

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
October 10, 2024**

Regular Meeting: The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Wayne at 6:30 PM. Executive held immediately preceding the regular meeting.

I. Call to Order

- a. Town Officials and employees present: All council members, clerk and Mayor present. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance as always.

II. Approval of September 12, 2024 minutes

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the September 12, 2024 Council minutes and recommended approval.

Jeff made a motion to approve the September 12, 2024, minutes. Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

- a. Steve Graham was present to talk about United Way and leave donation cards, he explained many of the programs that United Way is involved in. Swimming programs, CASA help, Tax Preparation, Senior Citizens meals, Food Pantry and Homeless Shelter. All programs that have been helped by United Way.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Mayor Wayne Zamora - Trunk or Treat coming up and in coordination with the toilet papering of the courthouse, Friday, October 25th from 5-7.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 -Updates on properties turned into the APC, a couple on hold and another has had a permit issued, another going to show cause.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 -T-Mobile Grant application- will find out in about 90 days. Also applied for a Subaru grant and will be decided by 12/1/2024.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Nothing to report.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Reports are in folders.

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - Addresses easement issue in Unfinished Business

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - calls are in folders

H. Brian Clark– Contract Maintenance - Amber

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Spaghetti Dinner on Trunk or Treat, and will have a cocoa and cookies with Santa sometime in December. Wayne suggested they coordinate with dates that have things happening at the same time. He spoke of more LOIT funding, 30-40K, also presented the bill for the lighting for the new truck. May try to make the VVFD a district, is checking on that and the benefit would be astronomical in terms of money received. Discussion as to how this would affect their current funding.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. 2025 Budget Form 4 Approval - Tonight is the time to vote to accept the resolution to adopt the budget. Amber made the motion to accept the budget, Jeff seconded.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
Wayne was questioning how long and how much the new houses will contribute to our overall tax base. There are limits as to what can be collected, having no industry hurts our tax base.
- b. Sewer Ordinance 192-2024, John made a motion to suspend 1st reading, Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. Jeff Walker made the motion to adopt Ordinance 192-2024. Amber seconded the motion. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- c. Next Level Trails Grant Updates- hurdle was crossed and Amber Fields motioned to accept the INDOT agreement, John Post seconded the motion. 3 Yes, 0 No votes, Brad Kage reported the easement agreement has been signed by Nick Maschino who also had questions about putting a culvert on his property. John Roberson asked for the pipe to be extended so there could be more of a yard since his was taken up by the trail. John Post met with Sherri Echinaw who said they would move a pole on her property. A guy wire is moved where the paving was completed. Much discussion ensued as to a telephone pole in her yard vs a different location. Brad Bender informed John that the pole in her yard will not be moved. John Post questioned if we need ordinances to address some of the issues that will arrive with the building of the trail. Parking, bathrooms, trash removal, etc. There will be many options to discuss.
- d. Park Board Committee Report-No official updates as meeting will be after the Town meeting. Matt was questioning about new signs for the Town, will get insurance for the one damaged. We will check on the ownership of the section where the sign was destroyed. Davey Shaw is recommended for Park Board. Amber Fields made a motion to put Davey Shaw on the Park Board, Jeff seconded the motion. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes
- e. Arts Midwest Grant - Mikey Brown Project-He will attend the Park Board meeting on Oct 14, 2024 at 10 am. The public is invited to hear his ideas.
- f. OCRA Building Social Communities Grant-Wayne announced that we got the OCRA grant for Building Socially Connected Communities- handed out information to Council members. He discussed the money the town was spending and also allowing MHS money (bringing internet to the building), Infrastructure within the building, Computers to purchase, among other items. Wayne elaborated on the budget and explained how all the figures were reached and a possible timeline.
- g. MHS Grant-Friends of Vernon actually awarded the grant but are giving it as a matching fund to achieve our monetary match. Wayne was congratulated for all his hard work in achieving these grants.

VI. New Business

- a. NLT Pay App #2 Amber motioned to approve the 2nd pay app, Jeff seconded 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- b. Wastewater Project 3 Agreements, FPBH, SIRPC and Brad Bender. John motioned to accept all three agreements; Amber seconded.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. Bids will open in February and then 60 days to decide. Permit needs to be in place before beginning.

VII. Claims

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

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business


- a. Amber gave a report from Brian Clark, hydrants were a topic, John Post questioned about our deficiencies and how they were being corrected.

IX. Adjournment - Jeff motioned to adjourn @7:48 pm, Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, November 14, 2024, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

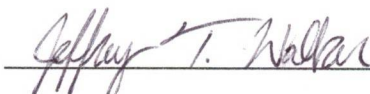
Vernon Town Council



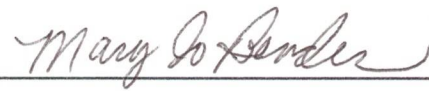
John Post, 1st Ward



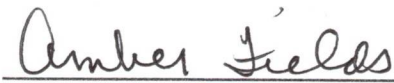
Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward