

Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
November 9, 2023

Regular Meeting: The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Wayne Zamora at 7:00 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order – All Members Present

Wayne Zamora – Mayor
John Post – Council Ward 1
Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 (Absent)
Amber Fields – Council Ward 3
Mary Jo Bender – Clerk/Treasurer (Absent)
Ron Hendershot – Water/Sewer Operator
Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall
Aaron Poole – VVFD Fire Chief

II. Approval of October 12, 2023, minutes

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the October 12, 2023, Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber Fields made a motion to approve the October 12, 2023, minutes. John Post made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Wayne asked anyone from the public wishing to make a comment to sign in and let the Council know what they wished to comment on.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

1. Town Mayor – Wayne Zamora

- a. Purchase of Property/Next Level Trails** – Wayne discussed the appraisals, meeting with property owners and purchase of property (imminent domain) along the trail and the possible purchase of the Gosman property along the Trail. John Post made a motion to allow Wayne to negotiate for the property up to but not to exceed \$5,000. Amber Fields made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- b. **Next Level Trails** – Wayne said that Jeff held a meeting for those who might show an interest in a Vernon Park Board. Jeff and Wayne were the only attendees. However, Jeff thinks there is a bigger interest.
- c. **Gym Fees** – Wayne has been putting new fee numbers together for the Vernon Gym. Everyone agreed that the rates should be raised because the current fees are not supporting the cost of keeping the Gym open. He also thought that opening the gym for 2 2-hour segments per week for open gym would be a nice feature for the Vernon community. The proposed rate increases are as follows:

\$15/hour to \$25/per hour. (regular hourly gym usage)

12-hour event rental: \$300

18-hour event rental: \$500

Weddings Friday night from 5:00 PM to Saturday, Midnight: \$800

2. **Ward 1 Council – John Post**

- a. John said that the Area Plan Commission voted 7 – 1 to stop the demo of the MacDonald drugstore building. He added that the Indiana Landmarks Association is pursuing the purchase of the property for \$180,000. Also, he added that Colin MacDonald was arrested. John also felt that the Town should be informed if there is any danger found from the building inspection. Brad Kage said that he would speak to Marie Shepherd.
- b. John asked if the Town Truck had been taken in for an oil change, and that the “Check Engine” light was on. Amber said that she would make an appointment with Cross Automotive to check out the vehicle.

c.

3. **Ward 3 Council – Amber Fields**

- a. Amber mentioned that the curbs in front on the town businesses really needs to be addressed.
- b. Amber informed the Council that the DNR had transferred \$150,000+ for the Trails Grant

4. **Clerk/Treasurer – Mary Jo Bender**

5. **Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage**

- a. Brad said that he would bring the 2024 Fire Protection Agreement for the December meeting to reflect an \$8,000 per year agreement amount.

6. **Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier - Nothing to report**

7. **VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole**

8. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. Ron informed the Council that the Sewer Main along Brown Street was cleaned out and smoke tested, and nothing was found. The County Building still has a problem, but it might be with the Fresh air intake of the building.
- b. Ron said that the lid was off on the deodorizer in front of the jail was off and the pump was not functioning properly.
- c. Ron explained to the Council that he was learning a lot working for Dupont Water and would like for the Town of Vernon to share at least half of the cost of his training expenses in the future with Dupont Water.
- d. Ron has been in touch with GWorks, who would like to have access to Frontier Geolocates. They would then be able to transfer the information from Pubworks. It should take about 3 weeks.
- e. Ron asked to have the North Vernon Utility bills emailed to him from Mary Jo each month so that he could compare them with the meter reads for intake and output.

V. Unfinished Business**VI. New Business**

Courthouse Halloween Toilet papering – Wayne expressed that he would like to see Vernon provide and “Sweet Street” or “Trunk-R-Treat” on the night of the Courthouse toilet papering in 2024. He said that Amy Thompson and the Sheriff made the arrangements for the date of the event. He also mentioned that it would not coincide with North Vernon’s Sweet Street program.

VII. Claims**a. Claims**

John Post made a motion to approve the **October 2023 claims**. Amber Fields made the second.

2 Yes votes, 0 No Votes

- b. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of October 2023.

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

- a. It was reported that the Fiber Project running through Vernon would no longer include the Town of Vernon in Fiber Optic internet as planned, as Duke Energy and REMC could not work together to make it happen. Amber mentioned that there were two trees damaged and had to be removed and three huge potholes left from the work and that the cost of repairs should be passed along to the company doing the work. Mary Jo was going to send the invoices to Ron who would contact the company to let them know the amounts.
- b. Wayne said that the Surveys for the SIRPC were coming in and the goal was for 35% of the population.

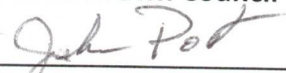
c. Wayne said that he would not be at the January 2024 meeting.

IX. Amber Fields made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. John Post made the second.

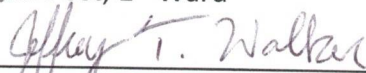
2 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, December 14, 2023, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

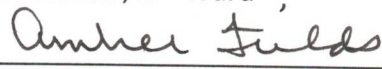
Vernon Town Council



John Post, 1st Ward

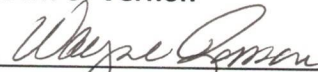


Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon



Wayne Zamora, Mayor

Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk Treasurer