

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
April 9, 2026**

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

Town Officials and employees present:

- I. **Call to Order Pledge and roll call: Present: Brad Bender, John Post, Amber Fields, Mary Jo Bender, Brad Kage**
Absent: Jeff Walker, Steven Pennycuff
- II. **Approval of minutes**

Mayor Bender asked if there were any comments or corrections to the March, 2026 Council minutes and recommended approval.

John Post made a motion to approve the March 2026 minutes, Amber seconded.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Sam Ballenger and Fred Vogel were present to request the closing of streets for the Heartland Classic Cruisers car show on August 8, 2026. The council agreed to close the streets for that day and agreed it is always a great event and the town is happy to accommodate them.

Amber Fields made a motion to close Brown Street from Montgomery to Posey, Pike Street from the Highway to Ripley Street, Posey Street from Brown Street to Washington Street, John Post made the second. John Post seconded.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- IV. **Reports from Committees and Officers**

- A. Brad Bender - Mentioned there are homeowners around the commons experiencing odor problems but is odor, but unsure what could be causing it and will see if it persists. The SS4A contract has been signed but no meeting has been scheduled yet. Has a 5-year Park plan submitted and on time with the DNR. We are still looking for a qualified summer intern or someone retired and responsible if the intern doesn't come to fruition due to lack of interest. Also, the question of what to do with the marshal's truck should be addressed when the full council is back next month.
- B. John Post -Town needs to be Paser certified to get appropriations through the CCMG program.
- C. Jeff Walker - absent
- D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Went to a program for non-profits about building better boards. One thing was time limits, the second item: get claims, minutes, etc. all in one agenda item and put it all

under one umbrella for a single vote. Amber would like to go to the next grant writing program. She was also concerned about the high sewage bill and would like to renegotiate the amount getting treated in lieu of the large amount of stormwater that is being treated. Also brought up a draft of a dog chaining ordinance for the council to study. It will prevent dogs being chained up 24 hours.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer -

F. Brad Kage - Attorney -

G. Britt Burgmeier – Marshall - resigned October 2025

I. Steven Pennycuff - Fire Chief -

J. Ron Hendershot - In July of this year, as a town we need an asset management plan in place. This year is only a questionnaire and is not going to be due until 2027 or 2028. Council will also have to attend meetings to be able to apply for certain funding.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Next Level Trails grant - Getting ready to close out completely.
- b. OCRA Sewer Project - Getting ready to close out completely.
- c. Gym restrooms - Ready to bid on April 29th.

VI. New Business

- a. Art and History Park, in the works to get the final bench set and trying to get the art flower set again.
- b. Fire Territory Meeting on April 15th, all are welcome to attend. Post described a bit about how this territory would work. Downside would be some of the smaller stations would have to be shut down. Speaking from memory and felt like the taxes would increase and the individual departments would not have their own funding but would have to ask for it from the central department. Brad will attend, Roger Taylor will attend.
- c. Mower -take money from Park, General, Donations, Cedit, etc. to pay the balance on the mower after trading in the old Scaggs. Amber motioned to remove \$1000 from Parks Fund and the remaining \$5299 from CEDIT, John seconded. 2 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- d. Need to fill more volunteer hours to man the open gym hours.

VII. Claims

- a. John made a motion to approve the claims, Amber seconded the motion.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

- a. Dumpster will be down on Brown Street, clean-up day April 11, free to all residents of Vernon.

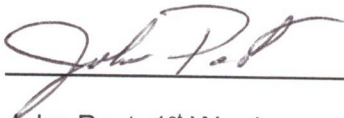
- b. Food trucks to continue through the summer.
- c. Restrooms to bid on April 29th.
- d. AIM meeting had useful information about additional park funding, and more insight into grants and money.
- e. Vernon Moves is set for May 16th.

IX. Adjournment - Amber motioned to adjourn @ 7:33 pm, John seconded.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

X. Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, May 14, 2026, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

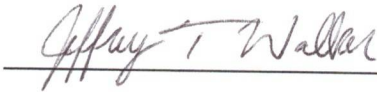
Vernon Town Council



John Post, 1st Ward



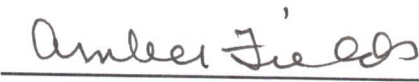
Bradley Bender, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward