

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
MARCH 9, 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

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Rick McGill

Park Director- Chad Speer (absent)

Water Superintendent- Mike Hess

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught (absent)

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Denny Hatton, Randall Marshall, Ivory Sandefur, Kathy Ertel, Brandy Blevins, Jackie Blevins, Nick Megel, Natalie Messer, Ashley Ertel, Lucas Newsom, Craig Kipper, Keith Messer, Brenda Messer, Baron Wilder, Ardell Mitchell, Barbara King, and Jeff Shinolt.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 4-0. (Councilman Hatfield had yet to arrive)

Police Chief James Webster presented officers Keith Messer and Scott Willis with a "Life Saving" medal and certificate for their actions on the night of August 25, 2015 in saving a man's life. Council, members of the North Vernon police department, and family of the officers were on hand to applaud and congratulate the officers.

Ardell Mitchell, project coordinator for the 5th Street Fire clean up and restoration project, informed Council that the appraisals on the properties downtown had yet to be completed but should be in hand in the next week. The North Vernon Redevelopment Committee recently passed two resolutions which gave the City's intent to purchase the damaged properties and recognized the site as a blight area. The SIHCDC and Milestone Ventures also recently sent a letter of intent (LOI) to the State asking for assistance in the potential redevelopment of the area.

Kathy Ertel, Jennings County Economic Development Director, was present to inform Council that the City needed to reaffirm its current tax abatement schedule. Councilman Shaw made the motion to reaffirm the current schedule on abatements, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Also up for renewal was the annual contract between the City of North Vernon and the JCEDC for economic development services. The contract, in the amount of \$70,000 per year, has remained unchanged for years and is paid for out of the City's CEDIT fund. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to renew the contract in the amount of \$70,000, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Webster informed Council of his desire to turn the old city garage into a fitness center for the police department. The equipment is owned by the FOP and is currently at the old Vernon gym, which the FOP rents on a monthly basis. Chief Webster said he would begin to collect numbers on how much money would be involved in getting the old building useable.

City Engineer Brad Bender told Council that the State has now relinquished their portion of State Highway 3 up to the new bypass and the light at Jay-C store is now the City's responsibility. Dave O'Mara Construction is the closest qualified contractor to work on the light and Mr. Bender is working with them to get a contract/agreement in place to have them work on the light when needed. Mr. Bender also informed Council that a motion was needed to accept jurisdictional control of the 3.66 road miles now within the City limits due to the recent annexation. (See attachment) The State pays the City a certain amount per mile. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept control of the road miles, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin informed Council that his office had received the City's 1782 notice for the 2015 budget from the DLGF and that the budget had been decreased because projected revenues are insufficient to fund the adopted budget within the MVH. The amount of the blacktop line will need to be reduced by \$14,932.00 to \$75,068.00 (line 201-000-01-216). The other budgets had been approved as adopted and advertised.

Water Superintendent Mike Hess requested from Council the ability to create another foreman's position within his department which would allow him to give a pay increase to an employee in hopes of retaining him. He argued that the employee's experience as an equipment operator and in general maintenance made him to lose. The Utility Service Board had already approved the new position at their most recent meeting. After discussion, Councilman Shaw made the motion to create the position as recommended by the USB, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Rick McGill told council that the process of hiring a new fireman continues to move forward and was hoping the applicant would get in for evaluation with the public safety medical department soon. Also, he hopes to build a utility building beside or behind Station 62 for additional room to store equipment.

Golf Course Manager Robin Brown told the Council that the course is still extremely wet due to the late snowfall this year and hopes the course will be open and running by April 1st. The course has seen an increase in memberships, with 87 members to date, up from 68 last year.

Denny Hatton told Council the Jennings County ARC was holding its annual fundraiser and membership drive in hopes of raising money for the Christmas dinner they have each year for their 150 clients. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to donate \$100.00 to the ARC from the Council's civic interest fund, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 5-0.


Clerk Treasurer Gerkin informed Council that Kevin Dougherty has requested from Council some startup money to help him with advertising, awards, etc. as he continues to grow his BBQ events. The decision was tabled.

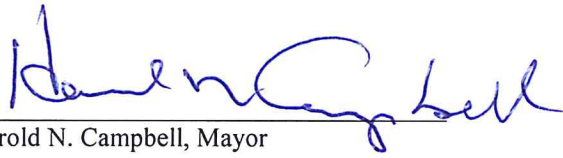
Council announced that the next City Council meeting would take place on Monday, March 30, 2015 at 6:00 P.M. The March 23, 2015 meeting has been cancelled.

Councilman Shaw told the rest of the Council that the Madison City Council has still refused to put the City on the agenda to discuss the ongoing dispute with Madison Railroad, but they were willing to have a meeting with a couple of representatives from the Council. The Council agreed that it was time to put an end to the dispute one way or the other. An executive session to discuss potential litigation with Madison Railroad will be held on Monday, March 30, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the Carnegie Government Center.

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

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


R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer


Harold N. Campbell, Mayor