

Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
May 5, 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 (*Absent*)
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 April 7, 2022, minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the April 7, 2022, Council minutes and recommended approval.
Jeff Walker made a motion to accept the April 7, 2022, Council minutes. Shelly Davers made the second.
Two 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.

Damon Davers

Damon asked for an update on the Trail Project. Dan said that they were working through the permit process and hoped to be under construction by late summer or fall of 2022. Dan said the starting place of the project will be up to the contractor and will have a public meeting before the start of the project.

Anna Walker

Anna commented on the Trivia Night Program on the 30th, and wanted to let everyone know that she had a great time. She felt that it was a great community building event.

Dan agreed. Amber said that there were approximately 80 people attending and the next Friends of Historic Vernon event would most likely be the town picture in August to replicate the Homecoming event in August 1922.

Jeff Walker

Jeff let the Council know that the Spring Tonic 5K event also went smoothly and he was happy with the participation estimated the profits from the race to be about \$2,200. The numbers were not final, but he will get back to the Council with the final numbers.

John Post

John let the Council know that the County Commissioners have changed their meeting time to 9:30 AM every other Thursday. He thinks they will probably still have Zoom meetings. John also commented on the Madison Railroad. He feels that our community has done a lot for the Railroad, but they don't seem to pay back the favor.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

a. CCMG Project

Dan said the CCMG Paving Project was done. He informed the Council that the CSX Railroad wanted fees and a waiting period of 60 to 90 days for paving the 25 feet on either side of the Railroad crossing and use flaggers. The Railroad was closed that day, but they still insisted. Dan told the Railroad that we would pave up to 25 feet before and after the Railroad since the CCMG funds had to be used within a certain time frame. The excess funding was used on patching spots around town. Dan thought All-Star Paving did a nice job.

b. Sassafras Tea Festival

The festival was a great success this year and made around \$16,000 for the Historical Society, which was a record. Great turnout for the dance and the baseball games. The Friends of Historic Vernon sold popcorn and shirts which totaled \$249.

c. Primary election was Tuesday. Not very many people showed up to vote.

d. Vernon Day of Caring

The Vernon Day of Caring was a great success. There were a lot of people there including the Boy Scout Troop. Dan asked Amber to send the City of North Vernon a Thank you for cleaning the streets before the Sassafras Festival. Dan also said he would like to have a fall Vernon Day of Caring.

Mike Novac of the Indiana Rural Community Assistance Program

Mike gave a report that shows the Town of Vernon is back on track as far as compliance goes after working with Ron. Mike said that he could work with Ron on water tower and storm drain issues as well.

Steve Leatherman of WTH Technology, Inc.

Steve gave a presentation on the history of the WTH Technology, Inc. GIS program, and presented the proposal for the Town of Vernon. Steve said that the 24/7 WTH support services was what set their company apart from the other companies. The access is per computer and not per individual. The program works well with the Pubworks program and Vernon already uses. The two other companies that provide GIS services are Ezerie and Beacon. Dan and Britt both have worked with WTH and Ezerie and agree that the WTH program is more user friendly. Shelly wants to wait until information on the other companies is available before a decision is made.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda – N/A

3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

- a. Financial Oversight** is in order and all docs are posted and reconciliations are done. Funds are up due to the CCMG funding coming in.
- b.** Jeff asked Britt about Michelle asking about the **Animal Control Ordinance**. Jeff said it was based on what the Town already had. We would just need to “Opt-in” to the County’s Ordinance.
- c. County Broadband Task Force**
Jeff asked if anyone had a chance to look at the Broadband information.
- d.** Jeff made a motion to **move the Town meeting** to the second Thursday of the month to help with the financial side of the Towns work. Shelly thought they should wait until Eric was back before a decision is made. The motion was tabled.
- e. Town Ordinances**
Jeff thought that **Ordinance No. 15** regarding the collection of Circus fees should be changed to the Clerk-Treasurers position, rather than the mayor. Also, **Ordinance No. 37** regarding the Vernon Forks Conservancy District. Dan thought it should remain “as is.” **Ordinance No. 9** pertaining to advertising around town and town’s permission regarding advertising on personal property. Dan said it was no longer applicable. **Ordinance No. 147** pertaining to the Town’s election Boards and making the Council positions “At-Large”. Dan said he had checked, and it is possible to change before the next election. The change would have to

be done before the end of the calendar year. Dan would like to move the Election to 3 “At-Large” positions. Dan said it wouldn’t “Amend” the Charter, but just modify the Charter.

4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

- a. Amber informed the Council that the Water CD was cashed on April 19, 2022, and \$11,685.48 was deposited into the Water fund.
- b. Amber let the Council know that she had placed an invitation in the packets of Dan and the Council to attend the IUPUC graduation.

6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

- a. Brad reported that the over-due water bill from the McDonald property had been paid for \$805.
- b. Brad said that he had looked into an Ordinance that would require a landlord to have the water in the landlords name. The Town can currently collect sewer fees from the Landlord, or owner, but not the water fees.

7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier

- a. Britt said that parking in the County lot has been a problem, but Marie Shepherd had been working on that. He also asked if the parking in the alley had been stopped. Jeff and Anna both agreed that for the most part, it has been rectified. The Mexican Restaurant wanted to know if they could park in the alley between their building and Travis Shepherd’s building. Dan said no parking in the alley, but they could park at the end of it behind the buildings.
- b. Britt reported that a Silver Civic had been causing a noise disturbance. Britt thought the Noise Ordinance put into place by the County was recently updated.
- c. Britt said that Ron was helpful in finding a recent runaway.

8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole – N/A

9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

a. Sidewalk in front of the Businesses on Pike Street

Ron said that he was still waiting for quotes regarding the repair of the sidewalks in front of the Businesses on Pike Street.

- b. Ron let the Council know that there was **one bid on the generator and trailer for \$10**. Jeff Walker made a motion to reject the bid on the trailer and generator. Shelly made the second.

Two Yes votes, 0 No votes

Jeff Walker made a motion to **scrap all the items listed**. Shelly Davers made the second.

Two Yes votes, 0 No votes

c. Storing Probations Lawn Mowers

Ron was approached about storing the lawn mower for the probation department in the small storage building beside the Town office. Jeff Walker made a motion to work with Probation to find a place to store their mowers. Shelly Davers made the second.

Two Yes votes, 0 No votes

V. Unfinished Business

A. Emergency Repair Spending Policy

The Emergency Spending policy was signed with the changes made in the April 2022 meeting.

B. New Business

C. Claims

A. Claims

Shelly asked about the extra cost of the guttering. It was explained that 2 x 4's had to be purchased to hang the gutters. Shelly also thought that Wayne Zamora would be paying for the gutters on the storage building. Shelly asked that anyone attending a conference let the Council know before attending the conference. Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the April 2022 claims. Shelly Davers refused to second the motion because Ron Hendershot had not asked Council permission to attend the annual Alliance Rural Water Conference in April. Dan broke the tie by making the second.

Two Yes votes, 1 No vote (Davers)

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

D. Miscellaneous Business

A. Donations & Other


a. The Friends of Historic Vernon

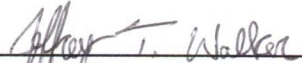
Amber asked the Council to accept the donation of an 8-ft planter to place outside the Gym. The value of the planter is \$550. Jeff Walker made a motion to accept the donation of the 8-ft planter. Shelly Davers made the second.


Two Yes votes, 0 No votes

- E. Jeff Walker made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. Shelly Davers made the second.
2 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

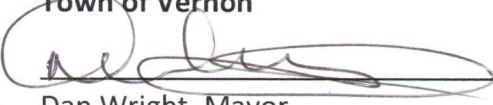
Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, June 2, 2022, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

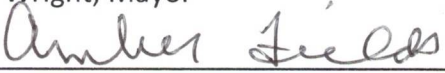
Vernon Town Council


Eric Genda, 1st Ward


Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward


Shelly Davers, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon


Dan Wright, Mayor


Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer