

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
February 9, 2023**

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
Amber Fields – Clerk/Treasurer
Ron Hendershot – Maintenance/Works Manager
Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall
Aaron Poole – VVFD Fire Chief

II. Approval of January 12, 2023, minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the January 12, 2023, Council minutes and recommended approval.
Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the January 12, 2023, minutes. Eric Genda made the second.
2 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.

Dr. Wayne Zamora

Wayne said that he would like to make a donation to have the sign for the Gym Playground put up. He asked how the Town would like to have it installed. Dan said that it needed a cover over it because of the material it was made from. Dan asked Wayne to bring a proposal to install the Playground sign and the Council could vote on it.

Dakota Miller

Dakota shared a powerpoint outlining the Vernon Vanguard which he is the head of. He also mentioned that he has won full armor fighting contests throughout the nation. His group is interested in having a festival in Vernon. He said that the Vernon team is in good standing with the other teams and they need a facility to run their event. Dakota also said that the Vernon Vanguard would have their own insurance to cover an event. Dan said that to have an event on the Courthouse lawn, they would have to go through the Commissioners. It would be a 1 day event. Dan asked Dakota to bring a schedule to the next Council meeting.

Roger Taylor (Vernon Trustee)

Roger asked about the car over by Shaw's Monuments since the tire is obviously blown out. Roger also asked about having an American Flag at the Council meetings and have the Pledge recited before each meeting.

Neptune Meters

Scott Dunlap of Utility Service Company made a presentation on Neptune meters. He discussed the Ultrasonic meter with a 10-year warranty and their Standard meter with a 10-year warranty or a million gallons. All meters are made in the USA.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

- a. **Next Level Trails Grant** – Dan said there was a Next Level Trails Grant Committee formed to oversee the project. The Committee consists of Wayne Zamora, Jeff Walker, Brad Bender, Bobby Burns and Amber Fields.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda

- a. Eric said that the American Recovery Program Committee recommends that the funding be spent on new Water meters.

3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

a. 2023 Spring Tonic 5K Run

Jeff informed the Council and community about the Spring Tonic 5K Run that will happen on Saturday, April 22, 2023.

4. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

- a. Amber asked that the council consider moving the Clerk/Treasurers Office to the Vernon Gym.
- b. Amber asked the Council to schedule a Vernon Day of Caring for the Saturday before the Sassafras Festival on April 15, 2023. Jeff Walker made a motion to schedule a Vernon Day of Caring for April 15, 2023. Eric Genda made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- c. Amber asked permission to purchase 3 “Doggie Depots” to be placed around town. Eric Genda made a motion to purchase 3 Doggie Depots. Jeff Walker made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

5. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

- a. Brad said that he would revise the 2023 Fire Protection Agreement for the March meeting to reflect an \$8,000 per year agreement amount.
- b. The situation with Lawyers Excavating invoices was addressed. The Council agreed that if the Town has stickers on the lift stations to call Lawyers if there is a problem, and then Lawyers fixes the lift station in need of repair, it would be bad business to not cover the invoice. The Council agreed that new stickers should be placed on the Lift stations re-directing service. Brad also recommended that something be sent in writing to Lawyers instructing them not to work on Town property without Town approval. Eric Genda made a motion to continue to pay the Lawyer’s invoices until the stickers were changed on the lift stations and something was sent to Lawyer’s in writing to discontinue working on Town lift stations unless asked to do so. Jeff Walker made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

6. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier - Nothing to report

- 7. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole –** Aaron said that there would be a VVFD Fund Raiser next month.

8. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. Ron informed the Council that there were 2 Lift Station repairs in the past month.
- b. Ron discussed the IDEM ruling regarding Inventory.
- c. Ron explained to the Council that he was learning a lot working for Dupont Water and would like for the Town of Vernon to share at least half of the cost of his training expenses in the future with Dupont Water.
- d. Ron explained to the Council that they did not understand what goes into his position as a Certified Water Operator, and that he does not get enough money to do the work. He said that the Council would have a hard time finding anyone else to do what he does for \$1,400 per month. Ron said that because he is a contractor and gets hurt working for the Town of Vernon, he will lose his ability to work for Dupont Water and his livelihood. He also said that if the Town of Vernon wants him to continue to read the meters and do the IDEM reporting as the Certified Water Operator, he will have to step away from everything else he

does for the Town. Eric asked Ron to revise the contract voted on by the Council in December and return it with what he would like to see. Amber asked that any changes be highlighted.

- e. Ron said that he was bringing the Badger Meter Company to the next Town Council meeting to discuss their meters. Ron said that previously, the Mueller Company administered the Badger Meters in this part of the Country and that their Service was terrible. Now Midwest Meters, out of Illinois is distributing the Badger Meters. Ron thinks their service has improved. Ron also mentioned that there are only 2 meters left in the Vernon Town inventory.
- f. Ron brought up the Gym Storage problem that the new floor covering has created. Ron talked to Marie Shepherd about pouring a concrete pad outside the Gym to store the floor covering.

V. **Unfinished Business**

VI. **New Business**

Our Heritage – requested access to the streets (Brown and Pike Street to Ripley Street, the Vernon Art Park and the Vernon Gym from Friday, April 21, at 4:30 PM to 5:00 PM on Sunday April 23, 2023. Jeff made a motion to allow the request from the Historical Society. Eric Genda made the second

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Indiana Destination Grant– Karen Chilman of Perceptions Mindfulness & Yoga sent information regarding a mural to be placed on the Gym building. Jeff Walker made the motion to apply for the Indiana Destination Grant with the stipulation that a mock-up of the design come back to the Council. Eric Genda made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VII. **Claims**

a. **Claims**

Eric Genda made a motion to approve the **January 2023 claims**. Jeff Walker made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No Votes

- b. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of January 2023.

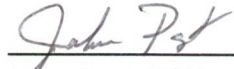
VIII. **Miscellaneous Business**

- IX. Eric Genda made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. Jeff Walker made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, March 9, 2023, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

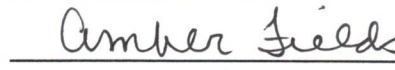
Vernon Town Council



John Post, 1st Ward

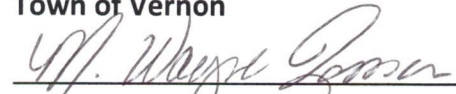


Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward

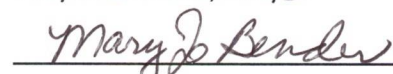


Amber Fields, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon



Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk Treasurer