

September 3, 2020 Minutes of the Council meeting for September.

Meeting called to order at 7 Pm by Mayor Dan Wright.

Dan asked the council if there were any other changes to the amended 7-6-2020 minutes. John made a motion to pass these minutes with a second by Danny Stark with all in favor. Next Dan asked for a motion on the September minutes, John also made a motion to accept the minutes with a second by Danny Stark. All signed and given to the clerk treasurer.

The Mayor asked for public comments.

Wayne Zamora came to the meeting to speak for the Muscatatuck Soccer Club. He also brought Cory Stevens the athletic director for Jennings County High School. He would like to propose two projects to the Town of Vernon. One is the organization would like to partner with the Town for the Long Term Lease use of the playground at the school property, and for the team to practice and host games in the fall and the spring. For the use of the field they would keep the grounds mowed and clean. The second proposal would be to have a long term partnership for access and use of the storage building at the gym to use for training and storage of their equipment. In return for this the organization would put in a new floor in the building paint interior and exterior for the team to use. Wayne feels the school yard was put here for a purpose, for children to play on. He would like to see it utilized for this purpose. With the games it would bring in people to the Town and see what Vernon has to offer. He would like to bring it back to a school involved environment.

Shelly asked if they were going to pay for the improvements or was the Town going to. Mr. Zamora said the organization would install a fence, soccer goals, and steps: restroom facilities and a walking path around the field at a later date for discussion with the town. He would be open to working it out as we go. Danny Stark thought it was a good idea, he needs to know how long he has to get the gray building cleaned out. Discussion on when they would want to start, the date of the first of January was decided.

Drywall, wall and floor repairs are needed in the building. The Town would also need time to move our equipment to the old firehouse building for storage. Danny asked for 6 months to clean out the building. Brad said that we only need to give 30 day notice to the people who have things stored in the building since we do not have a lease on any of them. Discussion on when they would want to start, the date of January 1, 2021 agreed with Mr. Zamora and the Town Council.

Wayne said the Seymour Soccer Association has a similar agreement with the City of Seymour, Brad suggested he get a copy of this agreement so he could look over it.

He wanted the Council to know that he did not want to completely control the playground he wanted everyone to use it and enjoy it. He would have a listing of the games when the times draws nearer.

When Wayne was through speaking and answering questions, John made a motion to table this request until next month's meeting to give everyone time to think about this, the motion was given a second by Shelly with all in favor. They asked Wayne go come back next month's meeting.

Kayla Coleman had some questions about the upcoming election, and deadlines for filing for the upcoming election. She wanted to know about running for a position or at large or by position. Right now we run by position. If it is changed and we have to go through the State for that and we do not want anything to upset the old Charter the Town still goes by. You would need to file for the election in February and the election would be the 1st Monday in March. A form can be picked up at the Clerk Treasurer's office during office hours.

Dan had a couple thing to take care of. First the contract for annual maintenance with Boyce/Keystone is due. the cost is \$2390.00 annually and the cost would be split 50/50 between the water and the sewer departments. Shelly made a motion to pass this request with a second by Danny Stark with all in favor.

Next is the budget, it is to be looked over by the council tonight and adoption will be next month on October 1st. Jean just want everyone aware that we need to use 1/2 of our budget by June 1 and the remainder in the last 6 months to make sure we don't have to cut anything and hopefully get a little more each year.

Dan Wright has word of a DNR grant for tree planting, it is a 50/50 match. Dan thinks with as many trees that we have had to take down this would be a good idea. He is asking the permission of the council for 2000 match for new trees. Applications are due by February 25, 2021. Danny Stark made a motion to approve with a second by Shelly with all in favor.

Dan has the policies Shelly has been working on. They are as follows: Deadly or Non Deadly Force

Oversight Segregation CT Duties

Credit Card Policy

Internal Controls Training and
Precertification

Sexual Harassment and Abuse

Training

No questions, John made a motion to pass 4 of the 5 with a second by Danny Stark with all in favor.

The only question John had was the credit card policy, about prosecution. Brad said it would fall under criminal law; it could be added, but he didn't think it was necessary.

Concerning sexual harassment training with the insurance carrier John thinks we need to table this until next month. John feels by doing this in January with the election being in March and with the possibility of new people coming in it would need to be done all over again. Shelly will check with Jess and report back next meeting. John made a motion to table until next month with a second by Danny Stark.

Danny Stark reported that Ron came to the gym to measure for the basketball goals. Dan Wright responded to this telling him that the colors would be royal blue and white. The original colors at the Vernon School. Dan thinks the goals will be up by the first of October and as for the floor they do not have a schedule for it as of yet. Dan also said the old goals when taken down were antiques, so they suggested hanging one high on the stage and giving the Vernon History group one to hang in the museum room. Danny Stark thought the one on the stage would be vandalized, but Dan Wright said they would hang it up high enough that it would be ok.

Shelly asked about the house on 22 E Brown Street where the grass is as high, lots of debris around the house, the front porch is piled up, the old cars have been moved to the back yard, and the trees in the front yard are hanging over the sidewalk. Also the trash on the porch is so bad she doesn't see how they could get in and out.

Discussion on this matter with Brad and John saying it would need to be reported to the APC. Shelly offered to file a complaint on behalf of the Town. Dan gave her the go ahead to file the complaint. Brad told her to talk to the director Marie Shepherd. Danny Stark made a motion to have Shelly file a complaint for The Town on this property to the APC with a second by John.

Next Shelly reported on QuickBooks. Singing Jean's praises. Last month she didn't think she could do it, but this month she did. Today we ran our 1st batch of checks. And Jean agreed we are getting there. Peggy came up to help us run our first batch of checks and agrees everything was coming together. Shelly is hopefully that we will be able to work out the bugs and run official reports by October 1.

Shelly would like to see the office open to the public again. Shelly made a motion to open the office on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 3 to 5 PM for the public this was given a second by John. Jean will get it posted.

Concerning the web site: Shelly referred to a recent email from Dan Wright about the progress on getting Town email addresses. Dan said he would get the email addresses assigned as wards not individuals. He said he would get this done next week. Dan said he had not been sending him the minutes to Mr. Holmes, but he would start sending them to him. We need to post more Town information on the web site. Dan suggested that information could be funneled through him or Ron Hendershot.

Shelly feels that the Town information such as the Spike & Rail closing and a new restaurant is coming in needs to be posted.

Concerning the Spike and Rail, a new restaurant is coming soon to this location, the lease was signed last week.

Shelly asked John about the garage at 190 S Perry Street if there were any updates from the APC. John said a letter has been sent but he has not responded.

Shelly asked Brad about the McDonald building, the owner did not show up for the hearing. He was ordered to clean up the back area of clutter, debris and the red truck. If he does not, the APC have said that they will have it done. He has 30 days from 8/18/2020.

Concerning the Sandy Downs request, has she come back in or talked to anyone? No one has spoken to her. The property has been cleaned up.

Shelly asked Brad about the dog owners in Town, did he notify them. The answer is no, Jean forgot to get the addresses to him, she will take care of this.

Brad will send the clerk the Judgement on the amended amount on the water/sewer bill for Kolin McDonald.

Jean has 6 people who have not made a payment on the water and sewer accounts over the last 5-6 months. Letters and notices have been sent out several times and no contact has been made. The council agreed that they need to be shut off. Jean and Ron will take care of this. 2 accounts were 2 months behind when the COVID-19 shutdown started. It is OK to shut off the delinquent accounts.

John has been looking over the ordinances and wants to know why there are so many salary ordinances. The answer is we have to do a salary ordinance every year. Dan suggested we retire all the old one to get them off the books. Shelly suggested we retire the old ones

Ron reported he is still working on pub works on the water system. There was an issue with the software that has now been fixed. Concerning the budget, if we need to use the half of the budget by June, Ron explained there is a section in pub works where he can tract expenditures and run reports. He thinks it is a good idea to keep records in Pub Works as well as Quick Books, Shelly agreed.

The tree cutting is finished and most of the cleanup is also done. If anyone knows anyone who needs the wood just let him know. Dan Stark suggested Calvin Goodpasture has a big space he is trying to fill in and he might be able to take some of the big stuff out there. He is going to put some of the bigger wood chips around some of the trees. He was told to be careful because the wood chips could draw termites and kill the tree. Concerning the large pieces of some of the trees if they are not removed within the next 2 to 4 weeks Ron will contact Pike Tree Service to see if they can remove them. He stated there might be a cost for removal. Ron asked if anyone needed any of the stump sawdust.

Ron had a question for Jean on setting up an account for the new firehouse as he has had the new meter installed. Dan Wright said that we would need to track the volume. Dan and Brad discussed that it might be an accounting question on how to offset the billing for this account. We may need to set something up with SBM. Maybe it should be entered in Ron's software s metered not billed. Brad also noted that we will need to put into our annual fire agreement.

Quote for the rear gym door Kinney Glass 4850.00 and Harmon Construction \$4700.00 solid steel doors with 2 panic bars. Discussion: Shelly thinks the double doors at the back would look better. Ron feels that once we get the gym floor and the new goals up we need to make sure the building is secure. Danny Stark is concerned with the cost, the cost cannot be taken out of the gym because the gym fund

is too low. Dan Wright knows we need to watch cost but we also need a good secure door at the gym. Shelly made a motion to purchase the door from Harmons for \$4700.00 to replace the double door at the SE corner and get a quote to replace single door on the East side of the gym if this quote is 2,250 or less this was given a second by John. If it is more bring the new quote to the next meeting. The council agreed to take the money from the Cedit Fund.

Ron reported the broken window at the firehouse could be repair for 125.00 by Kinney Glass. Dan said a maintenance issue as this we should set up a policy that anything up to 500 could go ahead and be fixed and over that the Clerk treasurer and or the Council would need to be notified. Shelly will draw up a policy: immediate repairs and maintenance items up to \$500.00 per month. Money for the broken window will come out of the Lit/Loit/PS money.

The water meter for the new firehouse is in and operational. It is a 2 inch standard read meter and the cost is 785.00. Discussion with Dan Wright asked Ron to check on smaller size for the old firehouse the Town will occupy. He asked him to check costs for 5/8th's vs 1 inch. Placing a meter at the building and an outside outlet Dan suggested a 2" bypass valve with a 1" in meter to allow for options in the future.

Ron suggested that everyone needs to be thinking of just what we want to do to the building. Dan wants one of the bays fixed for a meeting room and can be used by SBOA when they come to audit. Jean would like the bathrooms redone and access to them. Ron did state that the bathrooms will have to be ADA compliant Ron will put equipment from the gray building in one area and a shop for tools etc. in another. Ron suggested moving the furnace and putting in new central air. So it won't be so noisy in the office and the meeting room. Shelly would like to know the capacity of the areas in case we had an extra large crowd. Dan Wright would like to have a community room in one of the spaces. These are all just suggestions.

Eric thinks the hallway we are suggesting would not work because right now the fire truck goes from the back to the front of the bay by the office. Ron explained it would not start until the 2nd or 3rd bay.

Eric also thanked Jean for the cost on the water for the pools.

Eric said the furnace is in good shape and the air conditioner in the office is new.

Britt is concerned that the Lit/PS money is going to be used for these projects. Shelly explained that we have a list of things that need to be done now, not future plans. Britt thinks the building is suitable for big events, but in the past the large bay has been rented out to the community. Dan Wright did suggest setting up an office for the Marshal.

A chlorine study is being worked on with Will Spencer with North Vernon. NV put flushing plugs at the entrance of the Park where the meter is coming to Vernon. The cost of these is 2300.00 each. We need several of these one at the end of Gaines street and 2 in Indiana Hills where the line is a dead end. Dan suggested Ron start setting a budget on the needs of the water and maybe they can be included in the money we are going for on the meters. Ron stated we are not in compliance throughout the entire water system areas. This will help us maintain compliance. They are starting a water rate study today.

Discussion on future needs for mixers in the water tower. Currently holding enough water at level of 4-5 feet. Concern that if we have a main break between us and North Vernon we will not have enough water in the tower to meet our needs, We need to find a median level for the water tower that meets our needs for high or low. Dan Wright discussed water tower size is set to meet psi for accommodate our ISO rating for fire protection.

Ron contacted Shaun at Sherman Barber and Mulliken about the water rate study.

Lawyer Excavating reported a bad pump in Indian Hills, they had to replace it.

Concerning the sidewalk on Pike Street and the ramp going into the county parking lot. O'mara gave a bid to do the curbs and the ramp and the sidewalk for \$21900.00 and Harmon's gave a bid for curbs sidewalks and no ramp for \$15400.00. Ron talked to Matt Sporleder about taking the ramp out. Matt told Ron to draw up a request from the Town to remove the ramp and get it to him and he will present it to the County. John made a motion to take the ramp out with a second by Danny Stark. Ron will take the request to Matt.

Dan Wright would like to ask the council one more request. He would like to see the alley on Pike Street closed to vehicle traffic and only be used for walking. He suggested closing it from the sidewalk to the back corner of the buildings. This would be the alley from Pike to Montgomery Street. The alley from Brown to the county parking lot and the Alley from Montgomery street by Shepherd insurance would remain open to the county parking lot. John made a motion to close the alley to vehicle traffic East end of East/West alley between Pike and Montgomery to the North/South alley between Brown and Jackson, this motion was given a second by Danny Stark.

Brad requested the names of the dog owners and addresses and the ordinance #49 pertaining to only 2 dogs per household. Jean will get these to hm.

Britt had nothing to report except for the usual cemetery traffic violations.

Eric thanked for the water rate figures. he asked the council for a key to the water tower. He also asked Brad for a liability form/contract/waiver to be used for filling up pools next year. The fire station is 70% done. Hopefully he will turn the keys over to the Town on the old building by November 1st.

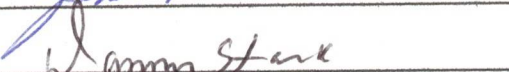
Nothing more to discuss Shelly Davers made a motion to adjourn with a second by Danny Stark.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes passed at October 1, meeting.


_____ Dan Wright, Mayor

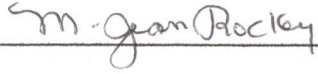

_____ John Post, Council


_____ Danny Stark, Council



Shelly Davers

Prepared by:



M. Jean Rockey, Clerk Treasurer