

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
SEPTEMBER 12, 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

Park Director-Chad Speer

Water Superintendent--

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown (absent)

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Richard Morin, Denny Hatton, Barbara King, and Jeff Shinolt.

Councilman Lamb made the motion to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2016 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

The first item on the agenda was the discussion of annexation, specifically the impending costs of providing sewer to the areas annexed in February of 2015. USB engineer Richard Morin and Wastewater Superintendent Russell Vaught were present to remind Council of not only the cost of the project (\$4.05 million) but also of Council's previous commitment to use excess tax proceeds from the annexed area to help fund the project. There was also discussion on whether the residents of the annexed area would be forced to immediately hook on to the sewer once it was provided to them or whether they could wait until the project was complete. Council agreed they would like to keep the costs down on the new customers to a minimum if possible. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin explained that there would not be any excess tax funds available for the project, and recommended a commitment from the NVRC, funding from the Sewage Improvement fund, and an increase in rates to current users as a joint way to fund the project. No action or motions were taken at this time.

Denny Hatton, representing the ARC, was present to request funding from Council for the ARC's annual Thanksgiving dinner. Mr. Hatton said the group was hoping to feed over 200 people, as well as give the kids Christmas gifts. He explained for some of the children, this would be the only gift they would receive for Christmas. Councilman Kelley made the motion to give the ARC \$350.00 from the Council's civic interest fund to help with the dinner, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Council and Clerk Treasurer Gerkin briefly discussed the 2017 budget. A special budget meeting to discuss the 2017 budget in further detail was scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

Fire Chief Mike Cole requested a transfer of funds from within the fire department budget. The request included transferring \$500.00 from Firefighter Clothing Allowance to 101-000-07-207 (Oil & Grease) and \$1093.00 from Truck Certification to 101-000-07-201 (Stationary-Postage). Councilman Kelley made the motion to allow the transfer of funds, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Council was asked by Mayor Ochs to help purchase a new American Flag for display by the Fire Department. The cost of the flag is \$289.83. Councilman Kelley made the motion to purchase the flag from Council's civic interest fund, seconded by Councilwoman Rayburn. Motion carried 5-0.

Police Chief James Webster told Council that amount of vehicles speeding during a recent test on Middle School Road was less than 10%. He also informed Council that there was a pending lawsuit from a local business regarding violations of the City's noise ordinance policy. The business has had over 130 noise calls. Chief Webster reminded those in attendance that the annual Homecoming Parade was scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at 4:30 P.M.

Mayor Ochs reminded those in attendance that the Bicentennial Celebration was scheduled for Friday, September 16, 2016.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to approve the claims, seconded by Councilman Wisner. Motion carried 5-0.

Councilman Hatfield made it a point to say that property annexed by the City last year was part of a long term plan and encouraged his former council members to stay focused and see the project through, including doing what it takes to get sewer to the area.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin updated Council on money paid back to the City from Windstream Technologies, Inc. Council members indicated, based partially on the advice of City Attorney Larry Greathouse, that it was best to take a "wait and see" approach instead of calling the loan at this time.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 P.M.



R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer



Mike Ochs, Mayor