

**Town of Vernon  
Vernon Gym  
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)  
October 12, 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 7:14 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

**I. Call to Order**

Wayne Zamora – Mayor  
John Post – Council Ward 1  
Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2  
Amber Fields – Council Ward 3  
Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer  
Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall  
Aaron Poole – VVFD Fire Chief - Absent  
Ron Hendershot – Contract Maintenance

**II. Approval of September 14, 2023, minutes**

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the September 14, 2023, council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber made a motion to approve the September 14, 2023, minutes. Jeff Walker seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

No comments from the public.

**IV. Reports from Committees and Officers**

**1. Town Mayor – Wayne Zamora**

a. Wayne discussed the County and Park funds being appropriated for the matching money for the trail project, it appears that they will be in 2 separate funds and will draw as needed.

**2. Ward 1 Council - John Post**

a. John asked why the tarp was not being used at some events at the gym and who was in charge of seeing that it is put down for events. This is under Trish's domain as she is the one

who oversees the gym. This led to a discussion of fees and the idea of renting party rooms out instead of having everything on the stage floor.

**3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker**

- a. Jeff discussed buying signs that display the speed of vehicles entering Vernon, he will explore this possibility with INDOT in hopes of ending the rollovers around the curve. There ensued a discussion about lowering the speed limit around town.
- b. He informed the board of the survey concerning wastewater and water concerns that is being distributed via different sources, Facebook, Website, hard copies and even door to door canvassing if needed. The more information we can give to SIRPC concerning the problems in the town, the more it will enhance the procurement of the CBDG.
- c. Jeff wants to set a date for forming a Park Board, there will be a community meeting for anyone interested on 10/26/23 at 6 pm.

**4. Ward 3 Council – Amber Fields**

- a. Amber gave information on the budget for 2024 and made the motion for the adoption of the budget as presented. John seconded

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

**5. Clerk Treasurer – Mary Jo Bender – Reports are in Folders**

- a. Presented information from Brad Bender about the trail and the appraisers questioning having the sellers sign a W-9, gave the board some information on a countywide floodplain administrator that will be required by the State.

**6. Town Legal Counsel - Brad Kage**

7. **Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier** – Britt had call information and responded to a complaint concerning an abandoned vehicle in front of the gym. He will tag it and give 72 hours' notice before having it towed.

**8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole – Absent**

9. **Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot** See his information under Unfinished Business.

**V. Unfinished Business**

- a. Ron Hendershot refuses to sign his contract as written indicating liability issues. Amber made the motion to rehire him as the certified water operator, he will have a job description and be an employee at will, not to exceed 50 hours per month. Jeff seconded the motion.  
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- b. Much discussion about the Pubworks and WTH and Empower groups and finding what works best for the Town at the most reasonable cost. After more information from Ron, Jeff

made a motion to accept the G-Works proposal up to \$8,000 for all the mapping and set - up fees. Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No Votes

- c. Lead Inventory is to be required by next year, Amber made a motion to accept their quote contingent on completion before the timeline expires. Jeff seconded the motion.  
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
- d. Indiana Landmarks update, they have committed \$25,000 for purchase and \$180,000 for renovating the Odd Fellows building on the corner of Pike and Highway 3. John Post was insistent that the project move forward if this was to be the case and not languish as in years past when promises were made to improve this structure. The APC will make their decision at the November meeting in regards to the Landmarks proposal.
  - a. The Eclipse celebration should include closing off the Town square on April 8, 2024 in anticipation of the crowd expected. Different entities are working on a countywide schedule.
  - a. Still working on the Creating Places Grant and Crowdfunding promotion. DORA, Designated Outdoor Recreation Area was discussed and mentioned as a benefit to the Town.
  - b. Budget was Adopted.

#### **VI. New Business**

- a. Wayne will be hosting an AIM event, Accelerate Indiana Municipalities, at Los Alamos on November 2, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. There will be mayors from other communities and our new State Representative, Alex Zimmerman in attendance.
- b. The Town does not have any Holiday plans for this year but is hoping to come up with a schedule of activities for next year.

#### **VII. Claims**

- a. Amber made a motion to approve the **September, 2023 claims**, Jeff seconded.  
  
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- b. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of September, 2023.

#### **VIII. Miscellaneous Business**

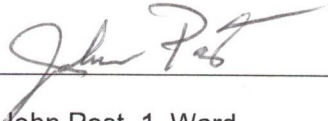
- a. Day of Caring on Oct 14, 2023, a dumpster for use by Town residents will be at the gym.
- b. The Ghost Walk sponsored by the Jennings County Historical Society will be October 20/21.

**IX.** Jeff Walker made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:34 pm. Amber seconded.

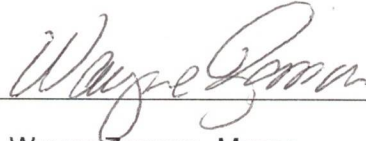
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, November 9, 2023, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

**Vernon Town Council**

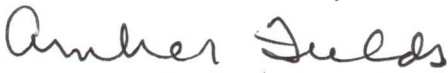


John Post, 1<sup>st</sup> Ward

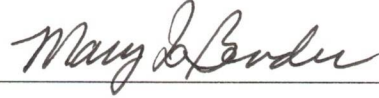


Wayne Zamora, Mayor

Jeff Walker, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward



Amber Fields, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk