

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
March 14 , 2024**

Regular Meeting: The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Mayor Zamora at 6:35 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order - All members present. Wayne Zamora, John Post, Jeff Walker, Amber Fields, Mary Jo Bender, Brad Kage, Britt Burgmeier. Ron Hendershot all present.

II. Approval of February 08, 2024 minutes

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the February 08, 2024 Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber Fields made a motion to approve the February 08, 2024, minutes, Jeff Walker seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Sandy Downs was present to ask about the new houses being built at the corner of Jackson and Poplar. John addressed the issue and said there would be a meeting concerning setbacks being requested. He said it was actually 2 lots. Wayne commented that he was asking the Town of Vernon to possibly gravel the existing alley.

Mary Hoagland from Jennings County Public Library informed the Board that the Library Board approved having Vernon Gym as a satellite location. Was also asking about getting low cost internet through ERate. Possibly hoping for a December opening with storytime to begin in the summer. Mary is very passionate about bringing library services to as many people as possible. WOW bus information was offered as proof of the need for more library services.

Jeff Walker made the motion to approve the satellite location for JCPL at the Vernon Gym, Amber Fields seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Wayne Zamora- The Mayor will have several high schoolers available on Day of Caring to help with projects.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Gravel delivered, Skagg and John Deere should be back by Saturday. Skagg needed quite a bit of work.\$1981.66 is the total bill for all repairs and delivery. John made a motion to approve payment immediately, Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

John was also asking about ways to get a sign/planter to anchor the stop sign Brown/Pike Street.

John made a motion to increase the Clerk Treasurer's bond to USDA recommendations. Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - Spring Tonic 5 K and 1 miler with proceeds going to update inside bathrooms, price being upwards of 89K. Races will start at 9 am, sign ups available day of race or also online registration.

Jeff is seeking information on a lift from the gym floor to the stage in hopes of making the entire gym more accessible.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Day of Caring this Saturday at 9:30 am. SAM.gov website is incredibly difficult to navigate and get the town signed in. Need it for any kind of government grant, will keep working on it. Also need to get Clerk Treasurer bond increased. Mini-split should be installed in the Council room soon. Should look forward to getting the room fixed for the library room. Amber also commented on how the BIG BLOCKS at the Commons are deterring the folks who were tearing up the area at the Commons.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Reports in Folders, Reported a large water leak at Olmstead property, water is turned off now.

F. Brad Kage - Attorney -None

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - Incident reports also in folders.

H. Ron Hendershot – Contract Maintenance - Addressed water leak information, IFA approved, Water Meters delivered on 4/12/24. Scott Dunlap will be here on 3/18/24 at 10 am.

O'mara, Clark Plumbing and H & H Quality H2O. Small crisis with Perry Street lift station, went to high alarm, band aid fixes for the time being. Is working with FPBH on meter pit adjustments and specs for the Trail Project.

Wants reports for the 120 Water and for the Neptune meters.

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Spaghetti Dinner the night before the Spring Tonic.

V. Unfinished Business

a. Next Level Trails Grant

DNR has approved the plans to go to final bid at 10 am on 4/11/2024. Amber Fields motioned to approve the plans going to final bid, Jeff seconded. John Post - no vote. 2 Yes votes, 1 No Vote
Tree removal has to be done by 4/1/2024, bids were requested and only 1 received, Pike's Tree Service needs approved. Jeff motioned to accept bid, Amber seconded, 2 Yes, 1 No vote.
Give County Council and Park Board updates on Trail development as it nears final bid.
Also, handicap parking sign and no parking sign on Pike Street need to be addressed, they were never approved and can be taken down without recourse.

b. Community Foundation Grants, Wayne and Jeff met with the grant writers to present the data from Vernon, final applications due by 4/1/2024.

- c. CDBG Sewer Update - We still have items to get to them before SIRPC can continue.
- d. Infill developments discussed as to requiring a certain type of house in a historic district. John feels like this may have been addressed at APC. Wayne will look further into this with Marie.
- e. Water Meter Software Training - meeting on Monday, will be some updating and training needed. Will need to number ALL of the pits and prospective pits. Information will be very helpful and beneficial, the more information, the better to track water costs.
- f. The Patronocity fundraising platform for the new bathrooms was discussed and explained with the ultimate goal being met and deposits made. Very successful venture and lots of participation by various members of the community and beyond.

VI. New Business

- a. Park Board Ordinance, Vernon Gym, Rat Row, Arts Park, Commons, having a park board will open town up to more support and also funding. Ordinance will be written according to State standards, the Mayor can appoint board members and the town will approve. Ordinance is written up and presented to Council, Jeff hit the high points of the ordinance, budget, terms, members, spending, etc, State Law allows a maximum of \$2000 dollar levy for funding purposes. First Reading for the ordinance proposed by Jeff Walker, Amber Fields seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes Second reading will be at the next meeting.
- b. DORA Ordinance Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area, will need to have a special meeting on Mar 26, 2024 to discuss and hopefully read and adopt said ordinance.
- c. Alley Project, tables and chairs, planters, string lights and a sitting area down the alley between Pike and Montgomery, hoping for \$1300 to add signage to this area. John made a motion to purchase signs for the alley, Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- d. Boys and Girls club, will have to give money back because programs are not going to happen. Over Spring Break, they have activities planned at the Vernon Gym. Wayne is in discussion with them to form a partnership with Vernon and the group. Programs will be more for data collection to see how the services are attended.

VII. Claims

- a. Amber made the motion to approve claims, John Post seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes


VIII. Miscellaneous Business - Street signs that are needed at various locations were discussed and it was decided they needed to be ordered and installed.

IX. Adjournment: Jeff Walker motioned to adjourn at 8:54 pm, Amber Fields seconded.

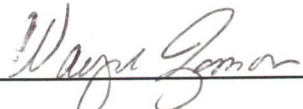
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

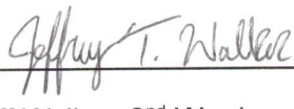
Vernon Town Council



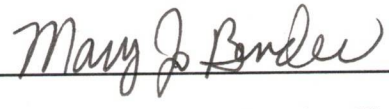
John Post, 1st Ward



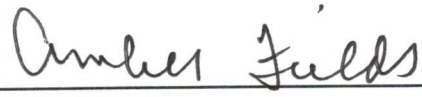
Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward