

March 4, 2021
Town of Vernon Council Meeting
Location: Vernon Gym

The meeting began at 7:00 PM with the Oath of Office and swearing in of the following positions by Judge Murrielle Bright:

Clerk/Treasurer:	Amber K Fields
Ward 3 Council:	Shelly Davers
Ward 1 Council:	Eric Genda
Mayor:	Dan Wright
Town Marshall:	Britt Burgmeier

Note: New Ward 2 Council member, Jeff Walker, was previously given the Oath and sworn in by Judge Murielle Bright.

Dan Wright recognized the previous Council Members and Clerk Treasurer for their years of service to the Town:

M. Jean Rocky	Clerk/Treasurer	32 years
Danny Stark	Council Ward 2	22 years
John Post	Council Ward 3	16 years

Public Comments:

Damon Davers had a question regarding his water and sewer bill. Clerk will get back with him about that question soon.

Wayne Zamora gave a quarterly up-date on the soccer field preparation at the Vernon Gym. His team will be clearing out the building and turf will be delivered soon. He said that he has good community support for the project with donations (\$18K - \$20K) enough to complete the turf and building of the new field. There are also plans to paint and install a new garage door on the building.

Wayne asked for the Town's support in keeping the field clear of traffic and use for a minimum of 6 months after the field had been seeded. Dan mentioned that the 2021 Sassafras Festival baseball game had already been moved to a different location.

Wayne offered to coordinate the completion of the Wooden Playground project with the help of the JC Kiwanis and JC Young Professionals group headed-up by Anna Walker.

Shelly Davers asked if there were any issues with neighbor's homes around the field. Wayne didn't believe there would be an issue.

Shelly Davers made a motion to make the field 'Off-limits' until September or for approximately 6 months when the field was ready for use. Eric Genda Seconded the motion. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Shelly Davers asked about surveillance at the gym. Ron Hendershot informed the council that the surveillance was not up at this point, but would let the Council know when it was.

More Public Comments:

John Shaw brought the Vernon Boy Scout Troop #541, est. 1994, to the meeting to thank the Town for the use of the Town Hall and its partnership with the Town. Dan Wright reminded everyone of the Troops past helpfulness at Festivals and maintenance of the Town.

John Lightner noted that he had keys to the Gym for League Basketball and would like to know when the Gym will be re-opened for use. The Council will discuss the re-opening of the Gym and let him know.

New Business:

- Fire Protection Agreement with the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department
Shelly Davers made the Motion, Eric Genda made the Second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- JC Area Plan Commission appointment – Eric Genda
Shelly Davers made the Motion, Jeff Walker made the Second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

News:

Dan Wright

Dan participated in a News Conference that out-lined the County-wide Master Trail Project funded through the Indiana State Department of Natural Resources. Dan described how the Town of Vernon, in conjunction with the County, was 1 of 62 applicants in the state. The Jennings County Master Trail Project was one of 18 selected, and will receive approximately \$1,086,100 toward the project. The Muscatatuck County Park will match the grant with \$100,000, Jennings County will match \$100,000, and many local groups, including the Boy Scouts, will match the grant with work "In-Kind".

Dan also reminded everyone of the 100 year celebration of the Muscatatuck County Park on May 17, 2021. The Park was the 4th "State Park" in Indiana, and has since become a Jennings County Park.

Amber Fields

Amber gave an up-date on the NBA Grant and the High School Scholarship award winner from the grant, Raul Ruiz. The NBA gave a "Virtual" awards ceremony for the honored students.

Brit Burgmeier:

Brit reminded everyone that the JC Sheriff's Department will be loosening restrictions from the COVID Pandemic on local traffic stops.

Old Business:

Dan Wright asked Brad Cage to review the Asset Management Plan with the County (GIS) program. Shelly Davers asked to see a copy of the agreement.

Shelly Davers made a motion to table the minutes from the January 2021 meeting for further review at the request of new council member. Eric Genda seconded the motion. Minutes from the February meeting were not available. Shelly agreed to work on the minutes from the February 2021 meeting with Amber.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Shelly Davers made a motion to reinstate Executive Sessions. Eric Genda made the Second. There was discussion on the proper topics for an Executive Session and Brad Kage agreed to investigate. The next Executive Session is scheduled for 6:00 pm on April 1, 2021.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Shelly Davers made a Motion to start a Wastewater Study to follow up on the Water Rate Study with Sherman, Barber & Mulliken. Eric Genda made the Second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

Jessica with Shepherd Insurance training has been moved to the May meeting at 6:30pm.

Shelly Davers:

Shelly asked about the locks and keys to the Town-owned buildings. Ron said that he had collected keys from Jean Rockey. John Post was in attendance and offered his keys to Ron. Ron stated that Danny Stark still has his keys to office and gym.

Shelly asked about Council access to the camera system. At this point, the Council does not have access to the system. Ron stated he has not set the wifi system up yet.

Shelly mentioned that she had copies of the Ordinances and Resolutions and will put them on flash drives for the Council.

Shelly mentioned the Oversight of the (M. Jean Rockey)Treasurer. The State Annual Financial Report was not yet submitted, but due on March 1. Also monthly reports had not been up- loaded into the Gateway System. She also mentioned that the Quickbooks Accounting System had not been logged into since February 10, and misreporting of the 2020 payroll taxes had a cost of \$250.

Shelly Davers made a motion to cut the Treasurer’s February pay in half. Brad Kage said that he would check on the legality and that this was a subject for Executive Session. Jeff Walker wants more time to understand the situation before making that kind of a determination.

Billie asked if the locks should be changed on the Town Post Office Box. Not at this time.

John Post wanted to extend a “Thank you” to the Election workers and make sure they were compensated at \$25 each for their efforts.

Susan Harding
Debbie Mays
Darlene Stark

Damon Davers asked a question about the accuracy and voting on the January Meeting.

Susan Harding asked about the meeting information being posted on the Town Website. Dan said that Rodney Holmes was the individual contracted with and that Amber Fields would get in touch with Rodney about posting the 2021 Meeting dates and times.

Jeff Walker made a motion to adjourn and Shelly Davers made the Second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

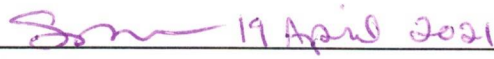
The meeting ended at: 8:30 pm

The next Executive Session will be held at 6:00 pm on April 1, 2021

The next Vernon Town meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on April 1, 2021

Both meetings will be held at the Vernon Gym on Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana.

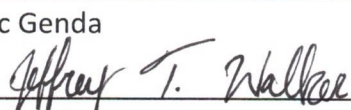
Vernon Town Council



Shelly Davers



Eric Genda



Jeff Walker

Vernon Mayor



Dan Wright