

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
February 12, 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 All present...Marshall is still vacant**
- II. Approval of minutes**

Mayor Bender asked if there were any comments or corrections to the January, 2026 and revised November 13, 2025 Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber made a motion to approve the November 2025 minutes and the January 2026 minutes. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present: Steve Harding wants to present the original map box from the school to the Alumni museum. Jeff Walker made a motion to accept this item on behalf of the town for the Vawter Center Alumni Room. Fields seconded. All in favor. Also accepted was the \$75,000 grant from the JCCF for the bathroom renovation.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

- A. Brad Bender - Mayor
- B. John Post - Council Ward 1 discussed a street light that was non-operational, and has contacted Duke about this. John also wondered if the surplus generator could be used to run the Commons lift station when it loses power.
- C. Jeff Walker - Council Ward 2 - Spring Tonic on 4/25/26, will be running at 8 am, think of any sponsors or people who would be interested in helping. The active transportation committee is interested in linking the entities of NV and Vernon via a pedestrian trail/sidewalk, INDOT would be interested in scoping this if we are interested, Amber motioned to send a letter of support from Vernon for a project of this type, John seconded. All in favor.
- D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Sidewalk is knocked out close to Matt Robinson’s house.
- E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Reports are in folders.
- F. Brad Kage - Attorney - Asked about two resolutions. Fire and sidewalk, fire resolution has been signed and the sidewalk resolution is on the books already.

G. Britt Burgmeier – Marshall - resigned October 2025

I. Steven Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Asking about a big enough launch ramp for their rescue boat, Mayor Bender said the RR is actively trying to build a ramp at the Commons as thor part of reclamation. He also asked about a lock box for the buildings so they don't have to wait on their guy from Scipio. Someone wants to use our streets for vendors of some show, he was advised to have her come to a meeting and ask for permission. Susan Harding suggested a collaboration of sorts as they are interested in a Labor Day market of some kind to be brought back this year. They will talk. He advised they ended the year with over \$23,000 in fundraisers, but almost that much in repairs.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Next Level Trails grant - In closeout phase but need additional requests and information.
- b. OCRA Sewer Project - Paperwork did not come in until yesterday, SIRPC approved extension until Mar 31, 2026. Also brought in Pay Apps #3 and #4 at the last minute. Council acted on Pay App #3 for \$176,484.60 to submit to Ocra. Amber motioned to approve change order #2 for time extension, Post seconded. All in favor. Post motioned to approve the Pay App#3, Amber seconded. All in favor. New equipment is working as it should.
- c. Adoption of New sewer rate ordinance, Amber motioned to suspend the rules and consider the ordinance on the first reading. Jeff seconded the motion. All in favor. Post motioned to adopt the ordinance on first reading, Jeff seconded. Jeff amended the motion to adopt to include the effective date of 4/1/2026. Amber seconded the motion. 3 Yes votes...all in favor.
- d. Amber motioned to begin the water rate COLA on 4/1/2026, John seconded the motion. All in favor.
- e. Xylem Tree insurance payment has not been received, Brad Kage will follow up tomorrow and ask for it to be mailed to him in care of the town.
- f. SS4A consultants were received in January, Mayor Bender preferred the firm of Toole and would like to move forward with them as far as they can be kept in budget. Jeff motioned to proceed with negotiations with Toole with the stipulation that they stay within our budget, John seconded. All in favor.

VI. New Business

- a. Open House - Very successful, JCCF presented the Town with a \$75,000 grant for the bathroom renovations, the town will begin the process of getting this improvement implemented. Jeff is now looking at grants to get a "warming" kitchen. Everyone was very happy with the open house and especially the money received from the grant.
- b. Police truck was discussed and marshal position was discussed as someone inquired about running in the next election. Chief Pennycuff inquired about using the truck and just switching out some of the equipment. Would it have to have an appraisal and then take bids. Was hoping to trade out the truck for a newer mower. Can't do a lateral transfer as they are a separate entity. All marshals heretofore have been advised to tread lightly, our only recourse in controlling their duties is to restrict the pay and what equipment they can use. There have never been any problems in all the years up to this point. Will need a new mower asap, need to start looking for something better than what we have now. The tractor is not really needed so much but is paid off and does get used occasionally.
- c. Art Park Flower - Mikey took it to repair.
- d. TARP House is going to show cause. The Oddfellows building was discussed, we may have to contact Indiana Landmarks as to its fate. 91 and 95 Jackson has been idle for well over a year

- or more. Mobley's old house on Pike Street, the owner is wanting to make another apartment in the back where it was once only a garage. It may be on the horizon for rezoning.
- e. The Park Board 5-year plan has to be resubmitted to DNR by 4/15/2026.

VII. Claims

- a. John Post made a motion to approve the claims, Jeff Walker seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

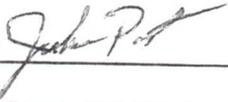
- a. Permitting Requirements - Send firm our right of way ordinance
- b. Pickleball will be billed at the same rates as are in our ordinance.
- c. SIRPC appointment - Amber wants to decline as she was not able to attend any meetings last year. Will leave the position open for now. Jeff motioned to appoint Post to the APC as the Vernon representative, Jeff seconded. 2 Yes votes, 1 Abstain.
- d. Ron Hendershot was present to ask about the lift stations being online and as-builts, etc.

IX. Adjournment - John motioned to adjourn @7:44 pm, Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, March 12, 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