

**NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JANUARY 11, 2016**

Mayor Ochs opened the meeting with a prayer, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Asst. Clerk Treasurer Elmore completed roll call:

Mayor- Michael Ochs

Clerk Treasurer- R. Shawn Gerkin (absent)

Attorney- Larry Greathouse

Councilmembers: Brian Hatfield

Jack Kelley

Jerry Lamb

Connie Rayburn

Trent Wisner

Street Commissioner: Rick Marksberry

Chief of Police: James Webster

Fire Chief- Michael Cole

Park Director: Chad Speer

Golf Director: Robin Brown

Water Superintendent: Mike Hess

Wastewater Superintendent: Russell Vaught (absent)

Asst. Clk. Treasurer: Rita L. Elmore

Guest present: Chris Doran; Courtney Wilson; Kenny Perry; Eli Brown; Kathy McKalip w/INDOT; Jody Shelton; Randall Marshall; Chuck Waggoner; Barbara King; Marcia McGill; David Rockey and Randy Shepherd.

Public Comment:

-Barbara King presented each Councilmember with a letter concerning the Open Door Law and questioned if the minutes will still be recorded; the Council informed Ms. King they will continue recording the meetings.

-Jody Shelton was present to talk with the Council about his building at 412 O & M Avenue, stating he had spoken with Cory Whitesell 3 weeks ago on the mold issue in his building. After receiving a copy of the tort claim filed by Mr. Shelton, Attorney Greathouse stated this would need to be discussed in an Executive Session.

Agenda Items:

-Attorney Greathouse opened the re-organization of the Council with the nominations for Council President; Councilwoman Rayburn nominated Brian Hatfield, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Councilman Lamb made the motion to close the nominations, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Attorney Greathouse called for a vote which was 5-0, unanimous.

For Vice President of the Council; Councilman Wisner nominated Jerry Lamb, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Councilman Kelley made the motion to close the nominations, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Attorney Greathouse called for a vote which was 4-0 (Lamb abstaining).

-Mayor Ochs gave each Councilmember a list of his appointments for 2016 (see attached).

-Councilman Hatfield nominated Pat Kirchner as the Council's appointment to the Utility Service Board, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Councilwoman Rayburn nominated Nick Megel as Council's appointment to the Utility Service Board, this died for a lack of second. Attorney Greathouse called for the vote for Pat Kirchner to the Utility Service Board, 3-yes (Hatfield, Lamb, Kelley) 2-no (Rayburn, Wisner), motion carried.

-Councilman Hatfield nominated Keith Stearns to the TIF Board, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn, motion carried 5-0.

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Agenda Items (cont.):

- Councilman Wisner nominated Pat York to the TIF Board, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn, motion carried 4-yes(Hatfield,Kelley,Lamb,Rayburn) 1- no (Lamb) motion carried.
- Area Plan appointment was discussed. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to table until their next meeting, seconded by Councilman Wisner, motion carried 5-0.
- Attorney Greathouse informed the Council he was unable to find the ordinance for appointment to the Park Board. Park Director told the Council that he believed there was an Ordinance stating there were off setting term limits to avoid all new members. Councilman Lamb nominated Tracy Eder for his district, however during discussion Councilman Lamb withdrew his nomination until obtaining the Ordinance, seconded by Councilman Kelley, motion carried 5-0.

- Attorney Greathouse informed the Council the Ordinances of the City of North Vernon needs to be codify and he has spoken with Clerk Treasurer Gerkin and a cost of \$5,000 is needed to obtain this. Councilman Kelley made the motion to codify the City Ordinances and to have Clk. Treasurer Gerkin bring this before the Council, seconded by Councilman Wisner, motion carried 5-0.

- Councilwoman Rayburn nominated Pat York to the 911 Board, seconded by Councilman Lamb, motion carried 5-0.
- Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to table the appointment to the Tourism Board, seconded by Councilman Kelley, motion carried 5-0.
- Councilwoman Rayburn questioned combining the Public Works & Public Safety Boards, Attorney Greathouse informed Councilwoman Rayburn that in 3rd Class Cities they are combined.

- Courtney Perry, with Perry Pools, spoke with the Council of concerns of the following: No left turn off the bridge on N. State Street; handrails removed from the sidewalks and left lane; and the alley behind her building stating there are huge holes. Councilman Wisner questioned whether the City could be a liaison to INDOT. Kathy McKalip w/INDOT informed the Council the request of changing the no left turn off the bridge has gone to the Governor and she will have someone look into the missing handrails.

- Discussion of Utility Service Charge Fee: Water Superintendent Hess told the Council of the charge from the bank for using credit card. USB Member Eli Brown told the Council he voted against the flat fee charge of \$2.00 per transaction. Councilman Kelley stated there have been 3 increases and the City needs to be compassionate and absorb the charge. Councilman Kelley asked to have Clk. Treasurer Gerkin look into other banks and report back to the Council.

Department Head Updates:

- Engineer Brad Bender presented a handout to each Councilmember with updates on all projects for the City. Councilman Wisner questioned the sidewalks to the schools, and Councilman Lamb questioned whether alleys were included.
- Police Chief Webster asked the Council to evaluate the speed limit from JFF to SR. #3; the detective position will be filled soon, and requested to have a Public Board of Safety & Public Works meeting before the next Council meeting, Mayor Ochs will have his secretary set this up.
- Fire Chief Cole informed the Council the Aerial Truck is currently out of commission and should be back in service sometime next week; and his department has an Open Door Policy.
- Park Director Speer gave his 2015 Annual Report for the Park & Recreation for Council to review.
- Water Superintendent Hess reported his department is doing well; a meeting was held on the Quarry and reported for Wastewater Superintendent Vaught the 4th Street Project by the Cemetery is underway.

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Department Head Updates (cont.):

-Golf Director Brown reported there are currently 81 members of the St. Anne's Golf Course and he was approached by Councilman Kelley to have a Golf Board; Director Brown's suggestion would be to have 3 either men or woman and 2 either men or woman with the requirement they are members and play golf.

Council Discussion on Old Business: None.

Additional Public Comments:

-David Rockey asked the Council if City Employees could receive a membership discount to the St. Anne's Golf Course, Councilman Hatfield immediately responded no.

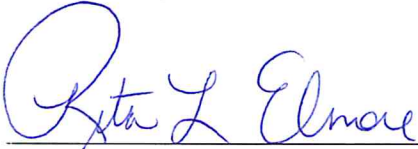
-Kathy McKalip w/INDOT reported the Muscatatuck Trail Project will be let soon.

-Attorney Greathouse announced Chris Doran will fill in when needed for City Council meetings and Chuck Waggoner will be the TIF Attorney.

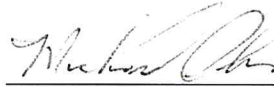
Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve payment for the claims that were submitted for payment, seconded by Councilman Hatfield, motion carried 5-0.

At 7:40 p.m. Councilman Wisner stated if there was no further business to discuss, he makes the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn, motion carried 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned.



Rita L. Elmore, Asst. Clerk Treasurer



Michael Ochs, Mayor