

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
February 8, 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. Approval of January 11, 2024 minutes

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the January 11, 2024 Council minutes and recommended approval.

John Post noted the votes on Perception's proposal and the offer to Indiana Landmarks should be 2 Yes and 1 Abstain on each measure. He did not get the opportunity to vote no. Minutes will be amended.

John Post made a motion to approve the amended minutes. Jeff Walker seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

- a. Jessica Browning with Metronet presented information concerning the possibility of bringing their services to Vernon. The progression, if approved, would entail setting up meetings with their engineering department and working out the details concerning any cost to the town. Timeline would be approximately a year, she suspected. John Post made a motion to approve going forward and Amber Fields seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Wayne Zamora - asked Commissioners for \$7,200.00 for the bathroom construction at the soccer complex part of the Gym, and they will try to accommodate this request if possible. He has already made deposits to our account. He asked to suspend the soccer club's rent for the remainder of this year in order to make up some of their \$7,000 donation. Amber motioned to suspend the rent from the soccer club on the gray building, John seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Jeff met with the Community Foundation for a donation. Should we contact EDC? All tourism money goes to the EDC now. Lilly has dumped a lot of money into the State Foundations. Need a town comp plan to be able to access funds. Wayne has put together a plan for the Gym turning it into a Community Center. Firm is chosen for the planning grant and will meet with Wayne to get this moving forward. Met with TIF also.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Wants a load of gravel delivered, would like to get someone to service both John Deere and the Skaggs. Need to grade and spread some gravel. Amber motioned to

approve up to \$500 for gravel purchase, Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes 0 No votes

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - Spring Tonic Information shared with prices for the different walks/runs. All money will go toward bathroom renovation in the Gym. He has a boilerplate ordinance for the new park board and is working through the system. Looking forward to future Vernon elections and wants to consider for a future meeting the idea of not having wards but drawing from the entire town, just an idea to consider for later.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - ordered 3 of the giant barriers, will be temporary for now but maybe look for decorative boulders later.

We had a partial domain that wasn't configured properly, is now fixed and won't allow any pirating. Look at the new windows in the meeting room.

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

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - Nothing to report, in the folders.

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - Corey Walker asked about a missing sign and people are going down Pike Street the wrong way, maybe got moved in anticipation of the snow. Will get them back in place. Needs a list of missing street signs, will check into these problems.

H. Ron Hendershot – Contract Maintenance - Water loss audit is due this year, Mary Jo has items to look up and retrieve. Scott Dunlap has informed us of the mid-April arrival of new meters. He will get 3 or so quotes for installation. 120 Water is set up and needs data from our billing software. Discussion of grinder pumps and the cost of replacement and all of the older ones that are failing one right after the other. O;Mara pulls pumps and looks to rebuild, Wayne wants to look at all of them and set up a schedule for replacements. Construction on the hillside going North on SR 3/7, shouldn't affect us. Car Fire on the highway and when refilling from the Log Cabin, it dropped water pressure below 20 so had to issue a boil water advisory. Discussed which hydrants to use from here after, will pull from the park hydrant.

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - June 15th, golf scramble fundraiser at Wyalloosing. Spaghetti dinner the night before the Spring Tonic Run. Had service trucks at the station today, working on most of the trucks.

V.

Unfinished Business

Condemnation of Maschino property, needs a vote to go forward.

Amber motioned to move forward with condemnation of Maschino property, John Post seconded.

3 yes votes 0 no votes

Contract term for the Trails Grant, expires in June of 2024, will ask for an 18-month extension. Walker motioned to ask for an extension until 12/31/2025, Amber seconded.

3 yes votes, 0 no votes

CDBG Sanitary Sewer Project, are we going to apply and are we going to apply for the match money? Amber motioned to apply for the matching grant, John Post seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

John post motioned to appoint Amber to the SIRPC, Jeff seconded the motion.

2 Yes votes, 1 Abstain.

Speed Limit is already 25, to lower any less is very difficult so suggested to keep it the status quo. Get quotes for a speed sign and address at the next meeting.

Mini-split for class room, discussion about installing one per year until all rooms are done. Amber Fields motioned to add the mini-split heating system in the meeting room. Jeff seconded.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Revisiting gym fees, should we raise the rates, charge more and charge for admission? Dakota Miller discussed his issues and pleaded for the rent to stay reasonable. He has invested a lot of his own money in the rooms and is having more events this year. Vernon Vanguard Armored Combat is his Facebook page.

Should we make a decision tonight? Brown gym is hosting the girls and the school would like to have that game here at the Vernon gym.

Fee schedule for next meeting to be discussed.
Amber motioned to raise gym floor rates from 15 to 25 per hour, effective March 1, 2024. Grandfather those in who have already reserved. John post seconded.

3 Yes votes 0 No votes

John questioned the pickleball format and if they are using the indoor balls, Amber said to tell them no more tape on the floor since they are using the wrong tape.

Some roof leakage is apparent and gutters need to be cleaned out and look to repair leaks that are appearing. Get a quote for gutter guards?

VI. New Business

VII. Claims

a. Amber Fields motioned to approve the claims, Jeff Walker seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

Sassafras festival has requested to close Pike Street from Brown to Ripley, and use the Arts Park and Commons.

Jeff motioned to close the road, Amber Fields seconded.

3 Yes votes and 0 No votes.

Town will have a clean-up day in the Spring and rent a dumpster for town use.

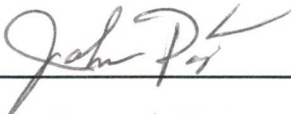
IX. Adjournment

Jeff Walker motioned to adjourn, John Post seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 2024, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

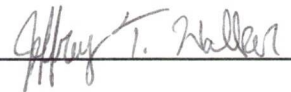
Vernon Town Council



John Post, 1st Ward



Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward