

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
September 12 , 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 Zamora at 6:30 PM.

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order - Members present: Mayor Wayne Zamora, Amber Fields, John Post, Jeff Walker, Mary Jo Bender, Britt Burgmeier, Brad Kage. Fire Chief Pennycuff was absent.

II. Approval of August 08, 2024 minutes

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the August 08, 2024 Council minutes and recommended approval.

Jeff Walker made a motion to approve the August 08, 2024, minutes, Amber Fields seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Steele Myers-Open house on Saturday, September 14, 2024 from 12-2, is requesting the tree on Poplar Street to be removed. Wayne believes Duke is responsible for the lines and they didn't do anything the last time they went through. Pike Tree service said it was not a problem, so it should be up to Steele himself to have it removed. The town has no problem if he wants to remove it himself. John motioned to let him remove the tree, Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.

Mary with Jennings County Public Library came to update the library progress. She has moved forward to have internet service installed and the Town will not be responsible for any costs. She wants a survey completed before opening to get an idea of what will be needed. Butler Stott Crowe will be the branch name. Unofficially we have the MHS grant and will be announced in October. Internet access for those who do not have home computers or others who will need to use the services. Procedures about setting up Right of Way issues were addressed. Everyone is looking forward to the opening and the advantages the library will bring to the town.

Teia Gray is asking for permission to remove the Oak Tree in front of the Log Cabin and is willing to donate more trees to plant elsewhere. Discussion ensued as to who was responsible for damage. John motioned to allow the removal of the tree in lieu of 2-3 donated trees and Amber seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. She also asked about resurfacing the public parking lot, was informed it belonged to the county and they are agreeable after speaking with the county and having letters of support from town merchants. It will be completed when Indiana Landmarks finishes with their project. She discussed a bit about her opening and different aspects of the new restaurant.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Mayor Zamora - Library project is really on track, everything seems to be going smoothly, met with Amy Thompson about Trunk or Treat on October 25th, shut down Brown Street between Pike and Perry. John motioned to close Brown Street between Pike and Perry from 4:30 pm to 10 pm, Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes. Wayne also spoke about the County's willingness to improve the parking lot, Teia and Perceptions are all on board to possibly have a monthly event and are willing to fund such events.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Sherry Echtenaw called about the sidewalk in front of her house, the old tea room. She was told it is up to the landowner to take care of their own property. Not going to change any ordinance we have now.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - Jeff reached out to Wayne Stidham to redo the quote for the Gym bathrooms to be more in line with current standards. Amber asked to get a quote for only one. Wayne said we need to be careful about our budgeting and especially for soft costs. Jeff was wanting to get closer to the total cost...other concerns were other costs such as lifts, ada compatibility and engineering and architect costs. Wayne is getting quotes for a lift, and needs to add approximately 10 percent for soft costs. Jeff will add this to his T Mobile grant request. Wants the town to commit to the engineering and professional costs. Amber motioned to cover the soft costs of the T-Mobile grant, John seconded, 3 Yes votes 0 No votes

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Suggested we may be able to spend approximately \$20,000 more from our general fund. Amber ordered 4 more Trash can lids and suggested we should buy 2 more trash cans for the town. Suggestion was made to close the playground for 48 hours after any chemical spraying.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Reports in Folders-Mentioned SIRPC open House on Nov 7, 2024 at 5 pm.

F. Brad Kage - Attorney -

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall -

H. Brian Clark – Contract Maintenance - not in attendance but sent information stating that all samples and IDEM reports are on track and LED identification should be finished by next week. Another pump needed installed in Indian Hills and was done by O'Mara.

I. Steven Pennycuff - Fire Chief - asked to borrow the town tractor to spread some stone, also discussed 3 plaques to be engraved, design is already in place.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Nest Level Trails Grant - asked for a deduct for paving all at once but will have a \$13,500 change order for an extended wall along Pike Street. Jeff motioned to approve change order; Amber seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes He also mentioned about getting a permit for the pedestrian blinkers. Town will be responsible for the batteries. Brad Kage has sent the papers for the easement from remediation. Amber motioned to approve the trail payments and Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes and 0 No votes. County Park Board and County Council have both agreed to their payouts for the matching money. \$150,000 and \$101,000. The County Council will draw up an interlocal agreement for release of funds. Will invoice both entities for receiving the money. He discussed a few of the changes and things that will take some of the allowances built into the budget. Discussed a situation where the fiber optic that was recently installed had been improperly installed and had also gone through a storm sewer. Randy Frye with SEI Data

is going to make it all right without any cost to the trail funds or the contractor. Another reason for a Right of Way ordinance.

- b. Park Board Committee - Met Monday at 10 am, 1st recommendation is to rename Rat Row to the Arts and History Park, 2nd is to move the 5 benches around in a circular pattern in the northeast corner with a plaque explaining their purpose and origin. Jeff motioned to approve the name change, Amber seconded, will have to amend the ordinance that named it originally, 3 Yes votes 0 No votes. Discussed adding signs for the parks to their next agenda. Wayne was concerned that he could never get in touch with the previously mentioned park board member replacement and suggested instead to ask Davey Shaw to be added. Park Board is going through property assets, has reached out to Mikey Brown for information but is concerned about his design for the Arts Midwest Grant and will request safety standards and will find out more about his plan. Brad Bender spoke with Brad Morris and they are ready to begin the construction on the fence.
- c. OCRA Wastewater Grant- Town received this grant, further paperwork to begin the process. Brad Bender volunteered to coordinate this project and lead the way in getting it started.

VI. New Business

- a. Zoning Request to have 30 N Montgomery rezoned back to residential, Wayne would prefer to keep it commercial but understands the owner's need to be able to sell or rent the property, John recommended rezoning, Amber seconded. 2 Yes votes, 1 abstain.
- b. BSCC grant, believes the scope was maybe not entirely understood. Nuts and Bolts is to have space for the Alumni memorabilia and gathering, Dave Shaw is new president of the Alumni and will definitely get input on more uses for the room it is in now. Part of the grant would cover a rec room; he has also been talking with Trish about scheduling and also to get netting across the stage. It is a 50/50 match which can also use funds approved for renovation. Nothing specific was mentioned about what was wanted. Grant was a huge undertaking, stage, lounge, HVAC and other amenities.
- c. Requesting to change the hours to one day a week, 1-5:30 John motioned to allow change of hours, Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes.
- d. Amended salary ordinance, John motioned to consider to amend the ordinance on first reading, Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes 0 No votes, Jeff motioned to amend the salary ordinance, John seconded. 2 Yes votes, 1 abstain.
- e. Sewer ordinance discussed as to keep in line with the SBOA guidelines, we need to take the waste tracker off. Will advertise at a public hearing for amended ordinance to begin at 6:30. Letters sent to all residents outside of corporate limits.
- f. Right of Way ordinance should be discussed and adopted to prevent companies from doing work improperly and the Town having no recourse. Will discuss more at later meetings.

VII. Claims

- a. Amber made a motion to approve claims, Jeff seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

- a. **Creative Convergence conference** We have so much on our plate right at this moment that it is too much to take on and such short notice that the council and Mayor agreed this is not something we would like to approve at this time.

- b. Brad Bender requested to close Pike Street from Ripley to Brown Street on October 18-19 for the Ghost Walk. Jeff Walker made the motion to approve this request, Amber seconded. 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

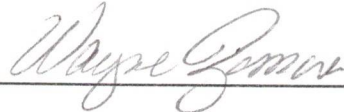
IX. Adjournment: Jeff motioned to adjourn meeting at 8:57 pm, Amber seconded, 3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, October 10, 2024, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin immediately after the hearing for the sewer ordinance.

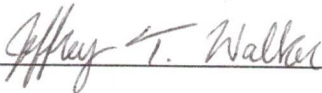
Vernon Town Council




John Post, 1st Ward




Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward