

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
January 11, 2024**

Regular Meeting: The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Brad Kage at 6:30 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order - All members present

II. Approval of December 14 , 2023 minutes

Brad asked if there were any comments or corrections to the December 14,2023 Council minutes and recommended approval. John Post wanted it noted that he did not vote for the proposed motions to allow electric use by Indiana Landmarks, nor for the proposed art design for pursuing a grant.

Amber made a motion to approve the 12/14/2024, minutes, as amended. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

No public comment

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. [Wayne Zamora](#) absent

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 -LED Light out and repaired, commented about Greg Sekula not attending but maybe wanting the town to hook up electric to the pole by the Oddfellows building that Indiana Landmarks recently acquired. Discussion on the practicality of allowing this. John made the motion for Brad Bender to be Vernon’s appointment on the BZA, Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Amber made the motion to appoint John Post to the APC, Jeff seconded.

2 Yes votes, 1 Abstain (amended)

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - still working on Park Board but not ready to draft an ordinance, Jeff is OK with Indiana Landmarks using the electric meter at pole, [Jeff Walker](#) motioned to allow meter usage for 60 days, Amber seconded the motion.

2 Yes votes, 1 Abstain

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 -addressed issue of people doing donuts in parking lot of gymnasium and down at the commons around the sycamore tree, wants to put heavy concrete blocks at the Commons and a row of parking curbs in the parking lot at the gym. Will gather more information and bring to next meeting. Reduce speed limit to 15 mph for Brown Street and Pike Street, need to check and see what it takes to get it lowered. Britt suggests lowering to 15 mph. Is there a cut-off for lowering it? Karen Chilman and Karen Jackson from Perceptions brought an artist from Deputy, Mikey Brown who brought his idea for the Art's Park. His proposal was presented in hopes of getting the idea to go forward and in the hopes of getting a grant for funding his project. He is looking for objects to support his venture in the form of cast-off materials of all kinds. Propose to apply for the grant and write into the grant that used parts are part of the process. The IDCC wants it to represent them. Discussion on pursuing this grant which is due on 2/2/2024. Apply with design presented and then work our way through the public involvement process. Jeff made a motion to support their vision, Amber seconded.

2 Yes votes, 1 Abstain (amended)

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

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - told Brad B about upcoming BZA meeting

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - kid turned himself in who did the donuts, will clean up the wall.

H. Ron Hendershot – Contract Maintenance - absent

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - brought information about getting a ladder truck, the blue truck they bought for 16,000 has cost 26,000 to keep running and needs more, will not put any more money into it. Much discussion ensued as to various prospects for new trucks and equipment with funding options and resources available. John Post will go to the next County Council meeting with the Fire Chief.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Next Level Trails Grant - Has filed a quarterly report and doesnt think it will be approved until all permits and parcels are acquired. Will need an executive session to be called for discussion of Maschino property. Plans are in the works for a 4-way stop @ Jackson/Poplar. Where to take money from for the Gosman property was discussed. John motioned to fund Gosman acquisition out of CEDIT money, Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

b. Gym Fees - Dakota Miller was present to ask about the possible increase in fees for the gym. He was talking about some of his shows and future plans for bringing people in to watch his shows. He may need more space in the future and more growth is anticipated. Also, the question of starting to look at recording the meetings was discussed. The discussion about raising gym fees was tabled for the time being.

c. 2024 Salary Ordinance - John Post motioned to accept the new salary ordinance and Amber Fields seconded, Jeff questioned not exceeding 50 per month, amended motion to not exceed 50 per month for any extra meetings.

3 yes, 0 no votes

VI. New Business

a. Mini Split discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

b. Additional appropriation, the request for additional funds needs to be advertised, it will be taken care of by Amber or Mary Jo.

VII. Claims

a. John Post made a motion to approve the claims for December. [Jeff Walker](#) seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

b. The Clerk Treasurer, Mary Jo Bender provided a fund report to the Council. .

VIII. Miscellaneous Business - None at the time.

IX. Adjournment - Jeff Walker motioned to adjourn @ 8:15 p.m., [Amber Fields](#) seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, February 8, 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

Amber Fields, 3rd Ward

Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk Treasurer