

**Town of Vernon  
Vernon Gym  
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)  
September 14, 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 7:00 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 Marshal Absent

Aaron Poole – VVFD Fire Chief - Late

Ron Hendershot – Contract Maintenance -

**II. Approval of August 9, 2023, minutes**

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the August 9, 2023, Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber made a motion to approve the August 9, 2023, minutes. Jeff Walker seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Matt Robinson was present to plead his case for saving the old drugstore building and discussion ensued about possible ways for saving the structure. Wayne has a possible buyer interested in visiting and possibly purchasing the building. John Post discussed the many times they have dealt with this problem over the years and insisted there must be a plan for going forward if it is to be spared.

**IV. Reports from Committees and Officers**

**1. Town Mayor – Wayne Zamora**

- a. Much of his discussion was already focused on the drugstore building.
- b. Met with the governor's representative, and talked about needing READY money and how challenging it is to compete for this money. Needs to make more money available to the smaller communities like ours. Also, spoke about the Creating Places grant campaign. John reiterated their concerns and maybe ways to get more county money.

**2. Ward 1 Council – John Post**

- a. Asked Wayne if he wanted to brand our complex, Amber wanted to keep the Vernon Gym named as such. Jeff Walker motioned to name the Vawter Recreational Complex, John seconded, 3 yes, 0 no
- b. Stop signs have been fixed.

**3. Ward 2 Council – Jeff Walker**

- a. Park Board timeline, post on FB, Website and Kiosk, Vernon Commons, Vawter Complex and Art's Park, by December have it formed if all ducks in a row. This will open up funding and give more authority to the town in management. Towns can levy a small tax, approximately \$2,300 per year total gained through this levy. Brad Bender suggested moving ASAP! Also waivers for party affiliations. 4 members needed.
- b. CDBG grant application with SIRPC spearheading the effort, has information from them on the scope, budget and requirements. Special meeting with SIRPC – Date: Friday, 9/29 @ 12:15 pm , Also will have Executive Session @ 12 Noon preceding the Special Meeting. Brad Kage will advertise and send notices to post.
- c. Reached out to Ball State about creating a downtown plan for a more cohesive downtown area.

**Ward 3 Council – Amber Fields**

- a. Spoke on adopting a budget at the next meeting, will help coordinate this.
- b. Can we have a fall day of caring, get a dumpster for Oct 14, 2023.
- c. Vernon is already a Historic District, the map may need to be adjusted for buildings that are gone. John discussed what measures we need to take if we want APC to enforce our ordinances. Brad noted all the measures need to be taken to establish these measures. Language for these will be pulled from other towns and communities that already have established these restrictions.
- d. Updated on Pike's Tree Service and which trees they will be removing. Jeff asked about another one he thought was bad.

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

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

- a. Most of Brad's comments relate to discussions already initiated by other council members.

7. **Town Marshall – Britt Burgmeier –** No Issues

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

9. **Town Public Works Manager – Ron Hendershot**

- a. Jetted Jackson Street (Cathy Vawter sewer backed up) and found lots of roots in the sewer lines, asked if they can do more in and around the town? Has been no charge in the past. Need a maintenance plan.
- b. Need a lead service plan inventory, and an asset management program inventory. Quotes ranged from \$5,500 to \$22,000...need to make a decision. Jeff suggested taking a vote on these issues at the special meeting on the 29th.

#### **V. Unfinished Business**

a. Brad Bender updated on the Trails Grant, quarterly report has been filed, will do partial permits by next week, appraisals are complete..they were very low, discussed setting up a minimum offer, should be done in executive session. Received invoice and \$100 discount per property for being late. Wayne invited Brad to attend the next Park Board Meeting to explain more on the Next Level Trails Grant. Explained about the funding and reimbursements. Wayne asked about the issue regarding the purchasing and Brad Kage suggested having in person meetings with the property owners. Wayne explained easements vs fee simple.

b. More on the duck race was discussed, 4000 ducks sold, he also discussed the homeless couple who have been living there, they are camping on town property. Discussion ensued as to a solution. We believe they are trespassing, Brad Kage said we can evict them.

- c. Probation would like the bay we have cleaned for them and are going to rent for \$150 per month if their board agrees.
- d. Jeff wants to investigate the idea of a sign telling your speed coming around the curve.
- e. Aaron will spray out the shelterhouse in preparation for the duck race.
- f. Wayne wants ideas on preserving the riverbank, maybe Joe Robb will give some ideas.

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

#### **VII. Claims**

a. Amber made a motion to approve the **August 2023 claims**, Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

b. The Clerk Treasurer provided a **Fund Report** for the month of August 2023.

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

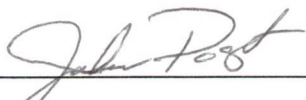
a. None/Previously discussed

**IX.** Jeff Walker made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM. Amber Fields made the second.

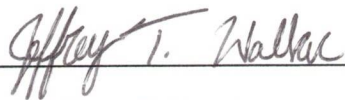
3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.


**Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, October 12, 2023, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 7:00 PM.


**Vernon Town Council**


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

  
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Wayne Zamora, Mayor

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

  
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Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk

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

  
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