

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
May 14, 2026**

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 Pledge and roll call: Mayor Bender, Amber Fields, John Post, Jeff Walker, Mary Jo Bender and Brad Kage all present. Steven Pennycuff, absent.

II. (CAI - Consent Agenda Items) - Approval of Apr 9, 2026 Minutes and Claims.

A. John Post made the motion, Amber seconded. All in favor.

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present: Marie Shepherd presenting the updated flood plain ordinance for the County.

a. County Ordinance # 2026-2 for the flood plain ordinance, Amber made a motion to accept the updated ordinance, Jeff seconded, all in favor.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Brad Bender - No more to report

B. John Post - was wondering if anyone bought the house at the auction, no - it was already pre-arranged sale to possibly a family member. John asked about getting streetlights that are not working to be fixed. The town owns several of their own and they need fixed, Mayor Bender will talk to Tiger Zamora about fixing them.

C. Jeff Walker - Spring tonic had fewer numbers than last year and less sponsors but still came out in the positive and is hoping for a profit close to \$800. He spoke about some portion of sidewalk on Gaines Street that really needs a repair and then a portion of sidewalk on Pike also. Will try to get a list of spots that need repaired and do them all at once, Jack Rockey has volunteered to help with this.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - BSCC grant money has been submitted and has been approved for reimbursement. Flowers are getting started and will finish in the near future. The planters around the do not enter signs seem to be working to deter motorists from going the wrong way. The sign at the South end needs some repair.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Nothing to report

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - Nothing to report

G. Britt Burgmeier – Marshall - resigned October 2025

I. Steven Pennycuff - Fire Chief - absent

J. Ron Hendershot - absent

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Next Level Trails grant - Waiting on final funding
- b. OCRA Sewer Project - In closeout mode but waiting on parts.
- c. SS4A - Data Gathering Phase
- d. Vernon Moves - May 16, 2026 - Activities all over town for this
- e. Park Board - Still needs one more member - did not meet as there wasn't a quorum.
- f. Summer Intern and Earn Indiana - lined up Alaina Johnson, will coordinate with Jeff to get Earn Indiana on board.
- g. Marshal Truck - Can we sell the truck and put it in the public safety account, discussion ensued about the marshal position and what would be required to outfit the next candidate, or can we eliminate the position entirely? Charter needs to be read and determined if this is a possibility. Jeff made a motion to sell the marshal truck and put proceeds into the public safety account, Amber seconded, 2 yes votes, 1 no vote.
- h. Open Gym Hours - Cut back as it has been determined there is no need, but would like to be able to offer it free of charge if needed, we can look into opening it up during the day if needed.
- i. Fire Territory - Discussion Held and information distributed so now it becomes up to the VVFD to decide if it is something they want to pursue, it will have to go through hearings and votes by township and department if this is ever to become a reality.

VI. New Business

- a. Award Restroom Quotes - \$73,000 to Harmon, \$64,315.58 to Biehle Electric (\$65,295 Biehle quotes less discounts) It may not be possible to get the loan before we have the bonding issue ironed out so we will be able to pay back the General Obligation Bond, Amber believes if we set up a debt service fund to pay it back, it will not be a problem. We may approach them about holding it until we can come up with definite funding. Need to get the financial aspects in order before we award the bid. Tabled
- b. Authorize Loan from German American - tabled
- c. Authorization to proceed with General Obligation Bonds - tabled - Interest is there, we just need more information and target our projects so we know what specific projects we want to use it for. Bond attorneys can be paid from the bond itself.
- d. Adopt Animal Chaining Ordinance - Brad Kage feels like he is the one who would be responsible for bringing the complaint in front of the court. He says it needs to be published if there is a fine attached to the ordinance. Amber made a motion to have the first reading, John seconded and now they will publish in the paper and vote next month. Tracy Eder asked why this is necessary and Amber replied there have been at least 3 cases in town of animals being starved to death while chained up constantly.
- e. Donation from Vernon Alumni Association was acknowledged and discussion ensued about blocking off parking spaces for them next year to make sure they have enough spots.

VII. (CAI - Consent Agenda Items) Claims

- a. Approved under Consent Agenda Items

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

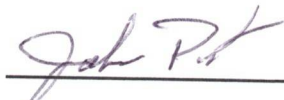
- a. Food Trucks at the Roadhouse did not pan out, will no longer be doing this.
- b. Vernon Moves - many different programs and activities will be happening this Saturday.

IX. Adjournment - Amber motioned to adjourn @ 7:40 pm, Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

X. Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, June 11, 2026, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

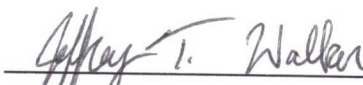
Vernon Town Council



John Post, 1st Ward



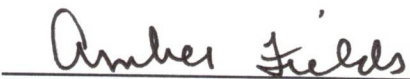
Bradley Bender, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward