NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER
JULY 27, 2015

The meeting was opened by Mayor Harold Campbell with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk-Treasurer Gerkin completed roll call:
Mayor- Harold N. Campbell
Clerk-Treasurer- R Shawn Gerkin
Attorney- John Roche
Councilmembers-Brian Hatfield (absent)
Matthew Hurley
Michael Ochs
Connie Rayburn
David Shaw
Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry
Chief of Police- James Webster
Fire Chief- Rick McGill (absent)
Park Director- Chad Speer
Water Superintendent- Mike Hess (absent)
Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught
Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Randall Marshall, Barbara King, Warren Alexander, Mary Alexander, Ellen Mull, Tony Mull, Cheryl Trisler, Adam Davis, Kyla Canary, Brenda Habenicht, Marie Shepherd, Rita Euers, and Barbara McCoy.

Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 13, 2015 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

Brenda Habenicht, representing the Chamber of Commerce, spoke to Council about the Chamber's desire to partner with the North Vernon City Council, the Jennings County Council, and the Economic Development Commission in an effort to make the City and County a better place to live, work, and own a business, as well as fill the storefronts downtown with new small businesses. The Chamber is currently struggling financially due to loss of revenue generated by member fees as small businesses are going out of business at an alarming rate. The Chamber did not have an exact financial number needed. The Council asked them to contact the Jennings County Council to get an idea of whether they would participate in a partnership and return with results at a future City Council meeting. No motions or votes were taken on the subject.

Warren Alexander informed Council that he continues to have issues with storm water in his yard and neighborhood. He cited Indiana Code which he said requires the City to maintain storm water issues on private property. Mr. Alexander had attended the previous Utility Service Board meeting to inform them of the longstanding storm water issues at his residence. Storm water Superintendent Russell Vaught told the Council that the USB had ordered engineer Richard Morin to look into solving the problem at that meeting and that he would report back when he had more information. No motions or votes were taken at this time.

Area Plan Director Cheryl Trisler was present for the second reading of the rezone request made by Morgan Rentals and Morgan Lawn Care Enterprise. The request is to rezone 5.43 acres within the City limits at 2130 W CR 200 N from Agricultural to Commercial Planned Business for a future campground and reception hall. Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the rezone request, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

City Engineer Brad Bender was present to get permission from Council to move forward with the two previously discussed CEDIT projects located at Hurley Drive and North Elm Street. After a brief discussion with Mr. Bender and Clerk Treasurer Gerkin regarding funds available for the projects, Councilwoman Rayburn made the motion to move forward with the O&M and Elm Street Intersection Improvement project at a cost of $34,698.25 and options 1 and 2 of the Hurley Drive Improvement project at a cost of $89,419.13, seconded by Councilman Hurley. Motion carried 4-0. Mr. Bender also passed out an informational handout on the possibility of an access ramp to the river at Summit Street for future discussion.

Barbara McCoy and Kyla Canary told Council they are having an issue with water in the basements of the buildings they own on East Walnut Street. They have been told the water coming in is surface water, but they believe it is city water. Council recommended they attend the next USB meeting scheduled for August 3, 2015 and ask the board to look into the problem.

Street Commissioner Rick Marksberry told Council he and his crew continue to work on the new Pat O'Connor Memorial being install off of North State Street at the North Vernon City Park.

Airport Director Ryan Curry told Council that they have broken ground on the new corporate hangar being built at the North Vernon Airport. Also, August 29th is the day for this year's annual Airport Awareness Day.

Police Chief James Webster informed Council that he will soon need to do a budget transfer to do maintenance on the shooting range. The range was damaged during the recent rains.

Clerk Treasurer Gerkin told Council that the Council's budget and the ETC contract with the EDC were both priorities and would need to be discussed at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Rayburn made a motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion to pay the claims carried 4-0.

Councilman Ochs made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion to adjourn carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

R Shawn Gerkin, Clerk-Treasurer

Harold N. Campbell, Mayor