

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
August 14, 2025**

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: All members present except for Chief Pennycuff.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of minutes

Brad asked if there were any comments or corrections to the June 12, 2025 Council minutes and recommended approval.

John Post made a motion to approve the June, 2025, minutes. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present: No one present, comments were made that this was the first time ever for this to happen.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Mayor Brad Bender - Relayed info from Fire Chief about Spaghetti Dinner on 8/31/25, discussed the Muscataduck Race and activities that they have planned. Will get the Commons area ready for them. Mentioned the Ghost Walk coming in October. Discussed that the Commons Park is listed as 4-F and really need to make sure the RR doesn't disturb anything at the park during their discussion.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Had a streetlight fixed, noticed the house cited by Area Plan is being worked on. Had a complaint on the duplex on Jackson for overgrowth and that has been remedied. The other two properties are still in flux.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - Meetings are now being live-streamed, Ryan Burdell has set up the temporary live feed and Jeff Walker discussed the technical aspects of the live feed. Ryan's feed is \$25 an hour for non-profits, he will send an invoice. There will be live chat capabilities, the sidebar will show up if someone is on live. Discussed where to set up for the future and also discussed the more permanent presentations. Prefer not to have to have a camera set up permanently. We are compliant at a very reasonable cost. Jeff offered to answer any more questions. Jeff also talked about the Park Board meeting held on Monday and about the work that Hailie Perdue, the intern, has been working on and the results of the special public meeting concerning the Park Board Master Plan. Jeff is very pleased with Hailie's work.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 -

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer -

F. Brad Kage - Attorney -

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - gave receipt to Mary Jo, Clerk Treasurer, asked if the junk car mentioned is new, but it was the same one discussed previously. Has been taken care of. Was talking about his departure and what to do when he leaves. The position will be difficult to fill and discussion was held about how long he has held his position. The town will miss him greatly.

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Spaghetti Dinner, 8/31/25 information was left to present.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Next Level Trails grant, should be wrapped up by the October 1st scheduled date. Brad Bender has been in contact with David Boswell the project manager.
- b. OCRA Sewer Project, \$13,000 deduct because of work not having to be done on linings and \$5,000 extra for other work. Amber Fields made the motion to accept the \$13,000 deduct and the additional work, John Post seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- c. Speed Limit Flashing signs, discussion about the effectiveness and whether or not the 30 mph is permanent or temporary.
- d. Town Office Renovations, on track and discussed about getting phone hook up
- e. Reimbursement for Socially Connected Communities - approximately 16 K + left to spend, the reimbursement for money already spent has been applied for.

VI. New Business

- a. Town Maintenance - Discussion on tasks to be completed now that summer interns are gone. Trash, Restrooms, Kiosks, etc. will need to be completed by town officials or others. Will ask if probationers will be able to help with striping on the curbs. Item F, being moved to discuss hiring high school interns to help complete some of the tasks discussed. Pay scale for an intern was tossed about, offer \$12 per hour, every other day... Mon, Wed Friday, and Tues, Thurs, Amber motioned to hire a high school intern, John seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 No votes
- b. Amber Fields asked for permission to advertise the budget, will be getting less because of the property tax cap credit. Mandatory advertising for different categories and estimates needs to be higher than what will eventually be granted. Hearing will be 9/11/25 at 6:30 meeting and will be adopted at the October meeting. Amber motioned to advertise and submit, Jeff seconded. 3 yes votes and 0 no votes.
- c. Internal Controls Updates - Rest of Council and Mayor Bender need to watch and sign off on it.
- d. Hydrant Flushing - all complete, only one person complaining of no water, but only due to low pressure and all is fine now. Discussions about transferring or selling the public utility is in the works. Brad Kage outlined the process and IURC needs to approve also.
- e. Gym - Has a new address of 28 South Street and may need to put this on signs going forward. Brad Bender has asked for Wednesday nights to be blocked off as possible for open gym nights and other activities for the town along the way. Euchre, Trivia, game nights etc. could be options.
- f. Right of Way ordinance and Permit presented so as to prevent any future problems when workers, Metronet in particular, who will be boring for projects. A draft was presented, at the September meeting it can be drafted and voted on.
- g. Jeff Walker presented a resolution for connection of Vernon and North Vernon by walking trail. Jeff wanted to move forward with presenting tonight, John Post made a motion to table until next meeting. Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

- h. SS4A, Safe Streets for All, do we move forward as we would receive \$100,000, Brad would like to keep it under the 125K, more like 100K. There are 3 stages, we are only at the action plan, then demonstration and then construction. There is no guarantee that we would ever get to the final stages. Discussion was held as to whether or not we want to spend the money to move forward for the planning grant. The goal is to prevent any pedestrian fatalities within the town. It is Federal Highway Program. John asked if we could use the planning grant for other projects if we don't get to the final stages of this program. It is not INDOT money, it is Federal Highway Money. Jeff Walker thinks it is a great opportunity but would really like to spend way less than the proposed \$125,000. Jeff motioned to sign the agreement, Amber Fields seconded, with the understanding that our top end for accepting a contract would be no more than \$50 thousand. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Discussion ensued as to where or how we could move funds to ensure it is available when we need it. Several funds were discussed and it was agreed that no money would be moved but the money could be pulled from the CEDIT fund to cover our match part.

VII. Claims

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

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

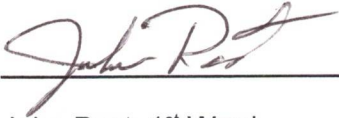
- a. Boy Scouts are very interested in the Brown Street property for a meeting and will be happy to partner with the town on projects we need completed. A \$50 fee per month is proposed, John Post proposed for Brad to negotiate a contract with the Scouts, Amber seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes.
- b. Brad Bender was wanting to know if we could declare the permanent generator as surplus so we could sell it and prevent any further problems such as the leaking of the gas that was recently discovered. Amber Fields motioned to declare the generator surplus property so as to pursue selling it for the best offer. Jeff Walker seconded the motion. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes

IX. Adjournment - Jeff motioned to adjourn @7:51 pm, Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

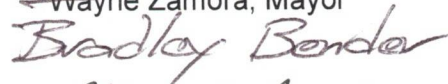
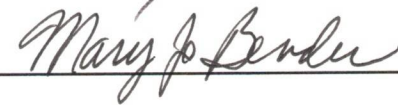
a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, September 11, 2025, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

Vernon Town Council

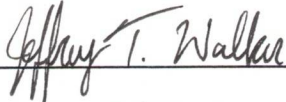


John Post, 1st Ward



~~Wayne Zamora, Mayor~~



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward