

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JANUARY 26, 2015

The meeting was opened by Mayor Harold Campbell with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:

Mayor- Harold N. Campbell

Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin

Attorney- John Roche

Councilmembers-Brian Hatfield

Matthew Hurley

Michael Ochs

Connie Rayburn

David Shaw

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry (absent)

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Rick McGill

Park Director- Chad Speer

Water Superintendent- Mike Hess

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught (absent)

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Cheryl Trisler, Ryan Curry, Ivory Sandefur, Randall Marshall, Jeff Shinolt, Larry Greathouse, Scott Menefee, Tanea Herbert, Janet Jones, Kyle Jones, Casey Jones, Brandy & Jackie Blevins, Craig Kipper, Nick Megel, Matt Staples, Andrew Richmond, Seth Beville, Sheila Calhoun, Mac Calhoun, Dave Cheatham, Wayne Stearns, Scott Willis, and Barbara King.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2015 City Council minutes as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster gave Council a review of the previously held Board of Public Safety meeting in which the board voted unanimously to accept applicant Casey Jones as the newest police officer for the City of North Vernon. After a brief review of Mr. Jones' credentials, Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept Casey Jones as the newest police officer, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Campbell completed the oath of office to Casey Jones and swore him in as the newest officer of the City of North Vernon.

Dave Cheatham, representing Madison Railroad, was present to get an agreement in place for the work to be done on the railroad crossing at the North end of the Stellar Plaza. The Madison Railroad had presented the City with two options for the crossing license agreement, with one version shorter and simpler than the other. Attorney Corinne Finnerty, representing the City, had advised in writing that she preferred the "short form agreement" and found many of the provisions in the long form agreement to be objectionable. She also suggested that any agreement is "without prejudice to the City's rights to reopen Short Street to vehicular traffic" should the City ever decide to do so. City Attorney John Roche concurred with this recommendation. This request for the additional language had not been presented to Madison Railroad or Mr. Cheatham so he could not say if Madison Railroad would object. Councilman Ochs made the motion to table the decision on which agreement to accept, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0. Mr. Cheatham asked Council if acceptance of the agreement was conditional on the additional language being added, and was told by Councilman Shaw that it was. Mr. Cheatham also asked if there was any additional concerns that needed to be discussed and was told there were not.

Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin presented Council with document entitled "Continuing Disclosure Policy Concerning Securities Issued by the City of North Vernon". The document was prepared by Attorney Sue Beesley and her firm in response to the Municipal Continuing Disclosure Cooperative Initiative and the City's recent self-reporting to the SEC. Part of the initiative required the City to establish appropriate policies and procedures and training regarding continuing disclosure obligations. Attorney John Roche informed Council that he had reviewed the new policy and encouraged the Council to follow Sue Beesley's recommendation. Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the policy, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0.

Attorney Larry Greathouse was present representing a group of people that wish to not be annexed within the City limits, having signatures of 52 of the 54 properties that wish to remonstrate if necessary. The group asked Council to reconsider the annexation known as "area 2". After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of the area that was to be annexed, Councilman Ochs made a motion to repeal Ordinance #940, effectively eliminating the City's desire to annex "area 2". The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Wayne Stearns was present to discuss annexation. Mr. Stearns, who resides in "area 1", was looking for information concerning when the "effective date" of annexation would occur. City Engineer Brad Bender said that the remonstrance deadline and the effective date of the ordinance is February 4, 2015. The assessor will begin the process of changing all the parcels involved from county to city at that time.

Area Plan Director Cheryl Trisler presented Council with an "Ordinance for Flood Hazard Areas for Jennings County, The City of North Vernon, and the Town of Vernon" and a request to pass the ordinance immediately. Councilman Shaw expressed concern with the need to hurriedly pass the ordinance, but was reassured by City Engineer Brad Bender that it was a boiler-plate ordinance that came down from the state and needed passed so flood maps could be completed. Councilman Shaw made the motion to waive the first reading of the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to waive the first reading carried 5-0. Councilman Ochs then made the motion to accept the ordinance, Ordinance #944, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn.

Chief Webster presented Council with a request to allow former Officer Jeff Day the ability to purchase his duty vest, rifle, and shotgun at appraised value. The City has historically allowed retired officers the chance to purchase their weapons. The value of the equipment had been appraised at \$775.00. Councilman Ochs made the motion to allow the sale of the equipment to Mr. Day, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Webster also requested from Council an increase in employee cell phone allowance from \$40 to \$50 for those who have smart phones. Chief Webster told Council that smart phones allow for better communication, pictures, videos, etc. for officers but there was an additional cost. Councilman Hatfield made the motion to allow the increase to \$50 for cell phone allowance for those in the police department that had smart phones, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief McGill told Council that he and Mr. Hurley had reviewed the paperwork of the applicant for the position of firefighter and that employment had been offered to the applicant but approval thru PERF and a psychological review.

Water Superintendent Mike Hess thanked Council for their support in pursuing the possibility of obtaining the stone quarry for a long term water supply.

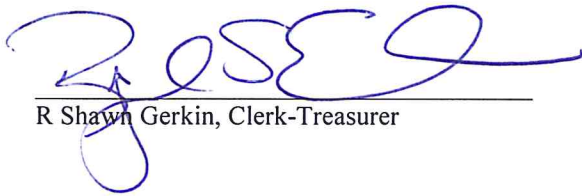
Park Director Chad Speer said soccer, baseball, and softball sign ups have begun for the 2015 year and that May 23, 2015 was the tentative date for the opening of the pool. Also, utility work has begun on North State Street in preparation for the widening of North State Street by INDOT.

Golf Course Manager Robin Brown thanked Council for naming him to the position at the previous Council Meeting. He also told them that surveyors had begun on the 17th hole of the golf course. The survey is being done by the FFA and trees on the course may have to be removed or shortened to be in compliance with previous federal grants.


Councilman Shaw made the motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to pay the claims passed 5-0.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Harold N. Campbell, Mayor