

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
AUGUST 22, 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 (absent)

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Mike Cole (absent)

Park Director-Chad Speer

Water Superintendent--

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Denny Hatton, Stacy Boswell, Barbara Galland, George Prather, Clyde McCrory, Kathy Eaton McKalip, and Barbara King.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2016 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Stacy Boswell and Barbara Galland asked Council about the possibility of sidewalks down Middle School Road, citing a concern for safety for children walking to the high school and middle school. City Engineer Brad Bender told Council the issue with the sidewalk is there would be three crossings on Middle School Road if the sidewalk was put on the east side of the road. Estimated cost on the project is \$30,000 to \$50,000. Kathy Eaton McKalip stated that INDOT has sidewalk programs and advised the City to be on the lookout for the next call for projects. Mayor Ochs asked police Chief James Webster to have an officer on the road before and after school to monitor both the number of children using the road and speed the vehicles are traveling.

Kathy Eaton McKalip informed the Mayor and Council that the City of North Vernon has been awarded \$263,188.95 from the Community Crossroads Grant. The City is responsible for matching those funds, which will be used on JFK, Veterans Drive, Madison Avenue, and Norris Avenue.

Quotes were opened for the local paving and preventative maintenance projects based on the road asset plan. The project includes work on JFK Drive, Long Street, Vernon Street, Meloy Street, and Middle School Road. Results were as follows:

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|---------------------------|--------------|
| 1) Dave O'Mara Contractor | \$58,350.00 |
| 2) Milestone Construction | \$105,325.00 |
| 3) All Star Paving | \$78,624.00 |

Councilman Wisner made the motion to award the work to Dave O'Mara Contractor, pending approval of Brad Bender on the quotes, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Clyde McCrory, owner of the building at 263 East Walnut Street, explained to Council that he believes work completed outside his building on the sidewalks and street curbs through the Stellar Project caused water to be diverted into the basement of the building, as well as his concern that the work on the project has caused a loss of parking that is hurting his business. Mr. McCrory told Council the building has 17 apartments. Council instructed storm water superintendent Russell Vaught to investigate the situation. No action or motions took place.

Denny Hatton, homeowner at 623 Hoosier Street, informed Council that his basement also flooded during the recent rain, and believes the main reason is City employees are not keeping the storm water grates clear of debris. Storm water superintendent Russell Vaught told Council that there are 75 or 80 storm drains his department routinely checks, but the storm water system the City has isn't adequate enough to hold the amount of water received during the recent rain, regardless of whether the grates are clear or not. Council asked Mr. Russell and the street department to work together to make sure as many of the grates are cleared as possible.

George Prather explained to Council that the church located at the corner of Jennings and Chestnut Streets also had water in the basement, and believes the cause has been the build-up of asphalt on the roads over the years by paving. No actions or motions took place.

Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught informed Council that Greensburg Street would no longer be opened by September 12, 2016, due to a delay in deliver of the Storm King. There is currently no clear date scheduled for reopening of the street.

Park Director Chad Speer and Brad Bender told Council that two sets of plans will be drawn up for construction of a new shelter house at the park.

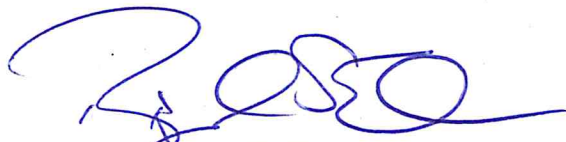
City Attorney Larry Greathouse, when asked of his opinion of the city loan now due from Windstream Technologies Inc., recommended a "wait and see" approach on the loan, and recommended the Council take no action at this time. He explained that the company is virtually bankrupt at this time, and if the City were to file a lawsuit against Windstream for judgment, the City would ultimately collect nothing because they have nothing. He also explained a lawsuit would hurt Windstream's ability to attempt to acquire additional funding from investors or their ability to get in compliance with the SEC. No motions or action took place at this time.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin said that, in an effort to be more transparent, the Council's meeting minutes were now available to the public on line. Minutes and other information can be obtained at the City's website at www.northvernon-in.gov.


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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor