

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
January 6, 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.

Dan Wright asked for a moment of silence for Vernon resident Sue Collins.

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 – Town Marshall
Aaron Poole – VVFD Fire Chief

II. Approval of December 2, 2021, minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the December 2, 2021, Council minutes and recommended approval.

Eric Genda made a motion to approve the December 2, 2021, minutes. Jeff Walker made the second.

Two Yes votes, 1 Abstention (Davers)

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.

Jeff Walker asked as a Town Member, for a letter of support from the Council for a Bike/Pedestrian planning grant the County was applying for. Jeff said that there would be no financial match from the Town, but the grant would work with the overall planning of the Town of Vernon. Dan agreed with the program.

Eric Genda made a motion to support the County grant and sign the letter of support.

Shelly Davers made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Dan Wright thanked the Vernon Boy Scout Troop 541 for all the things they do for the community (putting up Christmas decorations, picking up trash, helping with the Day of Caring). Dan also mentioned that a couple of young men from the troop were applying for the Eagle Scout rank.

Anna Walker mentioned that she and Jeff purchased the house at 45 E Brown Street. There is currently a handicapped spot in front of the house, and Anna said that she and Jeff would not be needing that spot.

Eric Genda made a motion to remove the handicapped spot. Shelly Davers made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Anna Walker also asked about the stump between the sidewalk and the road with Winter Creeper growing over it. She asked if the Town removed such stumps, or if the homeowner was responsible. Dan said that the stump would be removed in the next round of tree trimming.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

a. Water System Financing

Dan said that he is still working with Rural Water, IFA and the Indiana Bond Bank for financing. Dan also said that the Town is also required to have an Asset Management plan in addition to a financial plan for the financing. He hopes to have an answer by the next meeting. Dan also mentioned the Town getting the CCMG road grant for \$50,954.99. The 2021-22 Road Grant pays for work through the tunnel down to Ripley Street, and then to the Highway. This project should go to bid next month.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda

- a. Eric mentioned that the “Do Not Enter” sign by the Post Office was knocked down. Ron said that he watched the video, but was unable to see a license plate number of the truck that hit the sign on the 4th of January. Ron said that he could replace it or put up a barrel sign.
- b. Eric said that he was still waiting to get together with Trish Hendershot on the Gym oversight but waiting until his and her Covid diagnosis was past.
- c. Eric asked about the Trails Grant, and if the details were set in stone. He wondered about a possible walking path along the highway from Muscatatuck down to Vernon since it is so dangerous. Dan said it was not possible with this grant, but the State Highway was looking into a Boardwalk type of walkway. The “Right Away” is sloughing off and doesn’t allow for much expansion.

3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

- a. Jeff asked about the proposed planning grant.
- b. Jeff asked how the election districting worked for Vernon for the next election. Dan said that the districts had been drawn according to the population and statistics from the CENSUS for the past several elections, but the Vernon Town Charter is based on geography and the State of Indiana guidelines propose for an “At-Large” election because of the size of the town. After speaking to Brad King from the State Legal Counsel, Dan said that Vernon could do whatever it wants. Dan is looking into information on eliminating the districts.
- c. Jeff mentioned that he was happy to see a little kid using the Free Little Library at the Commons.
- d. Jeff asked who was responsible for the sidewalks along Pike Street across from the Courthouse. Dan said that the Town is responsible for the repairs, but the County has agreed to help with that cost. The Council previously approved to repair the ramp but needs to find the rest of the money to finish.
- e. Jeff said that he didn’t have anything to report on financial oversight. Jeff had called the State Board of Accounts and discovered that what was currently being done was sufficient for their purposes, but that he was not compliant with the Town of Vernon Oversight policy. He suggested re-working the policy in the spring.
- f. Jeff announced that the JC Running Club in conjunction with the JC Historical Society would be sponsoring a 5K run on April 30, the weekend following the Sassafras festival. He said that run would be called the “Springtonic” run in honor of the previous 5K started by Orlo Bloomquist. He said that he will be putting out a formal statement. Dan said that the Sassafras festival will be using the Vernon Art Park on the 4th weekend in April and there will also be another old-fashioned baseball game that weekend. This will be the 60th anniversary of the Sassafras Festival. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor have been invited.

4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

- a. Nothing to report

5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

- a. Amber explained the 1782 Notice for the 2022 Budget.

6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

- a. Brad reported that Mr. Gupta had paid the Sewer portion of the bill from 215 SE Cherokee.

- b. Brad also mentioned that the APC could possibly have someone go in to clean up the property on the Corner of Pike Street and the Highway due to non-compliance by the owners.

7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier

- a. Nothing to report

8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole

- a. Aaron introduced himself as the new VVFD Fire Chief. His term started January 1, 2022. He asked to be placed on the February Agenda to discuss the Fire House Fund Raisers.

9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. Ron passed out information on his time and how it is allocated to the different funds, and the Vernon Gym schedule and how the fees are paid.
- b. **Water Department Meter Replacement** - Ron said that the charges for testing a meter at the request of a water customer ranged from \$55 to \$275. Ron said that a current customer wants his meter tested and requested that the town pass a policy to have the customer requesting the test, pay for the test. Dan asked Ron to bring back a written policy in February for the Council to sign. Jeff Walker made a motion to enact a policy charging the Water customer making the demand to test a meter, be charged for the testing. Eric Genda made the second.
Two Yes votes, 1 No vote (Davvers)
- c. Ron reminded the Council of the **damage being done to the Gym because there are no gutters** currently on the facility. The Termite damage and brick damage on the building are both due to rain and water damage from having no gutters. Wayne Zamora offered information on a person with a guttering program that would be interested in the job. Wayne offered to purchase the gutters for the storage building and donate the equipment to the town. Dan asked Ron to investigate the program and send out the estimates for the guttering on the Gym to the Council before the February meeting.

V. Unfinished Business

- A. Dan asked for a motion to approve the **2022 Salary Ordinance # 177**. Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the **2022 Salary Ordinance #177**. Eric Genda made the second.
Two Yes votes, 1 No vote (Davvers)

B. Dan asked the Council to suspend the rules to approve the **2022 Salary Ordinance #177** in one reading. Jeff Walker Made a motion to suspend the rules. Eric Genda made the second.

Two Yes votes, 1 No vote (Davers)

C. Information was sent out to the Council on the Governors law on Electronic Meetings. Shelly Davers made a motion to table the discussion on Electronic Meetings until the February meeting. Jeff Walker made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

VI. New Business

a. No new business at the time

VII. Claims

A. Claims

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

Two Yes votes, 1 Abstention (Davers)

B. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of December 2021.

VIII. Miscellaneous Business


A. Donations & Other

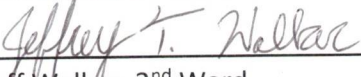
IX. Shelly Davers made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM. Eric Genda made the second.


3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, February 3, 2022, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

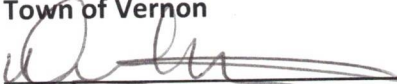
Vernon Town Council


Eric Genda, 1st Ward


Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward


Shelly Davers, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon


Dan Wright, Mayor


Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer