

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (6:30 PM)
September 11, 2025**

Public Hearing for 2026 Budget was held immediately preceding the meeting. Amber presented the copy of the advertisement for a total of 148,000. The mayor asked for comments from the public, there were none, the hearing was closed.

Regular Meeting: The Town of Vernon Council meeting at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282, was called to order by Mayor Brad Bender at 6:30 PM.

Town Officials and employees present: All present but for Pennycuff and Burgmeier

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of minutes

Brad asked if there were any comments or corrections to the August 14, 2025 Council minutes and recommended approval.

John Post made a motion to approve the August, 2025, minutes. Jeff Walker seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

III. Petitions or comments by the members of the public present: No one present, comments were made that this was the first time ever for this to happen.

Steve Combest was present to speak about a dispute involving the driveway on his property that was purchased by another resident. He is also concerned about water that is now becoming a problem. Brad Kage advised that it is a legal matter and needs to be pursued in court, but is not a town matter. It started as a dispute between other neighbors and has now involved him.

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

A. Mayor Brad Bender - Spoke about the possibility of selling Vernon's utilities. Is still in contact with prospective buyers.

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - New form for APC will have complainants name on the form, hoping to cut down on frivolous complaints.

C. Jeff Walker - Council Ward 2 - Toilet papering and Trunk or Treat will coincide with the Spaghetti dinner on October 24th so made a motion to close Brown Street from Pike to Posey, Amber seconded. All in favor. Jeff will have materials to pass out in anticipation of the trunk or treat.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 - Amber spoke about someone who can spread gravel and rake the grass from the alleys around the town. She will contact him about a price for some of our alleys. We still have a pile of gravel from a few years ago.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer -

F. Brad Kage - Attorney -

G. Britt Burgmeier - Not Applicable, resigned position

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - Spaghetti dinner and touch a truck event - October 24th, November 1st, craft and flea market, December 19th Cocoa and cookies with Santa - via John Post.

V. Unfinished Business

- a. Next Level Trails grant - Has pricing but not a timeline but has reminded Boswell that it needs completed by Oct 1, 2025.
- b. OCRA Sewer Project - Board needs to accept the pay application #1 for the Sewer project. Will then be paid when SIRPC sends it through for approval. John Post was asking about some pumps that were bought from a locality several years ago. Amber made a motion to approve the pay application #1 from Lawyers, Jeff seconded. All in favor.
- c. Muscataduck Race - Workday/Event Day - Work Day this Saturday with others from the committee for the race on September 27th, will have it mowed before the actual event.
- d. New Town Office - Moved everything in today, 9/11/2025...had several people stop in and are very happy with the result.
- e. Gym Rates and Rules - Spoke about getting new rules in place to solidify requirements and specifications for rental of gym space. Fields made a motion to accept new rules and rates, Post seconded. All in favor.
- f. Ss\$4A Grant - Have information in hand and are waiting on a response.
- g. Marshall Appointment - Mayor Bender suggested appointing Britt Burgmeier still since he owns property in Vernon but legal counsel and council members disagree and believe they need to reside in the town. All were in agreement that the position does not need to be filled and will be up for election in 2027.
- h. Park Board Report - No meeting was held, Hailie Purdue, the summer intern came to speak about all the work she did on the Master Plan and presented her draft the day before her final day. Everyone is very happy with the work she has done and the council presented her with a parting gift and expressed their appreciation in full!

VI. New Business

- a. Budget - Covered
- b. Scout Rental Agreement - Verbal agreement but need a written agreement.
- c. Soccer Rental Agreement - Brad Kage advised there is a written agreement and he will look for it. Neither the current clerk treasurer nor the council are aware of where they may be. Brad Kage will look for the agreements and the council can decide where to go from there.
- d. Lawyer Pay App Approval
- e. Credit Card Application, Needs Vote - John Post made a motion to approve the application for a credit card not to exceed \$3,000, the administrators being the Mayor, the Clerk Treasurer and one council member. Amber seconded. All in favor.
- f. Trail Connector Resolution - Jeff presented the resolution about the pedestrian and bicyclist connector. John motioned to accept the resolution; Amber seconded. All in favor.
- g. Art Park Maintenance - Amber presented the problem we face every year on chemicals to spray the path at the Art Park, she suggested that we let it go back to grass or spend more money and make a more permanent solution. Walker said it is a part of the master plan of the parks department. Post suggested we need to take a closer look at what we allow people to install or do in Vernon, an audience member asked if we could do away with some of the projects that get presented but then prove too costly to maintain...be more selective!

VII. Claims

- a. Amber made a motion to approve the August 2025 claims, Jeff seconded the motion.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

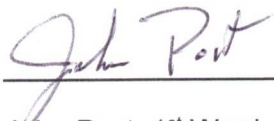
- a. Garage Generator - No action as of yet.
- b. High School Intern - Khalden is our intern, and is doing a great job!
- c. A tree clearing company demolished a grinder pump, claim has been filed.
- d. Mayor Bender asked for Pike Street to be closed from Brown to Ripley the weekend of the Ghost Walk, October 17 and 18. Amber Fields motioned to accept this proposal, Jeff Walker seconded. All in favor.

IX. Adjournment - Jeff motioned to adjourn @ 7:36 pm, Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, October 9, 2025, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM.

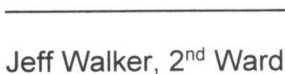
Vernon Town Council



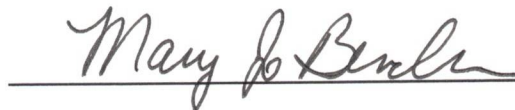
John Post, 1st Ward



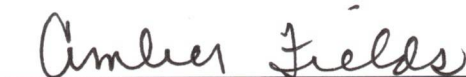
Bradley R Bender, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward