

**Town of Vernon  
Vernon Gym  
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)  
April 11 , 2024**

**Regular Meeting:** The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Mayor Zamora at 6:30 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

- I. Call to Order** - All members present, Meeting called to order @ 6:40 pm.
- II. Approval of March 14, 2024 minutes**

Wayne asked for comments or corrections to the March 14, 2024 Council minutes and recommended approval.

Jeff made a motion to approve the March, 2024, minutes. Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Victoria Bechert was present for the public hearing concerning the OCRA grant for the replacement of and rehabilitation of the Ripley Street and Perry Street Lift Stations. There were no objections or questions from the public. She briefly described progress on the grant application.

- IV. Reports from Committees and Officers**

A. Mayor Wayne Zamora - asking for approval to again hire Layne Suhre as an intern. Wayne was discussing the problems with hosting the Eclipse weekend and problems on the curbs and the sidewalk that is crumbling. We need a plan by the next meeting to try and get the sidewalk and curb replaced. Possibly talk to the vendors along Pike Street, CCMG will do curbs but not sidewalks, they should be a high priority. Brad Bender will try to work up an estimate before proceeding further.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Questioning about the chemicals from plastics that are going to have limits set. We have to test but it is NV who will have to be in compliance and we buy wholesale from their Utility, will we be allowed to piggyback on their results?

Trailers being moved in and out of Riverbend, they are questionable as to the condition of the “new” ones being moved in and how to prevent junk ones from getting through. Building inspector believes he is intent on repairing them but that was questioned also. Council would like to know they are all compliant and livable.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - Spring Tonic Fundraiser coming up with the 5K and 1 miler.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - EUI number from SAM.GOV is finally finished. Block Grant being applied for needs both a Drug Free Workplace Ordinance and a Fair Housing Ordinance. Brad Kage informed the Council they could suspend rules and pass both tonight in order to comply with

OCRA specifications. John motioned to suspend the rules and pass Fair Housing Ordinance #190-2024 on the first reading. Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

John motioned to suspend the rules and pass Drug Free Workplace Ordinance #189-2024 on the first reading. Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Amber asked about paying VVFD trash fees, also mentioned that we may have to pay for a car being towed since not given enough notice.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Reports in Folders

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - Condemnation affiant has been served, he has answered and hired his own attorney who has notified Brad Kage that he intends to fight the condemnation of his property.

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - Wanted to know the status of the speed limit sign...will continue looking into this. Presented log call.

H. Ron Hendershot – Contract Maintenance - Talked to Utility Supply company about delivery of meters, gave quotes from different companies and the work they would perform. His recommendation was to go with Brian Clark as his bid was considerably cheaper than the other two. Discussion about replacing all or part of the lids with brand new, recessed lids that won't get broken by mowers or snow plows. Recommendations taken as to which options concerning other work should be explored.

John motioned to accept the base bid of \$18.00 from Brian Clark for new meter installation. Other work as necessary is outlined in bid document. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Everything else is going well as of now, Ron will contact Clark to let him know when to proceed.

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Brought information on the spaghetti dinner, informed council about a grant that has been applied for, asked for money for new gloves and also for help with repair bill for a fire truck that is now for sale. John motioned to appropriate the \$3,900 extra that was requested. Amber seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Bighead Fundraiser on May 7, 2024 Golf scramble in June.

## V. Unfinished Business

- a. Community Foundation Grant will be finished 4/15/24, Wayne will share final plans later.
- b. Next Level Trails Grant - Brad Bender presented the opened bids, stating O'Mara was in line with the estimate and they are in line with all the projects that were most important. He advised us to accept O'Mara's bid with some subtractions to meet our financial needs. Will award at \$1,103,846.00. This will accomplish almost everything set out in the original Grant. Amber Fields made a motion to accept this with deductions laid out, Jeff seconded.

- c. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes.
- d. John motioned to accept Brad Bender's proposal of \$39,800 as Trail Coordinator, Jeff seconded.  
3 yes, 0 no votes.
- e. Jeff Walker motioned to approve Park Board ordinance for 2nd reading, John Post seconded.  
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- f. Mayor Zamora made the following appointments to the newly formed Park board: 4 year - Matt Robinson 3 year - Brad Bender 2 year - Angie Richart and 1 year - Stacey Burns  
Jeff Walker motioned to accept the appointments, John Post seconded the motion.  
2 Yes votes, 1 abstain - Amber.

## VI. New Business

- a. Steele Myers was present to ask about upgrading the now non-existent alleyways for the new houses he is developing on Jackson and Highway 7 North. The proximity to the trail was discussed and there was discussion as to having extra crossings where the Trail will run. He wants entrances on the extreme ends of each property on Jackson Street. He doesn't want to cut down all of the trees but only use approximately 30-50 feet of the alleyway. Will try to keep traffic access close to the trail to a minimum. He also described to some extent the look of the houses. Anticipated timeline is approximately 90 days, weather permitting.
- b. Steele also was discussing 205 & 195 N. State Highway 7 and building houses on the property; he will eventually have 2 homes there; he was wondering if the old alleyway encroaching on the property was going to be a problem. Can we eventually make a ruling to allow the encroachment without future problems? Trees close to the highway may need to be taken out, advised Steele to call Duke Energy about taking them down as they are in the powerlines.
- c. Reid Martin purchased 85 E State Highway 7. Plans are made to renovate for apartments.
- d. Alley Project: sign should be mounted soon and lights and plants installed soon.

## VII. Claims

- a. Clerk Treasurer presented the March claims to the council. Jeff motioned to accept the claims, John seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

## VIII. Miscellaneous Business

- a. Last minute ordeal to pull off the Eclipse weekend, was lots of work for minimal attendance. Everyone enjoyed it despite the lower attendance.
- b. DORA (Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area) did not get approved since we had to have a letter from the Presbyterian Church in support of the ordinance, it has been determined to be more of a permanent installment rather than a temporary, will possibly request for the alley and part of Pike Street to be included in next request.

## IX. Adjournment

- a. Amber motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm, Jeff seconded.

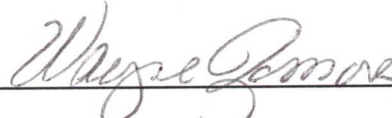
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 9, 2024, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

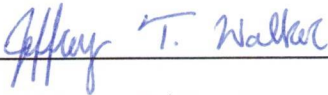
**Vernon Town Council**



John Post, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward



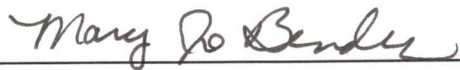
Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward



Amber Fields, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk