

**NORTH VERNON CITY CONCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
FEBRUARY 10, 2020**

The meeting was opened at 6:00 PM by Mayor Mike Ochs with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Asst.Clerk-Treasurer Elmore completed roll call:

Mayor- Mike Ochs

Clerk-Treasurer-R. Shawn Gerkin (absent)

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmember: Brian Hatfield

Jack Kelley

Jerry Lamb

Baron Wilder

Trent Wisner

Asst. Clerk-Treasurer- Rita L Elmore.

Guest present: Mary Combs; Josh Yeager; Tim Hunt; Wade Eaglin; Jim Baird; Joe Staple; Chuck Waggoner; Sandy Vance; Tanya Burnette and Barbara King.

Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting as written and presented; seconded by Councilman Lamb, motion carried 5-0.

Chief of Police Webster reported he is still waiting to hear from the Offerup Company concerning the Safe Swap Spot.

Attorney Greathouse recommended a Phase I environmental study with an approximate cost of \$1,500 .00 be done at Fire Station #1 on Buckeye Street before moving forward. Councilman Kelley made the motion to move forward with the Phase I environmental study; seconded by Councilman Wilder, motion carried 5-0.

Josh Yeager is wishing to purchase the property with the generator included and his goal is to be up and running by May 1, 2020; the Council stated they would do nothing with the property until the Phase I environmental study has been completed.

The Archive Social contract was presented for Council approve in the amount of \$399.00 a month for 13 months. Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve the contract; seconded by Councilman Hatfield, motion carried 4-1(Lamb).

Discussion was held on a Code Enforcement Officer, no action taken. Attorney Greathouse recommended to adopt an ordinance with State Statue on safe buildings. Councilman Wilder made the motion to have the language in an ordinance to match State statue on safe buildings; seconded by Councilman Kelley, motion carried 5-0.

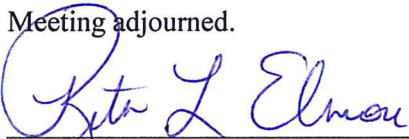
Mayor Ochs informed the Council that HWC has been appointed to be the Cities Engineers for the upcoming year.

Councilman Kelley stated the Park Board is looking into the possibility of having Franklin Street a one way street with the opening of the new pool. Councilman Wisner stated he felt that having a one way entrance and exit would be more beneficial, but no action was taken.

Councilman Wisner made the motion to approve payment for the claims that were submitted for payment; seconded by Councilman Kelley, motion carried 5-0.

At 7:02 p.m., Councilman Wisner state if there was not further business to discuss, he would make the motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Councilman Wilder, motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned.



Rita L. Elmore, Asst. Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

**PUBLIC BOARD OF WORKS & SAFETY MEETING
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
FEBRUARY 20, 2020 @ 11:00 AM**

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: Rick McGill, Fire Chief Mike Cole, Roger Hughes, and Gayle Hughes.

Jerry made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2019 Board of Public Works & Safety meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Mayor Ochs. Motion carried 3-0.

The first item on the agenda was the position of assistant fire chief, currently held by former fire chief Rick McGill. As the city began to transition the fire department to a full-time fire department with full time firefighters, the positions of full-time driver began to be eliminated. Employees at that time were given the choice of a retirement resignation. At that time, Rick indicated he would like to stay on until April of 2020, at which time he would turn 65 years old. Upon learning that he isn't eligible for full social security until 66 years, 2 months, he requested he be allowed to continue employment with the city in his current position until June 30, 2021. Fire Chief Mike Cole spoke to value Rick still has to the department and supported the request. Shawn indicated that from a financial standpoint, the budget was approved with the assumption that he would be retiring in April of 2020, so allowing him to stay would have to come at the expense of hiring two additional firefighters at this time. Mayor Ochs made the motion to allow Rick to continue employment with the city until June 30, 2021 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Following discussion, motion carried 3-0.

Other discussions included bidding out mowing for city properties, mowing at Tripton Park, the electric bill for Tripton Park, the planned opening celebration at Tripton Park, and future funding for other events at the park. No motions or action took place.

Shawn explained the police department was purchasing two new vehicles and the department would be turning over two of their old vehicles back to the city when they arrive. He requested permission to replace the current city vehicle with one of these two cars as the Trailblazer that he's used as a work vehicle is running down and costing more money for repairs than the clerk treasurer's budget can pay. Mayor Ochs said he would like to see a new vehicle be budgeted for the mayor's office in 2021.

No claims were presented for approval of payment.

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Mayor Ochs. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM.



R. Shawn Gerkin, Clerk Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
FEBRUARY 24, 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 (absent but represented by Chris Doran)

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

Guests present: Chuck Waggoner, Kathy Ertel, Chad Speer, Judy Worrell, Ginger Miller, JoAnn Giles, Randy Shepherd, Barbara King, Mike Cole, James Webster, Elise Allen, Russell Vaught, and Sara Steinrock.

Jack made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 10, 2020 city council meeting as written and presented and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0.

JoAnn Giles, Judy Worrell, and Ginger Morgan, representing the local Good Samaritan Food Pantry, were present to request assistance from the council. The organization is in need of equipment, freezers, outside lighting, funding, and volunteers. Located at 2250 N State Hwy 7, they served 29,636 people food in 2019. Trent said he would volunteer the lighting and installation needed for the outside of the building through his company.

Kathy Ertel, JCEDC Director, recommended to council it was time to update the city's comprehensive plan. The city's last comp plan was completed in 2009 prior to the Stellar Award. She explained that OCRA has planning grants available for up to \$40,000.00, and her team at the JCEDC would work with ARA to lead getting the city's application to OCRA for the grant. She estimated the city's match to be approximately \$4500.00. Sara Steinrock, with ARA, explained a funding source would have to be identified for the application but wasn't needed at this time. She also explained that although the grant is noncompetitive, it's not a guarantee the city would be awarded. Following discussion, Jack made the motion to move forward with the comp plan with a city match of up to \$4500.00 and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs announced that his office has confirmed that Governor Eric Holcomb will be attended the city's Tripton Park Celebration in June.

Kathy updated council on the Tripton Park's Celebration scheduled for June 6, 2020. The planning committee for the all-day event has many activities planned for the day, which will begin at 8:00 AM and run through 10:00 PM. The team has been working with a \$15,000.00 budget which was set aside in 2019 for the original grand opening which had to be postponed. Brian made the motion to confirm the \$15,000.00 budget with claims ran through the clerk's office for payment and the motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion ensued about the council's previous motion to sell Fire Station #1. It was determined that perhaps the building would serve the city better by becoming a storage facility for Christmas

in the City decorations and equipment for Tripton Park as it sits between the park and Stellar Plaza. The stability and condition of the building was discussed. Brian made the motion to halt the sale of the building until further notice and the motion was seconded by Baron. Motion carried 5-0. Jack subsequently motioned to have the city engineer do an evaluation of the structure and safety of the building and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster requested use of the amphitheater at Tripton Park for the department's annual Backyard BBQ on May 15th. The department was planning a small event with the Honor Guard and a memorial service. James explained the annual event was recently held at the city park but the department was looking at changing the direction of the event. Baron made the motion to allow the department use of the stage for May 15th and the motion was seconded by Jack. Motion carried 5-0.

Chris Doran explained Larry Greathouse's opinion that the council should repeal and replace the ordinance under Section 31.03 entitled "Department of Parks and Recreation". In his legal opinion, the ordinance was enacted using the incorrect Indiana Code. NVRC Attorney Chuck Waggoner discussed the differences between the code used to enact the original ordinance and the code which should have been used, the biggest being that members of the park board would become appointments of the executive of the city and not the city council. No motions or action took place at this time.

Randy Shepherd, president of the Jennings County Fair Board, asked council for use of the city stage for the concert series planned for the annual county fair. The 2020 county fair is planned for June 8th through June 13th. Jack made the motion to allow use of the city stage at no charge on the condition that a certificate of liability insurance was on file and the county would be responsible for any damages. The motion was seconded by Trent. Motion carried 5-0.

Jerry revisited the request of the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. After discussion with Shawn on the council's civic interest budget, Trent made the motion to donate \$1000.00 to the organization from the council's civic interest budget and the motion was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried 5-0.

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

Trent made the motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Brian. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor