

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
NOVEMBER 28, 2016

The meeting was opened 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

Connie Rayburn

Trent Wisner

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Tammy Boggs, Linda Coad, Kim LaFollette, Tracy Eder, George Prather, Pete Abel, Mike Miller, Andy Ertel, Eli Brown, Les Wickliff, Lynn Wickliff, George Uppling, and Barbara King.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the November 14, 2016 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Kim LaFollette, who lost her son Dylan to a drug overdose on July 19th, asked the Mayor and Council if they had any plans to fix the ongoing drug problem among the youth in our community. Chief Webster briefly spoke of the complexity of the situation.

George Prather voiced his concerns for the naming of US 50 and the bypass after the completion of the project.

Andy Ertel, representing the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District, was present to answer any questions the Council had with the Landowner Agreement presented at the previous council meeting between the City of North Vernon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The USFWS is partnering with the City to plant nearly 6 acres of pollinator patches at the recently purchased Ford's Crossing golf course. After a lengthy discussion, including input from neighbors and community members in the room, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the Landowner Agreement, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Debra Brown, owner of units on Woodlawn, was present to discuss parking of the tenants on Woodlawn. After years of parking along the road, the police have recently been asking them to move off the road due to complaints from others in the Greenbriar neighborhood. One of those neighbors, Pete Abel, said he had recently had to move left of center to avoid cars parked on the road and nearly collided with incoming traffic into the subdivision. After discussion, City Attorney Larry Greathouse said that it is legal to park on the road as long as traffic can still pass and as long as there is at least 200 feet of clear vision in both directions of the parked vehicle, unless the Council desired to pass an ordinance stating otherwise.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented Council with three transfer requests from within the pool department of the general fund. Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve the transfer requests, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Park Director Chad Speer requested the transfer of funds from four line items from within the Recreation Non-Reverting Fund. After discussion, Councilman Kelley made a motion to approve the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin made the request to transfer funds from within the clerk treasurer's department. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin recommended a transfer of funds from within the Common Council budget. This transfer mostly covers high-than-budgeted fees for engineering and legal services. Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve the transfer of funds, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor