

**Town of Vernon**  
**Vernon Gym**  
**Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)**  
**July 14, 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.

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 June 2, 2022, minutes**

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the June 2, 2022, Council minutes and recommended approval.  
Eric Genda made a motion to approve the June 2, 2022, minutes. Jeff Walker made the second.  
Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

**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.

**The Friends of Historic Vernon** presented a Train Car Little Free Library to the Town, for the Vernon Gym. The Train Car was made from cherry wood milled in Jennings County and donated by Louis Malcolm. The car was made by Bill Fields in Vernon.

**Damon Davers** mentioned the Poplar tree on the curve was dead and could Ron put it on the list to be cut down this fall.

**Bill Fields** mentioned that his shop had been broken into. Britt said there had been a few more break-ins recently and he did not believe it was kids this time because things were being stolen.

**John Post** said that the County Maintenance Department had approached him about using the Town of Vernon Maintenance garage for loud projects. Jeff Walker made a motion for Ron to work with the County regarding their events they want to hold in the Town of Vernon garage. Eric Genda made the second.  
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

**Sandy Downs** made a complaint about the semi-trucks driving through the back roads of Town and tearing up yards and property. Everyone agreed the construction in North Vernon on Walnut Street was causing the extra traffic through Vernon. Dan said that “More Signage” would be the only answer to the problem at this time.

Sandy also asked if the Town would be holding another Clean-up Day in the fall. Dan thought that “Yes” the Town would most likely have one this fall.

#### IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

##### 1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

- a. Dan announced that there would be a town picture in front of the Court House to replicate the picture taken in 1922. There will be an Otto White and other photographers photo display at the Historical Society. The event will be a “ticketed event” with lunch on the Court House lawn at 1:00 PM and at 2:30 PM a photograph will be taken. Anyone can come to the even, even if they don’t live in Vernon. There will also be a Plein Aire art event throughout the day. Perceptions Art, Yoga and Mindfulness will be sponsoring the event. Event will be on Saturday, September 3, 2022.
- b. Dan said that the Trail Project was still in the works, but that property acquisition had slowed due to the death of two residents. He said there was a 4 year project timeline.

##### 2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda

- a. Eric said that the Gym oversight looked good. Gym rents have slowed due to the hot weather and no A/C in the Gym.
- b. Eric also reported that the Post Office complained about the Car “Cruise-In” last month in that they set up before the Post Office Truck had a chance to collect the mail that day. Eric made a motion to allow the Car “Cruise-In” another month to see how it goes. Shelly Davers made the second.  
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

### 3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

#### a. Financial Oversight

Jeff said that the Financial Oversight looked good and that everything was posted in Gateway.

#### b. Review Town of Vernon Ordinances

Jeff explained the Town Ordinances he was currently working on and suggested that the following Ordinance be repealed. Shelly Davers made a motion to repeal Ordinance No. 15 (Circus Fees). Eric Genda made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Jeff made a motion to list the following Ordinances as “Repealed” on the Website:

44, 103, and 130. The following Ordinances to be listed as “Expired”  
87 & 88

Eric Genda made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Jeff said that he would bring the animal control, parking and traffic Ordinances back to the next meeting.

### 4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

#### a. Shelly asked why there were more wood chips added to the pile at the Commons. Amber said that she instructed the Stump Removal person to put them there. Jeff made a motion to allow residents to buy the mulch for \$10 per scoop, and donate the money to the Vernon Gym Fund. Eric made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

#### b. Shelly asked if the person who put the bid in on the generator sitting at the office was still interested as it was still sitting there after 2 months. Aaron Poole was in the audience and said “Yes” that person was still interested. Shelly made a motion to accept the bid for \$10 for the Generator, Eric Genda made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

### 5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

#### a. Amber informed the Council that the Margaret Reese Foundation Grant through the JC Community Foundation had a payout of \$687.89 for 2021 and 2022.

### 6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

### 7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier

#### a. Britt said there had been an “Up-tick” in break-ins in the past month.

- b. Dan and Britt informed the Council that the Emergency Management Comprehensive plan from Jennings County, the primary agency for emergencies which is consistent with the national framework, also include Vernon. Jeff Walker made the motion to accept the offer made by Jerry Shepherd to update the emergency plan. Erci Genda made the second.  
3 Yes, votes, 0 No votes.

#### 8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole

- a. Aaron announced a Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser is planned for August 21, 2022 by the VVFD.

#### 9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. Ron asked if there was a Noise Ordinance for the Town. There is not one to the best of anyone's knowledge, other than what the County might have in place.
- b. Ron informed the Council that the new meters for Indian Hills would cost approximately \$50,000, and the meters for Vernon would cost approximately \$92,000. Dan said that he would continue to pursue a grant for the replacement of the meters. Shelly asked what the probability was for receiving the grant and Dan thought it would be approximately 90%. Dan said that he would forward any information he received from the IFA (Indiana Finance Authority).
- c. Ron asked the Council again about the **WTH GIS** program. Ron had checked with the County about joining them on their program, and the County was fine with that. However, the WTH GIS company did not like the idea. Shelly said that she would like to wait before spending the ARP funds until we knew more about the Grants to replace the water meters. Eric agreed.
- d. **Website Maintenance** - Ron said that he had contacted Rodney Wolfe about the Town getting it's own Go Daddy account for the Town Website. Apparently, Rodney is ready to retire and would like to get the license out of his name. He said that he would continue to maintain the website after this transfer. Shelly said that she would like to have a contract in writing with Rodney before moving forward.
- e. Ron informed the Council that a **Cyber Security** plan is needed for reporting. Amber said that she was waiting to hear back from Jess Bailey at Shepherd before moving forward with a Cyber Security Insurance policy.
- f. Ron reported that there was an inordinate amount of **dog feces** in the parks around town. Ron asked if there was an Ordinance regarding this issue. Dan asked Brad to look and see if there was something already existing addressing this issue.
- g. Ron explained that Gym rentals had dramatically decreased due to the hot weather and no A/C in the Gym. Ron passed out a proposed Gym Rental schedule for the Council to consider.

- h. Ron thanked Steve Harding for replacing the swing chains at the Commons and the Gym playgrounds.
- i. Ron asked about the proposed plan from **Duke** to replace the incandescent **streetlights** with LED lights. The proposal would save money on the streetlight cost and merge all the accounts into one account. There would be no installation charge for Duke to make the changes. Shelly Davers made a motion that the proposal be tabled until Brad had a chance to look at it more closely. Eric Genda made the second.  
Three Yes votes, 0 No votes
- j. The owners of **Linda's Log Cabin** asked the Town to address the water drainage and ponding problem by their restaurant.
- k. Ron explained to the Council that Vernon would soon need an Ordinance addressing "Cross Contamination" in the drinking water. Brad said that he would look into North Vernon's Ordinances to see if they had one that Vernon could "Mirror".
- l. Ron brought up the leak situation at the Riverbend Trailer Park. Leaks have been a consistent problem in the park.

#### V. **Unfinished Business**

- a. No unfinished business at this time.

#### VI. **New Business**

- a. No new business at the time

#### VII. **Claims**

##### A. **Claims**

Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the claims. Eric Genda made the second.  
Two Yes votes, 0 No Votes, 1 Abstention (Davers)

- B. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of June 2022.

#### VIII. **Miscellaneous Business**

- a. No miscellaneous business at this time.

- IX. Shelly Davers made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:58 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 11, 2022, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

**Vernon Town Council**

  
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Eric Genda, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

  
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Jeff Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

  
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Shelly Davers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

**Town of Vernon**

  
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Dan Wright, Mayor

  
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Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer