

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
November 13, 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: All members present.

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of minutes

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

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

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present: No one present, comments were made that this was the first time ever for this to happen.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Mayor Brad Bender – Covered in other sections.

B. John Post- Council Ward 1- Tarp house will be on agenda for December, the house by Roadhouse is also in front of the APC, Steve Combest needs to take matters as legal rather than a town issue.

C. Jeff Walker - Council Ward 2 Trunk or treat went very well. Spoke of a horticulturist who has an interest in doing a charette. It is explained as a project run through a school as a plan or some drawings for a plan done by students but this would be done by professionals. Wondered if we have any interest in bringing this to the town, would we really be able to use or even maintain it if we were to take advantage of their proposal. Jeff will explore if it would be a good fit for us.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Quote for doing 3 alleys, by her dad, by Jeanie's and by Britt's, would be about \$4000 per alley. Council will take under advisement.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - do we want G Works? Nothing is in there so is there any point in continuing. Council all agreed to not renew, no information was ever entered into the system and no one knows of any instance where it has been used in the last several years.

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - will not be at the December meeting. He recently became aware that if a town does not have the resources to maintain sidewalks, the liability is also limited. Will send a resolution saying we do not have an obligation to maintain sidewalks as we do not have the resources to take care them

I. Steven Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Representative was present to discuss using the internet for the locks at the Commons restrooms. He had some questions about the lines and whether they were splitting the lines or using a dedicated one. He reported on the two fundraisers and the success of them both. He said they are already working on the fundraisers for next year. Asked about how to go about getting a public notice out and was advised to publish a legal notice in the paper or just post a public notice in 3 different places.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Next Level Trails grant - Final pay application and retainage application so as to get the project closed out to meet the State's deadline of December. O'Mara still has a few items left and the punch list items to be completed. There is an \$18,000 allowance that will not be used and cannot at this time come up with anything else at this time. Pay app #6 \$76,015.71, Pay app #7 for retainage is \$113,987.89 Change order # 7 will balance the final contract amount. Jeff motioned for pay app #6, Amber seconded. Votes 3 yes, 0 No. Amber motioned to approve #7, John seconded, Votes 3 Yes, 0 No. Amber motioned to accept change order #7 for reconciliation to the State. John seconded, 3 yes votes, 0 no votes.
- b. OCRA Sewer Project, Pay app #2 for Lawyer for \$197,554.63 was presented. Jeff motioned to approve; John seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. Amber motioned to approve SIRPC pay app #2, for \$18,486.40. Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- c. Soccer Rental Agreement - 10 years is the duration, no action until this is over.
- d. Park Board Master Plan - Wayne Zamora reporting for Park Board for 5-year plan which will be submitted in the morning. MHS grant, closed out and completed. Spoke about getting the information out to the public about the Vawter Complex, flyers will be mailed and distributed around in various locations. BSCC Grant, furniture is ordered, looking forward to programming and future activities to be implemented. Budget for furniture was \$13,500, price was going to be \$2,300 more than what was budgeted so a request was made for the town to make up the difference in order to facilitate this upgrade. Decision about where to draw the money from, possibly CEDIT or Riverboat. Jeff motioned to approve covering the difference from the Riverboat fund, Amber seconded the motion. 3 yes, 0 no. Wayne discussed having Wednesdays as our open gym and getting volunteers to cover open hours. Trying to get e-gaming stations set up and have the guards set for usage.
- e. Gym Updates - Events, Plans, Maintenance - Tree decorating will be on 12/3/2025 at 6 pm as part of the first open gym activity. Trying to figure out some maintenance issues and keep everything running smoothly.
- f. Railroad Bridge - Boat Ramp & Maintenance Public notice and diagram posted, met with them about keeping disturbances to a minimum. They offered to build a boat ramp and contribute to maintenance money as part of damage control. John was wondering about the activity that took place and was informed it was just part of the archaeological survey for the project.
- g. SS4a Grant - consultant selection- will tell consultant that we do not plan to spend the entire amount, Walker pondered about ADA improvements as part of the scope of this project.

VI. New Business

- a. Wastewater rate Study - Reedy Group - provided a detailed report on the wastewater study with recommendations and projections for the future of the utility. Much discussion about future

charges and steps to take in order to adopt a rate increase. Brad Kage warned of the steps we have to take in order to move forward with an increase. Public hearing, vote or continuation and then adoption. Updates will be ready for the December meeting in order to begin the process of going forward with increases.

- b. Vernon Fundraiser - Rusty Bladen 11/28 Would like to have more participation and ticket sales.
- c. Marshall truck and equipment - Truck and equipment are full blown police issue and are wondering about liability if in the hands of a non-official police person. Would it be more prudent to sell to another department and could we do this legally? Brad Kage will check the statute concerning this to see if we will be allowed to sell it.
- d. Kendall Tree Clearing - Damage Claim \$11,966.71...the town is in contact with the insurance company, previous person quit the company but we have now made contact with the person who took over.
- e. Right of Way Ordinance – John Post made a motion to consider on first reading, Amber seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes Amber Fields motioned to adopt the RW ordinance, Jeff Walker seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
- f. Jeff Walker motioned to consider salary ordinance on first reading, John Post seconded. Amber motioned to adopt salary ordinance and Jeff seconded, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. Amber Fields suggested that we pay Brad for gym keeping duties, John Post motioned to pay Brad Bender for gym keeper duties, Amber seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

VII. Claims

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

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

- a. High School Intern Update - still doing good work.
- b. High School BB Game attendance to accept check from Muscataduck race.

- IX. **Adjournment** - Jeff Walker motioned to adjourn @ 8:32 pm, John seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, December 11, 2025, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

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