

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
March 3, 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 (Absent)

II. Approval of February 10, 2022, minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the February 10, 2022, Council minutes and recommended approval.

Shelly Davers made a motion to approve the February 10, 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.

Susan Harding

Susan asked about the timing of the Water/Sewer bills. The most recent bill had 38 days and the previous bill had 23 days. Her concern was that the 38-day bill kicked them up over the minimum and a lot higher than normal. She thought that wasn't fair for folks in town who were on a fixed income. She also asked what the procedure was and when the meters were supposed to be read. Dan said that the meters should be read in a window of five days before the 15th and five days after, or from the 10th to the 25th of each month, depending on the weather. Dan agreed that the 38 day reading was not

appropriate. Dan said it would be looked at and mentioned that the new meters would alleviate that problem.

Allison Terrell – ServLine Utilities Protection

Allison Terrell presented the highlights of the ServLine Utilities Leak Protection programs. There are two different programs; both endorsed by AIM and the ILMCT.

1. **ServLine Leak Protection Program** – Covers high water and sewer bills caused by leaks. This program covers anything that goes to the meter from the home (faucets, toilets, etc.) The program covers 1 leak per 12 months, and will cover up to 2 billing cycles, and has a 24 hour service line. This program would be paid by the town, and charged back to the consumer. This program is an “Opt-out” program.
2. **ServLine Protection Plan** – This program is a Homeowner plan customers could opt into individually and billed directly to the Homeowner. Shelly asked about the 10% Partner Royalties. Allison explained the partner royalties were optional for the Town. Royalties are paid every January.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

a. Water System Financing

Dan said that the best program for the water program funding is the National Rural Water program. They do need a couple of things including a copy of the Treasurers bond. Dan asked Amber to email him a copy of the Bond. Secondly, they need a legal opinion stating that the Vernon Town Council is legally responsible for the water system. He has not received a response from the Indiana Bond Bank.

b. Sassafra Festival

Dan said the Sassafra Festival is scheduled for the 23rd and 24th of April 2022, and the Historical Society will be asking permission to close the streets (Pike Street down to Brown and Ripley Streets) at the next meeting. Also, depending on the Weather, there will be a square dance this year, which might mean closing additional streets or have it at the gym.

There will also be two old fashioned baseball games this year with the Indianapolis Blues, the first games against the Vernon Blue & Gold Stockings, second game most likely against the same team or the Brewmen of Brewersville. Games will start at 3:00 PM.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda

a. Intersection of Pike & Ripley Streets

Eric mentioned that the corner of Pike and Ripley Streets by the bridge is dangerous and thinks there should be another Stop sign to avoid accidents. Britt agreed that there was a problem at that intersection. The Council discussed the

issue and decided on a 3-way Stop. Eric Genda made a motion for a 3-Way Stop at the intersection of Pike and Ripley Streets. Shelly Davers made the second. Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

a. Spring Tonic 5K Race

Jeff gave an update on the Springtonic Race. He said that there were 47 views on Facebook, and the Run Sign-Up site was up and running if anyone wanted to sign up for the race. There were also flyers out, but there were no sign-ups yet. Jeff had flyers for anyone to take and pass out. There is even a QR code to sign up through your phone. Jeff thanked Eric and Dan for sponsoring of the race. Jeff is also hopeful for a Silent Auction. He said there were a few people trying to get that together. He had also talked to Amber about the Friends of Historic Vernon or possibly the Fire Department selling food.

b. Cleaning up Town Ordinances

Jeff reminded the Council that he plans to make a motion to repeal 3 of the Town Ordinances, all in the Finance section, specifically; Ordinance numbers 59 (set up in 1973 and no longer receive funds for), 61, and 74 which are specific to the years in which they were created. Also, in 1973 was specific to a one-time Emergency Spending situation. Ordinance number 74 dealt with a transfer of funds to help the Marshall pay for transportation for using his own personal vehicle. The other three ordinances (55, 93 & 105) he would like the Council to look at, deal with previous bonds. Jeff thought it might be confusing to leave those on the website since they deal with outstanding debt that has since been paid off. Jeff would also like the Council to look next month at two ordinances (10 & 11) that deal with “Stray Dogs” and “At-Large Animals”. In 2019 the County passed an Animal Control Ordinance. Jeff felt that the newer ordinance would be a better fit than the 1954 Ordinances passed by the Town of Vernon. He plans to ask the Council to repeal those two Ordinances and replace them with an ordinance that recognizes the County Ordinance, which is much more comprehensive. Ordinance number 49 deals with the number of dogs a property owner can have on their property. He had no recommendations on ordinance number 49. Ordinance number 30 recognizes that the mayor can go into a contract in 1957. He would like the Council to look at that ordinance as well. Dan asked that the “Repealed” Ordinances be kept for History sake.

- c. March 15, 2022, the SERPC has a Fellow named Alesha Rudder organizing a **Broadband Task Force**. The JC EDC and the JC Extension Office have been contacting people who might be interested in joining the Task Force. Residents throughout the County to improve Broadband access. There will be an information meeting on March the 15th at 2:00 PM at the JC Library.



4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

a. Zoom Meeting

Shelly asked Ron to change the name on the Zoom meeting so that it reads “Town of Vernon” rather than “Ron Hendershot”, and provide a link to the recordings.



5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

a. Amber mentioned that there are two cars **parking in the alley** between Brown Street and the Highway almost daily which creates a Fire Hazard. Dan said that we should get a sign up first to give a warning before giving out tickets.

b. Amber asked if the Town could put up a flashing light at the pedestrian crosswalk. Dan said that a flashing light would be part of the Trails Project.

c. Gravel in Alleys

Perceptions Yoga is asking for more gravel behind their building. Traffic from the liquor store is creating ruts in the drive.

6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

a. Brad let Amber know that there would be collection from Kolin MacDonald. The Family is selling a property in North Vernon which has his name is on and debts must be satisfied according to the Title Company. Brad will send the check to Amber

7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier

a. Brit noted that the windows on the front of the old Drugstore building were starting to come out again. Brad said there was a court order regarding that building. The APC is taking bids on Monday night to remedy some of those things.

8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole

9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

a. **Ron** brought back the quotes for adding gutter guards to the gutter quote for the Vernon Gym. OCC was still the lowest price with \$8,955. American Seamless had no quote, and Clint had no quote. The quote was for gutter guards on the Gym only, not the Storage building. Dan asked for a motion to accept the quote and pay from the CEDIT fund. Shelly Davers made a motion to accept the additional quote from OCC for the gutter guards and pay from the CEDIT Fund. Eric Genda made the second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

b. List of Items for the Town Auction - Ron brought the list of items to be sold at auction or through sealed bid. The items were:

1. Military Generator & Trailer
2. 2 Sets of Volleyball poles
3. Old Gym Basketball Back Stops
4. Pick-up Truck Toolbox

Dan asked for Brad to advertise a notice for the sale of the items through a sealed bid. Brad asked for an emailed copy of the list with descriptions.

- c.** Ron updated the Council on the **Basketball back stops**. He has been working with Lee Company. They came last week and installed more braces.
- d.** John Post asked about the lighting behind the Gym. Ron said that he had a conversation with Duke Energy about the lighting outside the Gym. He said he would get the information from Amber about what we pay for lighting, and what the cost would be to add two poles behind the gym to replace the current lighting.

V. Unfinished Business

VI. New Business

VII. Claims

A. Claims

Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the February 2022 claims. Eric Genda made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

A. Donations & Other

a. Vernon Alumni Association Flag

Shelly Davers reminded the Council that the Vernon Alumni Association donated money to the Town for the installation of a flag. Dan asked that it be followed up on. Amber asked if the Alumni Association would be meeting again in May. Dan said "Yes".

- b.** Dan mentioned the **VVFD Chili Supper** last Saturday night and how they intend to have more Chili Supper Fund Raisers in the future.
- c.** Kayla Coleman informed the Council that the street sign on the corner of Pike and Washington Streets had been completely knocked down.

d. Dan mentioned that **Steve Sorenson** (former employee) had passed away. Kayla said that she would be putting a memorial service together for him.

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

Vernon Town Council

Eric Genda, 1st Ward

Jeff Walker

Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward

Shelly Davers

Shelly Davers, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon

Dan Wright

Dan Wright, Mayor

Amber Fields

Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer