

Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
August 11, 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 – *Absent*
Aaron Poole – VVFD Fire Chief

II. Approval of July 14, 2022, minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the July 14, 2022, Council minutes and recommended approval.

Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the July 14, 2022, minutes but to reflect that Ordinances 44 and 103 were either expired or archived, and Ordinances 87 and 88 were expired. Shelly Davers 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.

Jessica Bailey of Shepherd Insurance presented information on Cyber Security Insurance. She said that she could give the Town a quote once the information application had been filled out, and the 2-step verification process had been completed. Jessica said that she could also put together some Cyber Security training. Jeff Walker made a motion for Amber to get a quote for the Cyber Security Insurance for the September meeting. Shelly Davers made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

John Post asked if Wayne Zamora was still heading up the Muscatatuck Soccer Club at the Vernon Gym because he had resigned his position with JCHS. Dan said that Wayne was still working with the Muscatatuck Club, but his schedule was too full for the High School program. John also mentioned the SEI Cyber Security information he received.

Steve Harding made a complaint about the Watermelons that had spilled out at the corner by the Vernon Kiosk, and if they would be cleaned up by the NAPA sponsored Car show on Saturday. Dan said, "Yes they would" and reminded everyone that the roads would be closed on Saturday morning for the car show. Steve also asked about the trimming of the purple plum shrubs at the Kiosks. Dan said that Deb Martin had been working on the landscaping of the Kiosks.

Susan Harding made a complaint about the car parts from a 'fender bender' by the tunnel, and that the trash cans around town were smelly. Ron said that the cans are emptied every week and that food items left in the heat were causing the smell.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

- a. Dan said that the Trail Project was moving along. Easements are being looked at to obtain more trail access and access to the Vinegar Mill wall. Greg Martin will be working with the surveying company. It was unclear on the survey lines along Water Street. Dan said there would be more surveying and property lines staked out. The Surveying should take place within the next 60 days. Notifications will be sent out.
- b. Dan said that the up-coming "Infrastructure Bill" money will be mainly used to address the lead-copper rule throughout the State. Dan thought that the Vernon system should be in fairly good shape because they were not using lead at the time of installation, and the meters are made from brass. The Lead-Copper Rule requires water systems to evaluate the water going into each home or facility for lead and replace where needed. Dan said it will be an expensive program and a complete study and testing must be finished by October 2024. Final date to complete the projects has not been set. Dan said that the Town will apply for Grant money as if all lines will need to be replaced. The SRS will look at income levels for qualification for the grant and there will be a lot of paperwork involved.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda

- a. Eric said that the Gym oversight looked good. Gym rents have slowed due to the hot weather and no A/C in the Gym.

3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

a. Financial Oversight

Jeff said that the Financial Oversight looked good and nothing new to report.

- b. Jeff mentioned that the State will be working on a project of Historic Gyms throughout the State. Hopefully the Vernon Gym will be included in this project.

- c. **Review Town of Vernon Ordinances** Jeff made a motion to approve the Animal Control Ordinance by Title only and then with the appropriate Ordinance number (179). Eric Genda made the second

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Jeff Walker made a motion that the Animal Control Ordinance (179) will be in coordination with the Jennings County Government Animal Control Ordinance (with no penalties) and approved upon the first reading. Eric Genda made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Jeff said that the new Animal Control Ordinance will replace Ordinances 10 and 11. Shelly Davers thought the new Animal Control Ordinance should be posted for people to review before the second reading in September.

- d. Jeff attended the SIRPC Technology meeting regarding Cyber Security and will forward information to the Council on the program. Jeff said that the State is requiring each local government to appoint a Cyber Security point of contact to report on malware and different technological vulnerabilities. Shelly Davers made a motion to appoint the Clerk/Treasurer as the point of contact for the Town of Vernon for Cyber Security. Jeff Walker made the second
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
- e. Jeff brought up the discussion of going with the in.gov domain for free in case Rodney Holmes decided to retire permanently. Jeff said that email accounts can be set up for \$5 per user, per month. That would be a little more cost per year than the current program through Outlook/Microsoft. The Council will discuss at the next Council meeting on the direction of the program. The IN.gov program requires a 2-step verification, provides online forms and some software licensing. Jeff and Amber will meet before the next Council meeting.

4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

- a. Shelly asked that the Town website be updated to include the new census data, new meeting dates and the June 2021 addendum to the minutes.

- b. Shelly questioned the claims and approval of the claims. Shelly thought that larger purchases should come before the Council. Shelly also asked if the fuel for

the Marshall Truck was being charged to the LOIT/Public Service Fund. Amber said that to this point, Britt had not charged or turned in any receipts for fuel this year.

- c. Shelly asked what the large revenue to the Gift Fund was. Amber explained that the Margaret Reese Gift received last month was deposited into that account.

5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

- a. Amber passed out the proposed appropriations for the **2023 Budget** year. She explained that in order to capture the entire tax levy for the Town of Vernon, the Assessed Valuation would need to be advertised low, and the expenses high. The Budget Hearing will be right before the September Meeting, and the Adoption of the 2023 Budget will be in the October 2022 meeting. Shelly is requesting that expenses be broken out into “Buckets”. Dan explained that the Appropriations are the actual “Buckets” requested by the state for the budget process, and that every department receives its own budget.

6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier

N/A

8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole

- a. Aaron announced a Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser is planned for August 21, 2022 by the VVFD and hoped that everyone could attend. Aaron also said that if the Town decided to make the large tables at the Gym “Surplus” he would like to have them, as his grandfather made them.

9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. Ron recommended the LED Streetlight Program offered by Duke Energy that would save the town approximately \$250 per month. Brad Kage said that the only thing he saw in the contract was the option for Duke to raise the rates up to 3 times over a ten-year period on the leasing of the poles. Shelly thought that was not a good contract because of the clause and would not vote in favor of the proposal. Eric said that he did not like “Lights” and was also not in favor. Jeff Walker made a motion to accept the Duke Energy proposal. The motion died for lack of a second.
- b. Ron asked the Council to consider the increase in Gym rentals. Eric thought it would be best to wait until some improvements are made before making the rates higher. Ron said that the volleyball standards should bring in more renters as well. Shelly agreed with Eric that the Council should wait before increasing the Gym rates.

- c. Ron said that he had spoken to the County Maintenance department, and they are interested in renting the Town maintenance shop and office areas. Ron discussed moving the Clerk/Treasurers Office to the Gym so that there would be more of a presence at the Gym during rental times, and then the Town could rent out the building on Brown Street to make a little income. The Council agreed that the Commissioners would have to approve the rental of the facility.

V. **Unfinished Business**

- a. No unfinished business at this time.

VI. **New Business**

- a. No new business at the time

VII. **Claims**

A. **Claims**

Shelly Davers made a motion to approve the claims. Jeff Walker made the second. Three Yes votes, 0 No Votes

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

VIII. **Miscellaneous Business**

- a. No miscellaneous business at this time.

- IX. Shelly Davers made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Jeff Walker made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, September 8, 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



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward

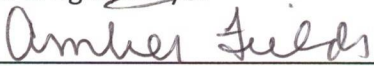
 8 Sept 2022

Shelly Davers, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon



Dan Wright, Mayor



Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer