

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
April 7, 2022**

Regular Meeting: The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Dan Wright at 7:00 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order – All Members Present

Dan Wright – Mayor
Eric Genda – Council Ward 1
Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2
Shelly Davers – Council Ward 3
Amber Fields – Clerk/Treasurer
Ron Hendershot – Maintenance/Works Manager
Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall
Aaron Poole – VVFD Fire Chief

II. Approval of March 3, 2022, minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the March 3, 2022, Council minutes and recommended approval.
Shelly Davers asked to add to the minutes that a “Link” to the zoom meeting be sent to the Council after the meetings via email. Shelly Davers made a motion to approve the minutes with the additional information, Jeff Walker made the second.
Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present:

Dan asked anyone from the public wishing to make a comment to sign in and let the Council know what they wished to comment on.

Marie Shepherd

Marie brought information on 97 Brown Street to re-zone the property from Commercial to Multi-family residential. The APC and Essential Services have already approved the re-zoning, for 2 apartments downstairs, and 1 apartment upstairs. She asked for the Council’s approval for the re-zoning. Jeff made a motion to approve the re-zoning of 97 Brown Street from Commercial to Multi-family Residential, Eric made the second. Shelly asked how many apartments – 3.
Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

Susan Harding

Susan recommended holding a Square Dance on the 2nd weekend of each month to have an event every other month in town.

John Post

John reminded the Council that the Vernon Alumni Association will be meeting and had donated money for a flag pole in the Gym.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers**1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright****a. CCMG Project**

Dan said that they were waiting on the deposits from the CCMG Program before starting the project. After the funds are received, there will be a meeting with the Contractor to discuss the paving project.

b. Sassafras Festival

Dan said the Sassafras Festival is scheduled for the 23rd and 24th of April 2022, and the Historical Society is asking permission to close the streets (Pike Street down to Ripley Street) and permission to use the Brown Street Art Park, the Vernon Gym for the dance (weather permitting), and the Soccer field. There will also be two old fashioned baseball games this year with the Indianapolis Blues, the first games against the Vernon Blue & Gold Stockings, second game most likely against the same team or the Brewmen of Brewersville. Games will start at 3:00 PM. The night fire will be at the County Park. Shelly Davers made a motion to close Pike Street from the Highway to Ripley St, use the Gym, Art Park, and School yard for the weekend. 5 PM on Friday the 22nd to 5 PM Sunday the 24th. Eric Genda made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

c. Vernon Day of Caring

On April 16, there will be a dumpster at the Town Hall Office and cleaning supplies available from 9 AM to 1 PM. The information has been posted on Facebook and the Post Office and sent out to residents. Residents are advised to call Town Hall with information. The Boy Scouts will be at the Day of Caring to assist with trash hauling.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda – N/A**3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker****a. County Broadband Task Force**

Jeff informed the Council that the State has formed a Broadband Task Force, and he said that he would send information to the Council after the meeting. Anna

Walker is officially on the Broadband Task Force and should be contacted if anyone is interested.

b. Town Ordinances

Jeff Walker made a motion to repeal Ordinance 59 and 74 as they do not apply to the present day. Shelly Davers made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Jeff asked the Council to consider at the next meeting replacing Ordinances 10 & 11 with the County Ordinances regarding animals at large.

Shelly asked if Ordinances had to be advertised in the newspaper. Dan said only Ordinances imposing fines or penalties would need to be advertised.

Jeff had several more Ordinances that would need to be expired or listed as expired on the Website. (Ordinances # 55, 61, 93, 105 and 30)

Jeff Walker made a motion to archive Ordinances 30, 55, 61, 93, and 105, and add "Expired" after the Ordinances on the website. Eric Genda made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

c. Spring Tonic 5K Race

Jeff gave an update on the Spring Tonic Race. He said that people were beginning to sign up for the race on Run Sign-Up, so the site is working. Jeff asked everyone to share the information. He said there would also be a "Silent Auction" after the race. There was a misunderstanding regarding selling food after the race. The Fire Department were told they couldn't sell food as they would be competing with other food vendors. Amber said the Friends of Historic Vernon would not be selling food that day. Aaron said that there was not enough time to plan at this point. Dan suggested doing a Spaghetti dinner on Friday night next year. Jeff estimated raising \$2,000 for the Gym and the Historical Society. (80/20 split)

d. Jeff said that everything was up to date with Town Finances and the Gateway site.

4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

a. Emergency Repair Spending Policy

Shelly requested that the Emergency Policy be renewed as it currently is, however, she had never seen an actual emergency of any kind in Vernon. The policy is attached to a resolution that describes what an emergency is. Ron had a concern about the segment "g" on the policy concerning utilities. Ron said that the cost would be well over \$500 if there was a catastrophic emergency. Ron said that he must get emergencies fixed immediately as his name is on the IDEM reports, and our infrastructure is ancient. Amber had a problem with the wording on the policy in that it automatically renews on April 1 each year. She

felt that the policy should renew in June so that new Council members would have some idea on what they were voting on. Shelly said that was fine with her to change the renewal to June. Amber and Ron both agreed that a “Catastrophic Act of God” would be well over the amount spent on Repairs and maintenance, so \$500 per month, or \$3,000 per year would not even begin to cover such an event. Ron asked that the “Utilities” portion of the policy be removed as it doesn’t protect him adequately. Dan said that no matter what the cost (\$500 or \$30,000) we have to supply the Town with water and sewer for health and safety reasons.

Jeff Walker made a motion to renew the Emergency Repair Spending Policy at the June meeting with the changes recommended. Eric Genda made the second
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

b. Gift Fund Reimbursement

Shelly noticed that the Gift Fund balance was not going up. She reminded the Council that they voted to reimburse the Gift fund from the Muscatatuck Soccer Club rents for the \$8,500 used to pay for the Storage Building Roof. Amber said she felt that depleting the Gym Fund to reimburse the Gift Fund was “fiscally irresponsible,” but she would do what the Council voted on.

5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

- a.** Amber brought a request from a Vernon Water/Sewer Customer to write off the remainder of the overage on her bill due to a water leak in her basement. The sewer portion had already been written off, but the customer requested the water portion be written off as well. The Council and Mayor both agreed that the Town should continue with its current policies.

b. Vernon Day of Caring

Amber asked if anyone had ideas for the Vernon Day of Caring and let her know. Dan asked about the planting of flowers and cleaning/painting the pots. Amber said that the frost-free date is in May, but we could have the pots cleaned.

6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

- a.** Brad published the list of items to be bid.

7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier – N/A

8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole

Aaron said that the next Fundraiser would be in July and called the “Battle of the Bands.” They are still looking for a venue.

9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. Ron gave an update on the gutters on both the Gym and Storage Buildings. They are working great. The run-off was not directed to the storm drains as it wasn't known if the water went to the river or the sewer.
- b. **Sidewalk in front of the Businesses on Pike Street**
Ron suggested that the sidewalk project get started because the sidewalks are deteriorating and there was a fall in front of the restaurant. Ron said that he would get updated quotes on the project.
- c. Ron let the Council know that there was a **sound system** donated to the Gym by an anonymous doner that only needs cables to complete. The system is worth approximately \$2,500.
- d. **Streetlights in Town**
Ron has the preliminary results of the survey from Duke on the streetlights. He said that he would email the results and rebate information to the Council when he receives it. Shelly asked if there were different levels of light on the bulbs. Shelly and Damon complained that the light across the street from their house was too bright for an alley. Ron said there were options to look at and he would send the information to the Council on the savings.
- e. Jeff Walker asked Ron about the **striping** for parking along Brown Street and thought it was fading. Ron said that he would check into it. Dan thought the CCMG project might be able to do the striping on Brown Street from the Highway to Pike Street.
- f. **Ripley Street Sewer Line**
The Ripley Street Sewer line was checked with a camera and Ron is getting a quote for the process of slip sleeving which would help with the repair. The resident on the corner of Gaines and the Highway complained that the sewer backed up into his house. The camera showed root balls in the line and Ron was getting a quote to get them cut out.
- g. Ron attended several classes at the **Indiana Rural Alliance Conference** last month. He learned that the Town would be required to comply with the Lead/Copper Rule and have our inventory in place by January 2024. He also learned that an asset management and GIS program will be necessary to apply for grants. Madison is using Pubworks with the WTHGIS Program and it is working well. Ron spent 3 hours with the Superintendent in Madison. Shelly asked if Ron had investigated any other GIS programs. Ron said, yes but most of Indiana, including Jennings County uses WTHGIS. Britt and Dan both said that WTHGIS is a much better, user-friendly program.
- h. Ron asked the Council to consider **moving the meeting** from the first Thursday of the month to the second Monday of the month. Brad said that the Council sets the day and time of the meetings.

V. **Unfinished Business**

VI. **New Business**

VII. **Claims**

A. **Claims**

Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the March 2022 claims. Eric Genda made the second.

Two Yes votes, 1 No vote (Davers)

B. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of March 2022.

VIII. **Miscellaneous Business**

A. **Donations & Other**

a. **The Friends of the Muscatatuck**

Cheri Tichnor of the Friends of the Muscatatuck requested approval for an “Art with a Purpose” program. The program would paint designs around the storm sewer openings in Vernon to remind residents that what goes into the Storm Sewer, goes directly into the Muscatatuck. Dan said that Madison has this program and it helps to prevent dumping into the river. Shelly Davers made a motion to approve the Storm Sewer Painting project in Vernon. Jeff Walker made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

b. Dan said that the Hoosier Heartland Car Club had approached him about holding car cruise-ins on the 4th Friday of each month from May until September. Eric Genda made the motion to allow the Hoosier Heartland Car Club to hold car cruise-ins on the 4th Friday of each month from May until September. Jeff Walker made the second

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

c. Ron informed the Council that there are 50 black chairs and 25 white **chairs donated** to the Gym from the Friends of Historic Vernon. Trish Hendershot found the chairs on an online auction.

d. Dan reminded everyone about the Sassafras Festival on the 23rd and 24th and Vernon Trivia on the 30th.

e. Jeff Walker made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. Shelly Davers made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 5, 2022, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

Vernon Town Council

Eric Genda, 1st Ward

Jeffrey T. Walker

Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward

Shelly Davers

Shelly Davers, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon

[Signature]

Dan Wright, Mayor

Amber Fields

Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer