

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
DECEMBER 28, 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 (arrived late)

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 (absent)

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Roy Dickerson, Kathy Ertel, Mike Stearns, Scott Willis, Randy Boardman, Jeff Shinolt, Brian Horton, Mike Gilpin, Larry Greathouse, Bryce Mayer, Chris Ertel, Jack Kelley, Richard Morin, Nick Megel, Kath Eaton-McKalip, Trent Wisner, Marcia McGill, and Mike Cole.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2015 City Council meeting, subject to changing the word "state" to "stage" in paragraph 7, page 2. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hatfield and was approved, 4-0.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the potential acquisition of the Hanson Quarry. INDOT representative Kathy Eaton-McKalip and the USB's project engineer Richard Morin were present to update Council on the progress of the negotiations. Hanson has agreed to sell the property if the City would agree to three conditions; 1) That there is no additional mining on the property for a period of 99 years, 2) Hanson would retain use of the scale and office space for one year, and 3) Hanson may utilize the aggregate on the property for a period of one year. Councilman Shaw made the motion to acknowledge and accept Hanson's conditions of the sale offered to the City and INDOT, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Discussion began, including Councilman Ochs asking if any other alternatives to the project had been considered. Other options had been considered, including the construction of a storm water system as a bypass to the current intake, but INDOT, the EPA, and the Federal Highway Administration have all agreed the acquisition of the quarry is the best option. After discussion, a vote was taken on Councilman Shaw's motion with a vote of 3 for and 1 (Ochs) against. Obtaining the quarry became an option for environmental purposes on the US Hwy 50 Bypass project, a project that will not open until the environmental deal is complete, with the secondary benefit of a long term water supply for the City of North Vernon. The Council had previously voted to adopt a resolution to be the NVRC's tax backup on the \$6,000,000.00 NVRC Bond, with \$3,500,000.00 set aside for the quarry project. The Council then voted November 9, 2015, in favor of having Chris Ertel, NVRC President, to move forward with negotiations with INDOT and Hanson in trying to acquire the property. The NVRC voted unanimously on November 21, 2015 to set aside \$500,000.00 for the purchase of the additional 80 acres, and the USB also voted to accept the Hanson conditions described above.

Next on the agenda was an adoption of the City's 2016 Motor Vehicle Fund, Debt Service Fund, and Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin explained that during the option of the budget, the three funds had a clerical error in the published adoption and needed reaffirmation of approval from the Council. The Debt Service levy was adopted correctly but a lower than intended rate was adopted. The CCD fund had a correct levy and rate advertised, but was not published correctly. The MVH fund was adopted with an incorrect rate. The correct rate and levies, as advertised in a "Notice to Taxpayers" of the City of North Vernon, should have had a rate of \$0.1579 for the MVH fund, \$0.0421 for the Debt Service Fund, and \$0.0543 for the CCD Fund, as well as a levy of \$103.243 for the CCD. Councilwoman Rayburn made a motion to adopt the three funds for the 2016 budget as corrected, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin requested approval for an amendment to the 2016 salary ordinance (#950) to account for an additional MVH employee, to reflect the deputy fire chief position, and to reflect the change of position at the police department. Councilman Ochs countered that it was his understanding that an ordinance could not be amended without being advertised. After a brief discussion with city attorney John Roche, Councilman Shaw made the motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Councilman Shaw and Councilwoman Rayburn voted for, Councilman Ochs and Councilman Hatfield voted against. Mayor Campbell cast the tie breaking vote for the approval of the amended ordinance.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented Council with a transfer request on behalf of aviation manager Ryan Curry for funds within the aviation budget. Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the request, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin then presented Council with a transfer request on behalf of MVH superintendent Rick Marksberry for a transfer of funds within the MVH budget. He also explained that additional funds would need transferred to the equipment line to pay for the recently purchased 2 trucks for the street department. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the request and authorized the clerk treasurer's office to make the additional transfers needed to pay for the trucks, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented Council with a transfer request for funds within the clerk treasurer's budgets. Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the transfer request, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0.

Park Director Chad Speer presented Council with a transfer request for funds with the general pool, the recreation, and the recreation non reverting funds. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the transfer of funds, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 4-0.

Police Chief James Webster presented Council with a transfer request for the police department fund, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Campbell asked Council to approve a transfer of all available funds from the mayor's budget to the community development fund to be earmarked for future street light purchases. Councilman Shaw made the motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-0.

Mike Stearns, member of the St. Annes municipal golf course, explained to Council that he wished to use the gift certificates that his team won for golf league towards the purchase of his 2016 golf membership but was told he was only allowed to use the certificates for merchandise in the pro shop. Mr. Stearns said golfers had always been allowed to use the certificates for memberships in the past. After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Hatfield made the motion to allow those with gift certificates be able to use them towards the purchase of their memberships for this year only, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught shared with Council a picture of the new generator recently installed at the plant. He also informed them that the Long Term Control Plan was progressing and that the work on 4th Street had been awarded to Lawyer Excavating.

Councilman Hurley arrived at the meeting at this time. (Approximately 6:50 PM)

Deputy Chief Rick McGill told Council that Public Safety Board had approved his request by a 2-1 vote to move from Fire Chief to Deputy Chief at the December 17, 2015 Safety Board meeting, and asked Council for approval of the move. Councilman Shaw made motion to approve the move and ratify the position, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 4-1 (Ochs against).

Golf Course Manager Robin Brown told Council with the course had 67 members sign up to date for 2016 memberships. He also told them that, due to the tremendous amount of rain this week, the course will be closed for the remainder of the calendar year.

Chief Webster presented gifts on behalf of the police department to Councilmen Dave Shaw and Matt Hurley and to Mayor Soup Campbell in appreciation of their years of service.

Utility Service Board President Karen Snyder presented Mayor Campbell with a piece of old water line as a reminder to everyone how bad the water lines in the City of North Vernon were before Mayor Campbell took office, and spoke on the efforts of her colleagues on the USB board, the Mayor, and the current City Council and thanked them all for their service.

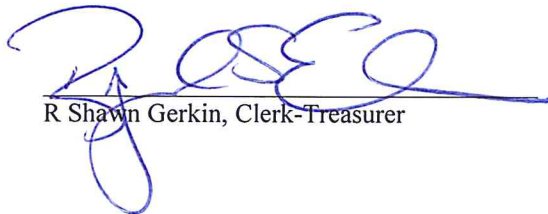
Mayor Campbell presented Councilmen Dave Shaw and Matt Hurley with a gift in appreciation of their service.

Councilman Ochs presented Mayor Campbell with a plaque on behalf of the City Council and Clerk Treasurer thanking him for his 8 years of service as Mayor of North Vernon.

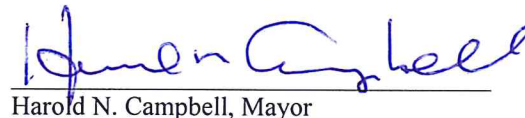
Councilman Shaw made a motion to pay the claims, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Shaw made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Harold N. Campbell, Mayor