillman, recommending the city pay for the drawing on the wall of the building located by Dave & Nancy O'Mara at 819 Buckeye Street. The building is adjacent to Tripton Park and sets behind the stage area. Cost for material and labor for the project is \$7500.00. Jack explained that the O'Mara's were in complete support of the project and are willing to donate the equipment and scaffolding needed. Jack made the motion to approve the project at the cost of \$7500.00 as long as the design also incorporates the city's new logo, and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0.

Tim Hunt informed council that HWC would be hosting an open house to discuss the city's comp plan would be held from 4:00-5:30 PM on Monday, September 24th at the Carnegie Building.

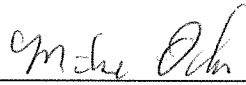
Also, a Board of Public Works and Safety Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 2:00 PM. Bids for the upcoming Walnut Street Project will be received and opened at that time.

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 opposed).

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



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The meeting was opened at 5:00 by Clerk-Treasurer Shawn Gerkin.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

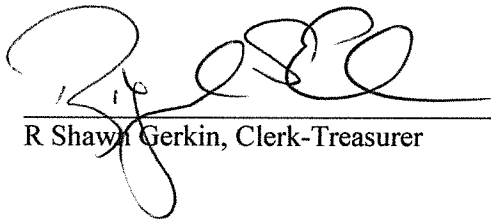
Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield (phone) Baron Wilder
 Jack Kelley Trent Wisner
 Jerry Lamb

Guests Present: Chad Speer, Anne Lawson, and Keith Messer.

Shawn presented council with a preliminary Budget Form 1 with figures requested by department heads. He explained that the budget as presented was greater than the Maximum Civil Levy and that approximately \$145,000.00 needed to be deducted from funds within the levy.

Discussion included the budget request of the recreation fund and departments within the general fund, the possibility of raising the trash fee from \$5.00 to \$7.50, and the need to increase wages for better attraction and retention for city positions. Also discussed was the possibility of raising water and sewer rates and the position of golf director. No motions or action took place.

Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE BUILDING
AND VIA ZOOM
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by North Vernon 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	Baron Wilder
	Jack Kelley	Trent Wisner (absent)
	Jerry Lamb	

Guests Present: Tiger Zamora, Brandi Zamora, Rachel Christenson, Tara Hagan, Cory Whitesell, Kathy Ertel, Anna Walker, Kylan Higgs, Tim Hunt, Robin Brown, Chad Speer, Will Spencer, Russell Vaught, Todd Beam, and Mike Cole.

Jack made the motion to approve the minutes of the September 13th and September 22nd City Council meetings as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

Rachel Christenson, representing HWC Engineering, updated council on the progress of the city's comprehensive plan. There has been an overwhelming response from the public on the survey put out, stake holder meetings, and a public open house to date. A draft of the document will be available for review in the coming weeks.

Shawn completed the second reading of Ordinance #1001, an ordinance establishing a policy for the electronic participation of meetings by members of the North Vernon Common Council. Jack made the motion to adopt Ordinance #1001 and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 4-0.

Council was provided with an application for approval of use of the city stage by Friends of Historic Vernon, represented by Amber Fields. The Town of Vernon would like to use the stage on October 16, 2021. Brian made the motion to approve the use of the stage on the date requested and waiving of the fee for use and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 4-0.


Shawn provided council with an updated Budget Form 1 based on the amendments requested at the last council budget workshop. Council confirmed that they would meet again on Thursday, September 30th at 5:00 PM to discuss in further detail.

Mayor Ochs informed council that he was approached by Walter Gerth with a request to close a portion of Madison Avenue on Saturday, October 9th, from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM. Mr. Gerth and others wish to display a racecar they have built along with a car cruise in. Jerry made the motion to approve the temporary closure with the stipulation that the business owners in the area are notified beforehand, and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 4-0.

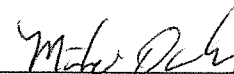
Council announced they would hold an executive session on Thursday, September 30th at 4:30 PM at the Carnegie Government Center to discuss information received about the alleged misconduct of an employee.

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

Baron made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
SPECIAL BUDGET WORKSHOP
CARNEGIE BUILDING
SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

The meeting was opened at 6:00 by North Vernon Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin with roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers:

Brian Hatfield

Baron Wilder

Jack Kelley

Trent Wisner

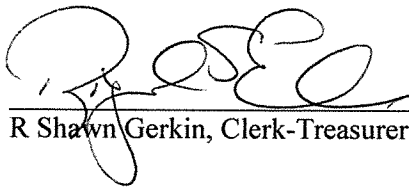
Jerry Lamb

Guests Present: Robin Brown and Keith Messer.

Council discussed paying assistant street superintendent Melvin Marksberry a higher wage as he has been filling the role of street superintendent while Rick Marksberry is out. Shawn explained that Melvin's current biweekly salary is \$1827.34, but estimated it would be \$2169.57 biweekly in the role of superintendent versus the assistant superintendent. Brian made the motion to increase Melvin's pay to \$2169.57 biweekly effective immediately so long as he is in the role of superintendent, as well as to pay him a one-time lump sum of \$2395.61 to cover the 7 pay periods he was "shorted" while filling the role. The motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Council discussed the 2022 salary of the mayor's administrative assistant, as well as a one-time stipend for all of the additional work performed while the mayor was out sick. Jack made the motion to increase the pay of the mayor's assistant \$16.50/hour with a one-time stipend of \$2500.00 paid on the next pay day and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

Jack made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor