

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
July 1, 2021**

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 asked anyone from the public wishing to make a comment to sign in and let the Council know what they wished to comment on.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order - Present

Amber Fields – Clerk/Treasurer
Eric Genda – Council Ward 1
Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2
Shelly Davers – Council Ward 3
Dan Wright – Mayor
Ron Hendershot – Maintenance/Works Manager
Brit Burgmeier – Town Marshall

II. Approval of June 3, 2021 minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the June 3, 2021, Council minutes and recommended approval. Amber said that the minutes were the legal responsibility of the Clerk/Treasurer and that she did not believe the changes Shelly requested were said in the meeting and did not feel that changes should be made. Amber also said that she sent the June 3, 2021, minutes electronically, two separate times to the Council over the past month with no response. Dan Wright suggested that Shelly's comments be added as a "supplement" to the June 3, 2021 meeting minutes. Shelly asked if they would be posted online with the meeting minutes as well. Dan Wright said, "that's right".

Jeff Walker made the motion to add Shelly's changes as an attachment to the minutes. Eric made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Additional comment: Shelly stated "for the record" that she did not sign the previous meeting minutes as presented by the Clerk Treasurer because they did not include all corrections that the Council had voted to add.



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

Damon Davers asked the Council if he could trim the trees at 22 E Brown Street in front of the Madden's house even though the trees were not on town property.

Damon also believes that the Council changed the Sewer rates without properly changing the Sewer Rate Ordinance. Brad asked if the change was made in a Council meeting and if the change posted as a legal notification. Amber said the change was made as a Legal Notice on December 3, 2015. Brad asked for copies of the ordinance and the change, so that he could make any changes, if needed.

Damon also asked if the Town was going to pay the cost to recess the antennas into the meter lids. Dan stated that the Town would pay for the new lids that recess the antennae to protect them from damage. The cost was \$45 per lid and the lowest of all the installation cost.

John Post asked whether the Town would be having Zoom meetings in the future. He said that the Town would need to pass an ordinance if they planned to have at least 50% of the meetings as Zoom meetings. Dan said that he would investigate this matter. John said that the County had an ordinance that we could look at.

Anna Walker asked if the VVFD was going to be having a fund raiser. **Chief Kirkham** said that "Yes, they were having a fund-raising dinner at 5:00 PM on August the 8th." The event would be at the "Barn Event Center" in North Vernon. Tickets will be \$200 to include a catered meal for two, and an entry into the door prize giveaway. He encouraged residents to support this event. Chief Kirkham also wanted to note that with each ticket purchased, a raffle prize would be included. He also mentioned that the VVFD Fund Raising committee would be sending out information on the Fund Raiser very soon.

Chief Eric Kirkham wanted to let everyone know that the recent heavy rains required the use of the new Rescue Boat. Brit confirmed that the Rescue Boat saved some lives. Chief Kirkham also said that the stones ordered for the new Firehouse will be installed soon. A discussion about installing a boat launch at the Vernon Commons ensued. Dan said that a boat launch on the river would take quite a bit of time due to the process involved with the IDNR.

IV. Reports from committees and officers

1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

a. Trail Grant

Dan said that the Trail Grant contract was reviewed and re-submitted yesterday (June 30, 2021). The first quarterly report was due today. Dan

submitted it. Dan said that a large portion of the project is tied in with the State and IDEM and the US Environmental policy Act. Also, because Vernon is listed as an Historic District, more coordination is needed.

b. 2021 American Rescue Plan

Dan reported that he and Amber received additional information on the 2021 ARP on Wednesday, which entailed several pieces of the project. One requirement is that a separate fund be established by Ordinance, for the funding.

Dan recommended that the rules to approve an Ordinance on a second reading be suspended. Shelly made the motion to suspend the rules for approval on a second reading. Eric made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Shelly made the motion to approve the Ordinance (#172) to establish a separate accounting fund (176) for the ARP. Jeff made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

c. Boat and Trailer stored in Town Facilities

Dan said that the boat and trailer previously stored in the Gym Auxiliary building, and now in the Town Hall building, needed a Court Order to receive a title for the two units. Brad filed and Court Order and now waiting to receive the titles. After the titles are received, the Town can schedule an auction to sell the boat and trailer.

d. 4-Yard Dumpster at the Vernon Gym

Dan made the recommendation to order a 4-yard trash dumpster to be located at the Vernon Gym. The cost of the Dumpster from Bestway is \$50 per month. A locking device can be added later if needed.

Eric made the motion to have a Town trash dumpster (4-yard) placed at the Vernon Gym. Jeff made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

e. Vernon Gym Rental

Dan said that the Vernon gym rental was picking up. He also said that he gave permission to purchase 2-barrel fans on sale from Orschlen's to help cool down the gym for renters.

f. Volunteers

Dan informed the Council that volunteers are covered just like an employee, even with Worker's Comp. Jessica Bailey provided information for the Council on volunteer coverage from Shepherd insurance.

g. SWIF Grant (State Water Infrastructure Fund)

Dan said that the SWIF Grant would fund up to 75% of the total cost of the project. Including the meter installation cost, which will come to approximately \$150,000.

Jeff made the motion to allow permission to apply for the SWIF grant and Eric made the second.
Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda

- a. Nothing to report.

3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

- a. Jeff informed the Council that the AARP Grant was not received.

4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

- a. Shelly discussed the Water rate study from Sherman Barber and did not believe that all the Council members received a copy. Dan said that he had an issue with the changes Shelly made to the study on salaries. He said that the salaries should reflect an increase over the next five years. The representative from Sherman Barber told Dan that a 2% increase per year for salaries would be more accurate, especially since the water rates have not been increased in over 10 years. Shelly said the GIS information is included, but the Keystone data was never received and is inaccurate. The corrected (start up and monthly expense) Keystone data needs added to the Water Rate Study since it has already been approved by the Council for use. Dan said that he would like to table the study to allow a little more time to review the changes Shelly made to the study. Shelly said that she did not change the data but only corrected the entries in the wrong columns. Eric Genda made a motion to table the Water Study again until Dan had time to review the changes. Jeff Walker made the second.
Three yes votes, 0 No votes.
- b. Shelly asked Ron about the roof over the Gym Auxiliary building and what the status of the quotes were at this time. Ron said that there was one stipulation from a vendor, Countryside Metal Roofing, but it did not affect the price. Ron said that he would send an email out to the Council on the results.
- c. Shelly asked Amber the balance on the Marshall Truck loan. Amber said that she would get that information for the next meeting.

5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

- a. Amber asked the Council if it was their intention to renew the Avenue of Flags donation at \$30 per year. Dan Wright donated \$30 to the Town to go toward the payment of the Avenue of Flags program. Eric made the motion to donate to the Avenue of Flags, Jeff made the second
Three yes votes, 0 No votes.

- b. Amber spoke with Wayne Zamora about the soccer field mowing. Wayne relayed that while he appreciated the volunteer help mowing the field, he would like to know when volunteers are mowing because the Muscatatuck Soccer Club has a mowing schedule.

6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

- a. Brad said that he spoke with Dakota Miller about the proposed lease agreement. Dakota told Brad that he wanted his attorney to look at it before he signed. Shelly asked that the cleaning and repair clause be crossed out and changed to him being responsible for cleaning only his leased area. Dan recommended approval of the lease pending Dakota Miller's acceptance. Eric Genda made a motion to accept the lease for Dakota Miller pending his acceptance. Shelly Davers made the second.
Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.
- b. Brad had a phone call from Step's attorney regarding the eviction notice and the past due amounts. The Attorney stated that they do not believe there is a past due amount as there were no receipts provided. Dan recommended that the Town forgive the past amount due and proceed with the Eviction. Eric Genda made a motion to forgive the past due amount and proceed with the eviction. Jeff Walker made the second.
Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

7. Town Marshall – Brit Burgmeier

- a. Brit forwarded a copy of the 911 calls to Vernon over the past two months. He noted that 4 reports were regarding car accidents. He also noted an ongoing domestic situation in the Town.

8. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. **Low Hanging Limbs over Streets** – Ron asked permission to get quotes to remove the low hanging limbs over the streets in town. Ron said that there are more low hanging branches than he could handle, and asked permission to get quotes. The Council agreed that it was fine for him to get quotes.

V. New Business

a. New Policies

Shelly Davers made a motion to table the proposed new policies (Approval of Contracts, Payment of Claims, & Travel) since the Council had not looked at them. Eric Genda made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

VI. Claims

Dan entertained a motion to pay the claims.

A. Jeff Walker asked about one claim:

- a. **Check/Claim 4982 transfer to General Account.** Amber explained that the Gym donation funds (\$120) had been deposited to the Water account and this was just a transfer back to the Gym Account.

B. Shelly Davers asked about two claims:

- a. **Check/Claim 4980 to IN Underground Plant Protection.** Shelly asked why we were paying a charge for line locates, or 811 calls. Dan explained that it is the law to notify 811 before digging occurs. Ron said that the cost was meaningful and helps to protect our infrastructure.
- b. **Check/Claim 2889 to pay Ron Hendershot.** Shelly thought that the maintenance salary was paid from the wrong account.

Jeff made a motion to pay the claims, Eric made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

C. The Clerk Treasurer provided a Fund Report for the month of June 2021.**VII. Miscellaneous Business****A. Donations & Other**

- a. Dan noted that the CCMG paving grant was due by July 5, 2021. Dan asked permission to apply for the CCMG Paving Grant to pave Ripley Street from the Highway to the bridge over the river, and Pike Street from Ripley Street to and including under the Tunnel.

Eric made the motion to allow the application and Jeff made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes.

VIII. Shelly Davers made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:29 PM, Jeff Walker made the second.

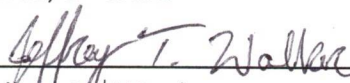
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, August 5, 2021, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. There will be an Executive Session beginning at 5:00 PM and the Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.


Vernon Town Council



Eric Genda, 1st Ward



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward

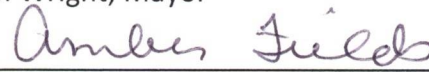


Shelly Davers, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon



Dan Wright, Mayor



Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer