

**Town of Vernon
Vernon Gym
Regular Meeting (7:00 PM)
May 09, 2024**

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

Town Officials and employees present:

I. Call to Order - All members present excepting Britt Burgmeier.

II. Approval of April 11, 2024 minutes

Wayne asked if there were any comments or corrections to the April 11, 2024 Council minutes and recommended approval.

Amber made a motion to approve the April 11, 2024, minutes. Jeff seconded.

2 Yes votes, 0 No votes

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

Fred Vogel presented the information on the Heartland Classic Cruisers Car Show, to be held on August 10th around the square and down Brown Street as needed. They are doing just one big show this year. Jeff made the motion to approve the closure of Pike Street in front of the Courthouse and Brown to Montgomery if needed. Amber seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

IV. Reports from Committees and Officers

B. John Post – Council Ward 1 - Wondering if anyone has talked to Greg Sekula about the electric service, he wondered what kind of agreement we had about using the electric when fixing up the Oddfellows building. Will contact him about using the electric until they get their own service installed. Wayne suggested giving him until July 1st to continue using the town connection. Amber Fields made a motion to allow use until July 1, 2024, Jeff seconded.

3 yes votes, 0 No votes

The pollinator garden is not thriving, is too late for burning, suggestion is to mow it down. Suggest to have a split rail fence put around the perimeter. Wayne and Brad B will inspect it to see how much is needed and come up with a plan.

John wondered if Our Heritage pays anything for the use of the Gym for the Blue/Grey ball. We feel there should be more reciprocation from them for their use of the Towns facilities.

C. Jeff Walker – Council Ward 2 - Reported on the Spring Tonic run and walk. More participation this year and approximately \$3,000 will be deposited from this event to the Friends of Vernon.

D. Amber Fields – Council Ward 3 – Suggested making the wards a town vote to encompass all instead of just the 3 wards, will need to check the Charter. Can we make all the wards for the whole town? Will need to look at charter and see what it specifies.

Solar Powered radar trackers to set on each end of the town, range is 1000 to 15000 dollars. Thinks we could get them from the public safety fund. Set on the edges of town by speed limit signs. Will need to check with INDOT. John motioned to approve purchase of radar signs and installation; Amber seconded.

3 yes votes, 0 No votes

Working with SIRPC on Grant application, needs USDA loan for matching money. All the information is in except for Ron's information.

Need to put together a contract for Travis Shepherd for the rental, wants to trade shelving for the use of the space for a year. Layne started yesterday, got a new battery for the truck, Steve Harding installed.

E. Mary Jo Bender – Clerk Treasurer - Reports in Folders

F. Brad Kage - Attorney - June 3rd is first hearing, Brad Bender will be there as a witness, Wayne will also attend and could also possibly be a witness.

G. Britt Burgmeier – Town Marshall - Absent

H. Ron Hendershot – Contract Maintenance - New meters are in, installation will begin next week, with first installations beginning in Indian Hills, timeline is approximately 2-3 weeks for completion. Training is set for 9:30 am on May 23. Hoping to change it to earlier so everyone can attend.

Direct any questions back to Ron about the meters.

Look at rate ordinance for tap fees, our rate is \$850. It costs us much more than that for installation...approximately 12-15 hundred will be our cost. It will take an ordinance to change any fees. Brad explained the process for getting new rates in effect. The town needs to look into the new houses being built and see if the old services are still viable or if new connections will be needed.

Brad needs existing ordinance and will need to set up a public hearing. Wants to look into them all at once and get a vote in July.

The town needs to contact the county and state permitting departments about the damage done to streets and trees when putting in fiber optic cables. Wayne will contact the county and need to find out the state information. Ron spoke about the trouble with G-Works and is not happy with their program.

I. Jeff Pennycuff - Fire Chief - absent

V. Unfinished Business See above information

- a. Next Level Trails Grant - The PreCon was held and also a well-attended groundbreaking, preliminary plans are to begin by May 27, 2024, from the Commons on up through town. Contract amendment has been approved.
- b. CDBG Updates – Public hearing was held immediately prior to commencement of Town meeting. There were no issues from the public either for or against the proposal.
- c. Water Meter Updates – Ron addressed the meter installation and said it was all going well.
- d. Community Foundation Grants - 1.1 million is now the amount the town is looking for from the

- foundation, is looking like the bathrooms at the gym will now be the first project to go forward with, will need to look at how, when and who will be responsible for locking, keeping open, etc.
- e. Layne has begun working and will be working on several projects during his tenure.

VI. New Business

- a. Pikes Tree Service - Amber motioned to accept the proposal of \$700 from Pike's Tree Service to trim the overhanging branches in various locations that are posing a danger from falling limbs. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

- b. CCMG - Opens July 1st and closes July 31st, will need to look forward to finding 25% match for projects. Projects and the scope are usually paving but will do curbs and gutters if it is related to that specific project. Brad Bender suggested waiting until late Fall to look into CCMG grants as there is a lot going on at this time and will need to explore financing on the town's part.

VII. Claims

- a. The Clerk Treasurer will present claims for the Council's approval.
- b. The Clerk Treasurer will provide a Fund report for the month of April, 2024. Amber Fields motioned to approve the claims as presented. Jeff seconded.

3 Yes votes, 0 No votes

VIII. Miscellaneous Business

- a. The success of the Sassafras Festival was commented on and the mayor and council spoke of their continued support of Our Heritage and the festival. It is good for Vernon and brings many people to the town.

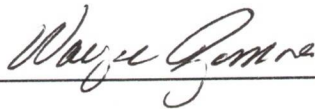
IX. Adjournment

a. **Next Regular Meeting:** The next Regular Vernon Town Council Meeting will be Thursday, June 13, 2024, at the Vernon Gym, 29 Washington Street, Vernon, Indiana 47282. The Regular meeting will begin at 6:30 PM. Meeting for additional appropriations will be held at 6:20 pm immediately preceding the Town Council meeting.

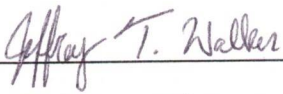
Vernon Town Council



John Post, 1st Ward



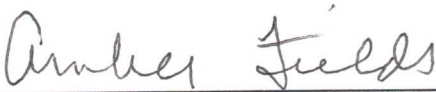
Wayne Zamora, Mayor



Jeff Walker, 2nd Ward



Attest: Mary Jo Bender, Clerk



Amber Fields, 3rd Ward