

**Town of Vernon  
Vernon Gym  
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)  
July 13, 2023**

**Regular Meeting:** The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Wayne Zamora at 7:00 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

**I. Call to Order – Members Present**

Wayne Zamora – Mayor  
John Post – Council Ward 1  
Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2  
Amber Fields – Council Ward 3  
Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer  
Brad Kage – Town Legal Counsel  
Britt Burgmeir—Town Marshall  
Aaron Poole—VVFD Fire Chief

**II. Approval of June 08, 2023, minutes**

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the June 08, 2023, Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber Fields made a motion to approve the June 08, 2023, minutes. Jeff Walker seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

- a. Damon Davers asked about minutes not being posted on website, Clerk Treasurer, Mary Jo Bender apologized and said she would try and get them posted ASAP. Wayne volunteered to e-mail them to anyone requesting copies.
- b. Jan Ferguson was present to appeal any decision or attempt to remove the benches from Rat Row, aka, the Art's Park. She was passionate about their significance as part of Vernon history versus any derogatory meaning that others may read into their creation. Her students studied and worked hard on creating them with the help of Dave Shaw who was also there to support her position as well as Shelly Davers, who voiced her opinion in favor of keeping them in Vernon. Suggested a plaque explaining the significance and labor that went into their creations.

- c. Layne Suhre was present to report on his latest work and projects and has the front room of the gym open to show the progress made the past month. He will finish line painting as time and traffic allows, possibly in the evenings.

#### **IV. Reports from Committees and Officers**

##### **1. Town Mayor – Wayne Zamora**

- a. Wayne has many ideas and is exploring various concepts to move the town forward and attract future business and involvement. He wants to consider creation of a Park Board to further our pursuit of obtaining grant money. He also discussed creating a Riverfront Development Board which would allow for more beverage permits from the Alcohol and Beverage Commission.
- b. Wayne had information from AIM (Accelerate Indiana Municipalities) about a program called Creating Spaces that involves fundraising, crowd funding and matching grants; he would like Jeff to create a committee to explore outdoor spaces.
- c. Wayne will meet with Terry Goodin on August 11, 2023 for the purpose of pursuing future grants through USDA. A new tractor is a definite possibility. Hopefully sell our old one since it wasn't obtained through any grants therefore saving the Town money.

##### **2. Ward 1 Council – John Post**

- a. John stated he is waiting on a proposal from WTH concerning information about their GIS program.
- b. John noted that he would contact Vernon Baptist and ask for a heads-up concerning parking when there is an expected overflow that could affect Gym patrons.

##### **3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker**

- a. Jeff will have final tally of funds raised at the Spring Tonic 5K and walk. Council discussed using funds for refurbishing gym bathrooms.
- b. Jeff discussed the community survey including non-residents. The survey for Vernon residents is close to being ready for distribution, others can be considered later.
- c. Jeff explained about enrolling and using the Work and Learn and Earn Indiana programs to find, fund and promote summer interns and other workforce labor throughout the year.
- d. Jeff called for a work session on August 11, 2023 at 2 pm with SIRPC for work needed on our CDBG for our Wastewater needs. He also noted we need an appointment to the SIRPC board since Dan Wright who is our present appointment is now the State appointed representative. John Post suggested taking a month to gauge community interest and address the issue at the August 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

##### **4. Ward 3 Council – Amber Fields**

##### **5. Clerk Treasurer – Mary Jo Bender**

- a. Suggests expense reports to better track spending and reporting.

**6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage****7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier**

- a. Junk car has been removed; he also noted the neighbor dispute seems to have resolved itself for now as he has had no complaints this past month.

**8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole**

- a. Reminded council of Back-to-School bash on July 29, 2023. Also mentioned that the Department will hold a fundraising golf scramble at St. Anne's golf course on 9/23/2023.

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

- a. Has received some calls about sewer smell being bad, did not find any trouble but is still exploring possibilities and made recommendations to homeowner to alleviate.
- b. New pump for Ripley Street lift station is expected to be installed soon.
- c. Discussed a project involving INDOT and having to move some utility lines from one side of the road to the opposite. The town of Vernon will be reimbursed for this expense.
- d. Ron is very much in favor of hiring M-Power for all of our GIS needs, the Council prefers to wait until we have information from WTH. No action taken at this time.

**V. Unfinished Business**

- a. Next Level Trails Grant – Brad Bender presented a contract amendment that will save money since FPBH will not be doing the land acquisition. Amber made the motion to accept the amended contract. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Brad informed the Council that the present invoices for NVA and FPBH will be reimbursed once paid and then a draw can be made for future payments for services and construction.

- b. Fred Vogel was present requesting clarification on the bathroom issue with the Historical Society. It was finally decided that they will have Portable Units brought in for the event; therefore, the issue is moot.

**VI. New Business**

- A. Introduction of new ordinances and resolutions or any other matters before the Council may be considered.

- a. Brad Kage suggested a first reading of the proposed ordinance #184 about foreign objects in the WW system and the proposal to charge residents for damage. John Post made the motion to accept this as the first reading, Jeff Walker made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- b. Wayne spoke of the initial recommendation about acquiring all of the Nick Maschino property for the town's use and not just an easement for the trail. Would this be a possibility? Various uses were pondered, possibly for RV campsites or



other park related uses such as an outdoor amphitheater. Can we investigate getting an appraisal? Wayne will contact him about attending a meeting.

- c. Wayne reported that JCHS wants to have a Muscata "duck" race where the Commons would be the finish line and wanting to reserve space at the Commons for activities related to this event. Amber noted there are no utilities to support this type of activity so they will need to focus on using the downtown and have the Commons as a meeting ground for race viewing. Amber made the motion to reserve downtown space around the square for this event, Jeff made the second. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

**VII. Claims**

- a. Amber Fields made a motion to approve the June 2023 claims. Jeff Walker seconded.  
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- b. The Clerk Treasurer provided a Fund Report for the month of June 2023.

**VIII. Miscellaneous Business**

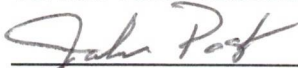
- a. JCHS will have a clean-up day before the race in order to provide more viewing room for participants and visitors. Amber cautioned about the poison hemlock that lines the riverbank and is extremely toxic. Need to inform any volunteers to stay clear of this.
- b. Executive session scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., Brad Kage will advertise.

**IX. Jeff Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m., Amber seconded.**

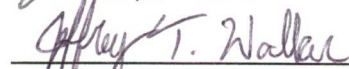
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, August 9, 2023, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.


**Vernon Town Council**



John Post, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

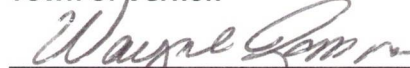


Jeff Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward

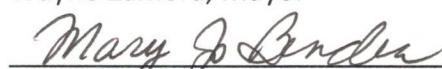


Amber Fields, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward

**Town of Vernon**



Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk Treasurer