

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
MARCH 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

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Mike Cole

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: Barbara King, Kevin Dougherty, Jerry Shepherd, Randall Marshall, Denny Hatton, and Jeff Shinolt.

Councilman Lamb made the motion to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 City Council minutes, subject to changing paragraph 3 to read "City Attorney Larry Greathouse", seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion to approve the minutes approved 5-0.

Park Director Chad Speer told Council that he and the park board were looking into a new marquee sign for the park. The board thinks having an LED marquee sign would be a great way to promote and advertise not only park events, but City events as well. The sign, however, would come at a price that the park could not afford on their own. Mr. Speer said he wanted Council to be aware that the park would need financial assistance to purchase the desired sign. No motion or action was taken on the topic.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin informed Council that the USB had recently voted unanimously to name Gloria Bennett interim manager at the utility department until further notice, as well as give water superintendent Mike Hess and storm water superintendent Russell Vaught the authority to work out an hourly rate of pay. A rate of \$15.00 per hour was agreed upon, which called for an amendment to the 2016 salary ordinance. Also, the clerk treasurer told the board he would like to amend the ordinance to include pool, park, golf course, and street departments for pay for part time employees. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the two changes to Ordinance #950, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster said the department had a vehicle no longer needed and that he wanted to get it out of the police department inventory and into the City's inventory. Discussion ensued that the vehicle could be used by the clerk treasurer or other city employees as needed. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the vehicle into the city's inventory, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin completed the second reading of Ordinance #952, an ordinance adopting monthly billing to certain properties for fire protection, trash service, and storm water fees and repealing ordinance

#937. After a brief discussion, Councilman Kelley made the motion to adopt Ordinance #952, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 4-1 (Lamb against).

Jerry Shepherd, representing Jennings County EMA, was present to request from Council funding to help pay for the cost of a new tornado siren within the city limits of North Vernon. The Council had previously advertised and budgeted \$22,000.00 for Jennings County EMA within the LOIT fund. Total cost of the siren with installation was quoted at \$24,152.00. Discussion turned to where the siren would be installed. With the siren near the post office still in working order, council suggested that the new siren be installed on the south side of the city near the sheriff's department. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to release the funding of \$22,000.00 for the purchase of a new siren to be installed near the sheriff's department, seconded by Councilman Kelley. Motion carried 5-0.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin completed the seconded reading of Ordinance #953, an ordinance pertaining to maximum speed limit on State Road 3. The ordinance would make the speed limit in the area 45 mph. Councilman Kelley made the motion to accept Ordinance #953, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Mayor Ochs read to Council a letter explaining that he had formed a committee consisting of Billy Harmon, Keith Stearns, and John Bright to deal with issues which may arise at St. Anne's Municipal Golf Course. The group will serve as a liaison between the manager of the course and the Mayor, council, and clerk treasurer, and serve at the discretion of the Mayor. Councilman Kelley objected to the committee, stating that previous discussions at Council meetings have revolved around the idea of a golf course board, with members being named by Council or Council and the Mayor. City attorney Greathouse stated that the Mayor is well within his right to form any committee that he sees fit, as is the Council if they find it necessary. Council can also form a golf board by ordinance if they deem necessary. After further discussion, Councilman Kelley made the motion to have the Council form a golf course board. The motion died without a second.

Mayor Ochs and Clerk Treasurer Gerkin explained to Council the desire to have a security system installed in the Carnegie Government Center. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin advised that Council have an executive session before the next Council meeting to discuss details of the system.

Chief Webster explained to Council that the police department received a \$2500.00 bill from EMC for a recent tort claim against the City. Chief Webster asked Council if they could pay for the bill from the Council's general fund as the department doesn't have an insurance line in their budget. Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to pay the EMC insurance bill from the Council's budget, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion carried 5-0.

Fire Chief Mike Cole invited all elected officials to "Fire Ops 101; Feel the Burn", on May 14, 2016 from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The course will give officials an inside look at being on the job with the NVFD.

Park Director Chad Speer reminded Council that the annual Easter Egg Hunt was set to take place on Saturday, March 26, 2016 at 1:00 P.M. at the North Vernon City Park. Also, the restrooms at the park were now open to the public, soccer practice has begun, and signups for Little League Baseball and Softball end in another week.

Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught informed Council that he, along with Mayor Ochs and Clerk Treasurer Gerkin, had attended a meeting with SRF to begin discussions on financing options for necessary sewer to the newly annexed area of the city. Also, Greensburg Street would be closed on Wednesday of the week to keep the LTCP moving forward.

Golf Course Manager Robin Brown handed Council a list of events already scheduled for the golf course through July. Also, with the amount of rain the last couple of days, the course will be closed to golf carts the rest of the week.

Councilman Kelley asked attorney Larry Greathouse to look into amending the handbook to discuss use of social media by city employees during and after business hours.

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

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin told Council that Ivy Tech had approached him to do some work at the ETC building, including but limited to new paint, new floor coverings, and a big screen television to turn the front room into space more relaxing for college students between classes, and that Ivy Tech was willing to pick up the bill for the work involved.

Councilman Lamb was named as the Mayor's appointment to the Solid Waste District board.

Councilman Hatfield pointed out that the City has an ordinance in place to bill for the cleanup of trash on properties within the City limits for those property owners who refuse to do so, and the City should begin doing so.

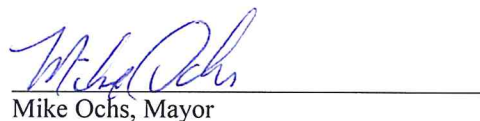
Council agreed that "design #3" for the new stage was one to move forward with. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin said he would let Century Industries know.

Councilman Wisner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Lamb. Motion to adjourn passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor