

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
NOVEMBER 14, 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

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Barbara King, Kathy Ertel, and Roger Hughes.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Jerry Lamb made the motion to approve the five year CEDIT plan created by FPBH, Inc. and presented to Council last month, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion to approve the plan passed 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster presented Council with an update of the review of the general orders. Councilman Kelley made the motion to approve the changes to the police general orders, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Council was presented with a transfer request from within the LOIT budget. Chief Webster asked Council to transfer \$3000.00 from fund 249-000-01-105 (police pension) to 249-000-01-107. After a brief discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented Council with Resolution #638, a resolution approving the additional appropriation of \$12,500.00 to the golf fund. He explained that the fund added an appropriation for sales tax payments on concessions and merchandise and the additional spending was necessary to pull the appropriation out of the negative. The golf fund had an original budget of \$291,000.00. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin explained that the fund had plenty of cash, but needs Council approval for additional expenditures. After discussion, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to adopt Resolution #638, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

The next item on the agenda was a contract between the City of North Vernon and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which details the City's responsibility for the pollinator patch at the recently purchased Ford's Crossing Golf Course. Council discussed the amount of acreage to be pollinated, as well as the contract stating the City could not do anything with the pollinated property for ten years. Councilman Hatfield stated that he wished to table the agreement until more questions could be answered.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin presented an amended to Ordinance #959, an ordinance fixing the salaries for employees for the 2017 year. He explained that the original ordinance called for the utility billing clerk to make \$12.50 an hour. However, that position will now be filled by an existing employee from the police department who has more years of service with the City. The change will pay that employee \$13.00 per

hour for 2017. Councilman Lamb made the motion to approve the change to the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Kelley informed Council that he was working with Tyler Stock on a plan to have different individuals and/or businesses take care of sections of the flower beds throughout town.

Kathy Ertel presented Council with Resolution #639, a real estate tax abatement request from LP Investment LLC (Midway Products). The building being erected will be 310,000 square feet, with 280,000 square feet being manufacturing, and create 120 jobs. The abatement request is a \$14.5 million dollar, ten year abatement. Councilman Kelley made the motion to accept Resolution #639, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 4-0-1 (Lamb abstained).

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to donate \$2000.00 to the Jennings County Coordinating Council to help with their Christmas food and gift basket donations. The motion was seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion to donate \$2000.00 from the Council's Civic Interest fund carried 5-0.

Councilman Hatfield asked that FPBH, Inc. be on site for future Area Plan Commission inspections on the old Arvin Building. Council asked City Engineer Brad Bender to estimate the cost of having them on site.

Chief Webster reminded those in attendance that Christmas in the City was scheduled for Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, and that a portion of Madison Avenue would be closed for a short time.

Fire Chief Mike Cole told Council that the Board of Public Works and Safety agree to a conditional offer of employment to Tyler Morris as the City's next firefighter. Mr. Morris still needs to pass the 77 Fund's health and psychological evaluation.

Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught told Council that bids had been opened for the "Casey's Project". CHM Construction out of Milan, IN was the low bidder at a price of \$415,719.00. Work for the sanitary sewer project is scheduled to begin soon. Also, Greensburg Street has been reopened following a several month closure for work on the Long Term Control project.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.


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

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.



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R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



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Mike Ochs, Mayor