

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
May 08, 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.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order - Present: Mayor-Brad Bender, Clerk Treasurer-Mary Jo Bender, Council- John Post, Amber Fields, Jeff Walker, Attorney-Brad Kage

II. Approval of minutes

Mayor Brad asked if there were any comments or corrections to the April, 2025 Council minutes and recommended approval.

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

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Sandy Downs asked for a Cross Traffic does not stop sign at the corner of Washington and Poplar, Amber made a motion to buy signs for this, Jeff seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No Votes

Anna Walker was present to ask about using the Art Park for a worship and prayer night by Oasis Rest International on June 28,2025. John made a motion to allow this from 8 am until 10 pm, Amber seconded. 2 Yes votes, 1 Abstain

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Mayor Brad Bender - sent information about new restrooms and the new art project to Shepherd Insurance but has not received a price yet. Went to the Commissioners with updates and will meet with County council and then TIF and may pursue funding if possible. Needs to change Park Board meetings to 6 pm commencing on the Monday before the Town Meeting meets.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Working on the alley behind Sandy Downs house, may have to clean out where it has washed out, and then grade some on it. Mentioned the Crosley Bridge rehabilitation which will begin in 2026, feels like this will cut down on traffic through the town, the county will need to contact the VVFD if the ramp will ever have to be closed. John said we were approached by someone wanting to donate a memorial in memory of loved ones. Council will accept a tree donation.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - Conversation related to the soccer parking problem and possibly making it a one-way street going East toward the cemetery. Will look for other options for parking for the soccer participants.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Vernon Alumni gave a \$500 donation and sent a card thanking the town for all the work on the Alumni room. Lou Malcomb donated a map. John motioned to allow the purchase of a \$50 gift card for Steve Harding who has been emptying the dog waste stations. John motioned to approve and Jeff seconded. All in favor.

Insurance check coming on the sign that was hit and also mentioned getting a sign for the Gym and signage to direct people to the back doors. Amber also mentioned that Matt Owens has not paid Peter Ellis for the Design Release and possibly other subs. Brad Kage will send a letter addressing this situation. Remind everyone we are needing a rate study in order to pursue raising sewer rates. Lawyer Excavation was working on Perry Street station today.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - information in the folders

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - nothing at this time

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - absent

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - absent

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Next Level Trail Grants - Liquidated Damages began 4/24/2025, several items are still pending and have not been finished. Have received many good comments, have lots of leftover signposts and more bollards for replacements if needed. Amber thanked Brad for his diligence in keeping them on track. Pay apps for trail were presented, Amber motioned to pay these, Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- b. OCRA - SIRPC pay app presented and was approved in bulk with trail payments.
- c. Gym, Wheelchair Lift will be installed soon, Mayor Bender passed out rules, rates and policies to make everything cohesive and is trying to get it all in writing and policies outlined so everyone will be able to go online and book for themselves. Spoke about having riders on insurance for the bounce houses. Was wondering who to direct any questions that come online? Will set up an e-mail where they can be forwarded to other e-mails. Will try to get some open gym hours set up eventually. Other lighting and signage will be needed to direct traffic to the back of the gym for parking. Will have some cameras.
- d. Spring Tonic Festival Update - 53 people who participated, best ever turnout but do not have any final numbers as of today. Jeff Walker was happy to have the ribbon cutting as part of the race.
- e. Speed Limit Flashing signs, ordered 2 but received 3. Will apply for permits to get them placed. Suggested putting the third one on Washington Street. Suggestion was made to set the limit at 20 to get more attention.

VI. New Business

- a. Recording and Streaming meetings, will get with Ryan Rapine on getting this set up for the town by Jul 1, 2025.
- b. Declaration of Surplus of Water meters, Jeff made a motion to declare them surplus, Amber seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- c. Hailie Purdue will begin intern duties soon through the University of Chicago in policy and planning. The EARN program could be a way to get our maintenance for the summer. Will be reimbursed 50/50 through the State. Could also use this for the gym upkeep and maintenance. Council is willing to pursue this and will open the Portal to accept applicants. Jeff motioned to

open 2 intern positions at \$15 per hour up to 20 hours per week. Amber seconded,
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

- d. Mowing Schedule - Will use interns when available, until then, Lola and Amber have been keeping up with the mowing.

VII. Claims

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

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

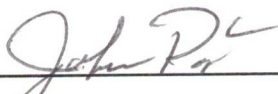
- a. Will call around and get quotes for miscellaneous work still needed that was left undone by Brian Clark. Meters need hooked up and other items left unfinished by him.
- b. Special meeting for pursuing funding options, will put on agenda for next meeting.

IX. Adjournment - John motioned to adjourn @ 7:58 pm, Amber seconded.

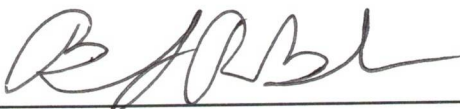
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, June 12, 2025, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

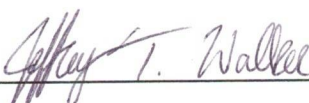
Vernon Town Council




John Post, 1st Ward




Brad Bender, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward