

Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
September 8, 2022

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

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order – All Members Present

Dan Wright – Mayor
Eric Genda – Council Ward 1
Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2
Shelly Davers – Council Ward 3
Amber Fields – Clerk/Treasurer
Ron Hendershot – Maintenance/Works Manager
Britt Burgmeier – *Absent*
Aaron Poole – *Absent*

II. Approval of August 11, 2022, minutes

Dan asked if there were any comments or corrections to the September 8, 2022, Council minutes and recommended approval.

Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the August 11, 2022, minutes but to reflect that the technology meeting he went to said SIRPC. Shelly Davers made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

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

John Post reported that he spoke to the North Vernon Postmaster about the new rule of mail without PO Box numbers being sent back. The North Vernon Postmaster told John that no mail would be sent back, and the notice was not an official notice. John also noted that the Post Office window had not been open during the hours it was supposed to be open.

John reported that the County is looking to purchase the health care facility on Norris Avenue to make more room for the prosecutor's office. Apparently, Hospice is moving out of the facility.

John also asked if anyone had contacted any other Internet services for the Town like Cinergy Metronet or SEI Data.

Dr. Wayne Zamora of the Muscatatuck Soccer Club gave an update on the field. The company that volunteered the services has backed out, so the Club will be spending the \$18,000 it will take to kill the current greenery, re-seed and straw the field. Wayne also said that the Club would like to put up a fence around the field to keep people from driving on the field and doing “donuts.” Wayne said that the Columbus Soccer club put up a similar fence, but he would bring back the details to the Council for their approval before a fence was installed. Wayne thought the field would be closed until spring or summer before it was open and ready to be played on again.

Wayne also thanked the Council for the new roof on the soccer building. He asked the Council’s approval to spray foam insulation and install heat to the building at the Club’s expense from funds raised.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

1. Town Mayor – Dan Wright

- a. Dan asked the Council for a motion to approve the Town paying for the Vernon Mural Project brochure. Jeff Walker made a motion for the Town to pay up to \$1,000 toward the Vernon Mural Project Brochure. Eric Genda made the second.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

- b. Dan said that the Trail Project was moving along. Greg Martin will be working with the surveying company so as not to intrude on personal property but expand the trail.

2. Ward 1 Council – Eric Genda

- a. Eric said that the Gym oversight looked good. Gym rents have slowed due to the hot weather and no A/C in the Gym. Shelly asked Eric if he was looking at the Gym paperwork and cross checking. Shelly also thought the Gym rates should be posted on the website and in the Gym.
- b. Eric asked about bringing contractors into the Gym to re-do the bathrooms and kitchen areas, to get a good number on what it would cost to renovate the Gym. Dan said that OCRA was now going to fund facilities, so that might be an option. Also, next year the State will be doing Readi2 Grants for facilities.

3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker

a. Financial Oversight

Jeff said that the Financial Oversight looked good and nothing new to report.

- b. Review Town of Vernon Ordinances** Jeff said that he will be bringing traffic flow Ordinances to the next Council meeting, looking specifically at the following Ordinances; 22, 51, 52, 68, 71, 81, 82, 124, 128, and 135. Jeff thought three new ordinances would cover the traffic flow ordinances currently in place.

Jeff asked about the skateboarding ordinance and thought that a total ban in town might be too much. No one agreed. The consensus was that an ordinance to stop ATV's from driving on the school yard might be prudent. Also, there was interest in passing a possible ordinance to stop large semitrucks from driving through town. Brad offered to draft an ordinance on the semitrucks.

Jeff said nothing new to report on the financial oversight. Jeff and Amber met this past month to discuss the website. The next step will be to move the website and emails over to the in.gov technology program. **Vernon-in.gov** is the recommendation for the new site. Jeff made a motion to retroactively purchase a GODaddy program for a year, due to a miscommunication. The emails will cost \$5 per month, per account, with a two-factor authentication.

Jeff discussed the state opioid settlement. The settlement for Vernon was very small and barely made the cut off. Any future funds will be housed at the County level. Dan asked that the Council pool the money for Vernon with the hospital and bring it back to the next Council meeting for a vote.

4. Ward 3 Council – Shelly Davers

- a.** Shelly made a motion to go back to the Council signing each claim or voucher. The motion died for lack of a second.
- b.** Shelly questioned why the changes to the website had not been made. Amber said they would be made the following month.

5. Clerk Treasurer – Amber Fields

- a.** Amber told the Council that the application for the Cyber Security Insurance had been filled out and submitted, but she had not heard back from Shepherd as to the price of the program.
- b.** Amber reiterated the 2023 Budget proposal with minor changes and told the Council that the hearing for the 2023 Budget would be on the 22nd of September at 6:00 PM at the Vernon Gym.
- c.** Amber informed the Council that the second half of the ARP money had been received and the balance in that fund was now over \$70,000.
- d.** Amber let the Council know that the VVFD had sent out information for their program so they could have all the information to allow them into a building

within a reasonable amount of time after the situation at McCrory's Jewelry store.

6. Town Legal Counsel – Brad Kage

7. Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier

8. VVFD Fire Chief – Aaron Poole

9. Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot

- a. Ron brought up the Duke LED Streetlight Program again and said that there were 10 lights out all over town. John Post said that he had reported two lights and got confirmations that they had been replaced. Damon Davers asked that the streetlight across the street from his house be turned down. Jeff brought up the safety issue at the Gym again because there is so little lighting. Shelly thought a motion detector light would be beneficial at the Gym. The Council thought they might want to re-visit the LED lighting program from Duke again at another meeting.
- b. Ron informed the Council that he had spoken to O'Mara about getting the Headwall fixed a truck had run into on Washington Street. Dan thought Ron should ask Britt to write something up for the Insurance company.
- c. Ron also informed the Council that he had accepted a job with Dupont Water to as their Superintendent. Dupont gave Ron a preliminary certification to run their system.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Jeff made a motion to pass the Animal Care and Control Ordinance by Title only. Eric made the second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

VI. New Business

- a. Jeff brought a sample Ordinance on Broadband initiative in Communities. He informed the Council that Jerry Shepherd had agreed to be the contact person for the County.
- b. Wayne Zamora requested that the Council approve the Muscatatuck Soccer Club to renovate the soccer field, renovate the inside of the building with insulation and heat, and install a fence around the field. Shelly asked for dates and boundaries for the work if the field was going to be closed for a lengthy amount of time. Eric also asked Wayne to come back with an itinerary on the work. Eric made a motion to start the two projects inside the building and the field upgrades with Wayne bringing a progress report back to the Council each month. The parameters discussed on the

field work included having the field available by the 4th weekend in April for the Sassafras festival. Members noted that Wayne might need a variance on the height and set back of the fence. Shelly made the second
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Jeff made a motion to donate up to 10,000 gallons of water per month to the Soccer Club for watering the field, to be revisited each month. Eric made the second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

VII. Claims

a. Claims

Eric Genda made a motion to approve the August 2022 claims. Jeff Walker made the second.

Three Yes votes, 0 No Votes

b. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of August 2022.

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

a. Shelly Davers made a motion to allow Dan to write a letter on behalf of the Town of Vernon to the North Vernon Postmaster opposing the new rule on having a Post Office Box number on every piece of mail. Jeff Walker made the second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

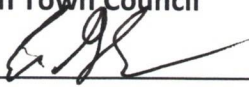
IX. Jeff Walker made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Shelly Davers made the second.
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Budget Hearing: The 2023 Vernon Town Budget Hearing will be Thursday, September 22, 2022, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The hearing will begin at 6:00 PM.

Next Executive Session: The next Vernon Town Executive Session will be Thursday, September 22, 2022, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, at 6:15 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, October 13, 2022, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.

Vernon Town Council



Eric Genda, 1st Ward

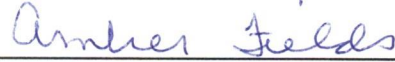


Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward

Shelly Davers, 3rd Ward

Town of Vernon

Dan Wright, Mayor



Amber Fields, Clerk Treasurer