

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
SEPTEMBER 14, 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 (absent)

Michael Ochs

Connie Rayburn

David Shaw

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry

Chief of Police- James Webster (absent)

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: Jason Clapp, Jeff Shinolt, Cheryl Trisler, Barbara King, Randall Marshall, Brenda DeVries, Sue Haase, Eric Frey, and Chuck Heintzelman.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the August 24, 2015 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

A public hearing was held on the North Vernon 2016 budget, giving anyone present the opportunity to ask questions regarding the budget. Any ten or more taxpayers may object to the budget, tax rate, or tax levy by filing an objection petition with the clerk-treasurer's office not more than seven days after the hearing. No one from the public wished to speak. After a short time, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to close the public hearing portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Cheryl Trisler, Area Plan Director, along with Eric Frey and Chuck Heintzelman, presented Council with a rezone request for the property on 5<sup>th</sup> Street destroyed by the fire last November. They requested the properties commonly known as 24 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 16 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 12 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 6 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 2 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 10 Short Street, 16 Short Street, and 24 Short Street be rezoned from Commercial Historic Downtown to Residential Multi-Family. Mr. Frey and Mr. Heintzelman answered many questions from Council about the proposed downtown senior housing to be put on the property, including the number of units, the number of parking spaces, amenities, elevators, and exterior design. After a lengthy discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to waive the first reading of the rezone request, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion to waive the first reading passed 3-1 (Ochs against). Councilwoman Rayburn then moved forward to grant the rezone request, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 3-1. (Ochs against).

Ardell Mitchell, project manager on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Fire Restoration Project, told Council that not much progress has occurred on the project in the last couple of weeks. There is a need for a steel sleeve to be inserted on the property for a future sewer line, and that project will call for 5<sup>th</sup> Street to be closed for a day or two to complete. Mr. Mitchell told Council he is waiting for the crossing on Madison Avenue to be completed and the road to open back up before closing 5<sup>th</sup> Street. He also informed Council that the environmental filing with IDEM has been completed to inform them of the L.U.S.T. (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) found on the property.

The next item on the agenda was Ordinance #947, "An Ordinance of the City of North Vernon, Indiana amending and restating Ordinance #929 and authorizing the issuance of sewage works revenue bonds for the purpose of providing funds to pay the cost of certain additions, extensions, and improvements to the municipal sewage works of said City, providing for the safeguarding of the interests of the owners of said bonds, other matters connected therewith, including the issuance of notes in anticipation of bonds, and repealing ordinances inconsistent herewith." In short, the ordinance provides for financing with SRF for the Sewage Utility's Long Term Control Plan project. Brenda DeVries with Bingham Greenebaum Doll and Sue Haase with London Witte Group explained the need for the ordinance to the Council. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept and adopt Ordinance #947 after the first reading, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

At that time, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to suspend the rules and proceed to the second reading of Ordinance #947 at this same meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to adopt Ordinance #947 after the second reading, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to adopt Ordinance #947 carried 4-0.

The last item on the agenda was a bid opening for the CEDIT projects being discussed by Council with City Engineer Brad Bender at West O&M Avenue and Elm Street and Hurley and Veterans Drive. Dave O'Mara Contractor was the other contractor to turn in a bid, with a base quote in the amount of \$137,800.00. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$139,897.50. At that time, Councilman Ochs made the motion to award the project to O'Mara's, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Fire Chief Rick McGill informed Council that the window to turn in applications for the new firefighter position has closed. He also thanked Rick Marksberry and the street department for their help in putting rip-rap down on the west side of the fire station property.

Street Commissioner Rick Marksberry told Council he would like to get electric and water put in at the old Moose Building on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and said he would get a price on the project before getting approval to move forward.


Golf Course Manager Robin Brown informed Council that the FAA would soon begin cutting trees down at the golf course via their regulations. He also said he had met with Southeastern Indiana REMC and the electric pole in the parking lot will be moved to a new location before resurfacing of the parking lot begins.

Park Director Chad Speer said that work had begun by INDOT on the east side of North State Street and he was looking into a good location for lights and the marquee.

Councilman Ochs requested that Jennings Water Inc. be put on the September 28, 2015 agenda to discuss an idea for an alternative long term water plan.

Councilman Hatfield made a motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilman Hatfield made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

  
R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer

  
Harold N. Campbell, Mayor