

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JANUARY 25, 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

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Mike Cole

Park Director- Chad Speer

Water Superintendent- Mike Hess (absent)

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Royce Stiening, Randall Marshall, Randy Shepherd, Dave Cheatham, Barbara King, Kathy Ertel, Cheryl Trisler, Brad Kage, Traci Wahlman-Ickx, and Gene Rudicel.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2016 City Council meeting subject to two changes. The last paragraph of page one should read "Councilwoman Rayburn suggested..." and the second paragraph of page two should read "at an approximate cost of \$5000.00..." Councilman Lamb seconded the motion subject to the two changes. Motion carried 5-0.

APC Director Cheryl Trisler and APC attorney Brad Kage informed Council of two homes, located at 214 & 216 East O&M Avenue that have been deemed unsafe and a common nuisance. After a brief discussion, Council informed them to move forward with quotes to have the buildings demolished.

Traci Wahlman-Ickx, utility office manager, was present to discuss with Council the idea of implementing a \$2.00 fee for credit card transactions. The fees associated with credit card transactions have exceeded a yearly cost of over \$6000.00, and the USB recently voted 4-1 to pass some of those fees on to the consumers who use credit cards. After discussion, the Council said they wished to hold off on implementing the fees at this time.

Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught, speaking on behalf of the Utility Service Board, asked for clarification on the vacant property ordinance passed May 28, 2014. The USB thought the ordinance was vague and asked for Council's input on who would receive hydrant, storm water, and trash service fees. After discussion, the Council said only those properties that once had water service to the property and had been disconnected should receive a bill, not properties which had never had service to them. Councilman Kelley made the motion to have Attorney Larry Greathouse clarify the ordinance stating such and present Council with an amended ordinance next meeting, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 4-1 (Lamb opposed).

The next item on the agenda was the potential creation of a golf course board. Councilman Kelley suggested that in lieu of taking up much time during the council meeting, that a group consisting of himself, clerk treasurer Shawn Gerkin, and park director Chad Speer could meet and gather information

and ideas, and with the help of attorney Larry Greathouse, come up with an ordinance which could be presented to Council at a later date. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to create a committee to work on the ordinance to form a golf board, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster gave Council a brief overview of Board of Public Works and Safety meeting which took place on January 22, 2016, where the board recommended Officer Nick Megel for the position of detective for the NVPD. Councilman Wisner made the motion to ratify the position, along with the change in pay for the position, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin introduced amended ordinance #950, an ordinance fixing the salaries of employees of the City of North Vernon. A second reading and potential passing of the ordinance will be on the agenda for the February 8, 2016 City Council agenda.

Discussion took place on how the E.T.C. Building owned by the City was being managed. Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin explained that Kendra Moore had been hired by the City to manage the everyday operations of the building, but that there wasn't a solid plan in place for getting new tenants to rent the empty rooms currently vacant. Councilman Kelley and Councilwoman Rayburn volunteered to meet with EDC director Kathy Ertel, Mayor Ochs, and Clerk Treasurer Gerkin to discuss the future of the building and how to best utilize the empty space.

Kathy Ertel presented Council with an SB-1 Form for a tax abatement request from Injection Mold. The request was for a five year abatement for a \$199,000.00 piece of equipment that will employ an additional person at the company. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the SB-1, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0. An annual contract of services from the EDC was also presented to the Council, which explains marketing strategies and duties of the EDC. The contract amount of \$70,000.00 annually will remain the same as previous years. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the contract for services for 2016, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilmembers made their appointments for park board for the 2016 year. They included Tracy Eder (Councilman Lamb), David Fox (Councilman Wisner), Glen Carney (Councilwoman Rayburn), Denny Hatton (Councilman Hatfield), and Joe Wahlman (Councilman Kelley).

Mayor Ochs confirmed that his appointment to the Area Plan Commission is Randy Shepherd. Councilman Lamb made the motion to appoint Councilman Brian Hatfield as the council's appointment to the APC, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Hatfield abstained).

Attorney Larry Greathouse and Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin discussed with Council the need for the codification of the City's ordinances. A proposal from American Legal Publishing Company in the amount of \$9650.00 was presented to Council after review from the clerk treasurer and attorney. After discussion on the service provided, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to move forward with the codification of ordinances with American Legal Publishing, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Street Commissioner Rick Marksberry informed Council that an offer had been made by the insurance company for the damage done to the packer truck, and that he recommended the property damage release form be signed and returned.

Russell Vaught told the Council that the City now had a signed easement from the county so work could be started immediately on the \$268,000.00 4th Street project.

Fire Chief Mike Cole told Council he said testing and interviewing for the position of firefighter for the City was planned for February 8, 2016 and that he hoped the new hire would take place by March 1, 2016.

Also, he was moving all current manpower to Station 62 and Station 61 would be used for storage only at this time.

Chief Webster informed Council discussion as still taking place on the change of speed limit on State Road 3 to the new bypass.

Gene Rudicel asked Council on behalf of himself and other owners of property on 100 North (Hutton Road) to consider de-annexation of the property. A lengthy discussion ensued, including whether the City had held up their end of the deal on providing City services to the area. Council asked Mr. Rudicel to return in four weeks to follow up on the discussion, giving Councilmembers time to study the request.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:31 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor