

**Town of Vernon  
Vernon Gym  
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)  
March 12, 2025**

**Regular Meeting:** The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Mayor Brad Bender at 6:30 PM.

Judge Bright was present to swear in all of the officials of the town of Vernon. Newly appointed Mayor Bradley Bender appointed Britt Burgmeier as temporary Town Marshall and he was also duly sworn in by Judge Bright. Meeting was called to order at 6:44 pm. Post motioned to approve Britt and Walker seconded.

Town Officials and employees present:

**I. Called to order after swearing in at 6:44 p.m.**

**II. Approval of minutes**

Brad asked if there were any comments or corrections to the February 13 , 2025, and special meetings Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber made a motion to approve the February 12, 2025 minutes. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present: Mary Ablanap was present to update the council about the library update and presented the proposal to use their software as our tool for reservations. Calendar would be updated regularly. Amber motioned to approve Library Market as our reservation medium, John seconded the motion. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. Starting end of next week, Wayne Zamora talked about our free WIFI now available in the Vernon Gym. The MHS grant included computers and he has purchased and picked them up, data collection is part of the grant process so we will be trying to integrate this into the system. He brought paper invoices for our information for the Socially Connected Communities Grant. Floor refinishing came in \$20 under budget, he would like to continue as grant manager. Our matching money was met. The bathroom grant is nearing completion, should be a matter of days before final completion. It cost the town very little money. Walker motioned to approve Wayne as grant manager on the pending projects, Amber seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes

**IV. Reports from Committees and Officers**

A. Mayor Brad Bender - Mentioned conflict of interest forms he has signed and noted. John motioned to accept; Amber seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - 33 Poplar has until June to start work, Brad Bender as Mayor can no longer serve on BZA and as Mayor, he needs to make that appointment. SEI Recycling needs an appointment for their board and is looking for an appointment from Vernon or North Vernon. This

should be an elected official. Jeff asked if there is a zoom option for meetings. John will e-mail information about this appointment. Will be sending Skaggs out for maintenance. John Deere will probably not need it. Election went smoothly, paperwork has been sent to the Election office.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - 2 Quick updates, 26th is Spring Tonic Run/Walk, packet pick-up is at VVFD the preceding evening along with the Spaghetti dinner. Hayley Purdue is looking for an internship and discussed the terms of her employment. She is with the University of Chicago. All agreed she would be a good candidate.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Planter that Amber and her father made was damaged but she believes it can be repaired and they are also going to make another.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Asked Britt about removing a junk vehicle.

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - Nothing at this time.

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - Mentioned faulty playground equipment at the Commons that needs repaired. Brad will look into it ASAP.

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Absent, John Post spoke for him and mentioned they are having a breakfast on Saturday, March 16. Also, there are more like 16 hydrants that need to be flushed.

## **V. Unfinished Business**

- a. Library - Updated in comments from Mary earlier in public comments
- b. Gym Floors - Repairs and finishing touches are done and complete.
- c. Trail Grant, Mayor Bender informed the council that O'Mara has asked for more time, substantial completion has been moved to 4/24/2025, completion by 5/23/2025. It is change order #4 and is no cost. All else is on track. Amber motioned to accept timeline change; Jeff seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes. He also presented Pay App #4 for O'Mara and Invoice #4 for Brad Bender. Amber motioned to accept pay apps, Jeff seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes
- d. OCRA WW Grant is in process and nothing new to report.
- e. Park Board - discussed Brad's need to resign and wants to appoint Wayne, Jeff motioned, Amber seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes. There is still a 4th vacancy and will be addressed, also discussed the moving and resetting of the benches.
- f. Soccer building rent abatement was discussed as last year's rent was suspended for 11 months in 2024. John motioned to abate 2025, Amber seconded. 3 yes votes, 0 no votes.

## **VI. New Business**

- a. Town Sign Replacement-Amber got quotes from Imagination Graphics for \$6,500 for the sign and is waiting on a quote for the stonework. She will submit everything when they come in.
- b. Town Marshal appointment was made at the beginning of the meeting.
- c. Ron Hendershot wants to come back as our Town Utilities manager, discussion ensued as to what direction to take concerning this matter. Brad assured the council that he would be an intermediary concerning the outcome. John agreed that we should cut ties with Brian Clark since he is not responding or doing what he is being paid to do. Jeff motioned to agree to Ron returning, John seconded. 2 yes votes, 1 no vote.

**VII. Claims**

a. Amber made a motion to approve the February 2025 claims, Jeff seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

**VIII. Miscellaneous Business**

a. Day of Caring on 4/12/2025, pressure washing the Commons playground, MUTC, Davey Shaw and SAL and other groups have volunteered, dumpster is ordered. Set up a committee to decide which projects will take priority.


**IX. Adjournment** - John motioned to adjourn @7:54 pm, Amber seconded.

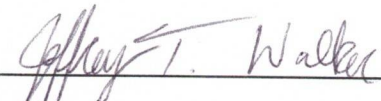
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

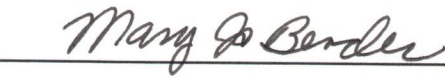
a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, April 10, 2025, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.


**Vernon Town Council**

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

  
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Bradley R. Bender, Mayor

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

  
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Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk

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