

NORTH VERNON CITY COUNCIL MINUTES  
CARNEGIE GOVERNMENT CENTER  
MAY 11, 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

Matthew Hurley

Michael Ochs

Connie Rayburn (absent)

David Shaw

Street Commissioner- Rick Marksberry (absent)

Chief of Police- James Webster

Fire Chief- Rick McGill

Park Director- Chad Speer

Water Superintendent- Mike Hess

Wastewater Superintendent- Russell Vaught (absent)

Golf Course Manager- Robin Brown

Assistant Clerk-Treasurer- Rita Elmore (absent)

Guests present: Jeff Shinolt, Wade Eaglin, Randall Marshall, Colleen Kirchner, Nick Megel, Mike Mowery, Barbara King, Jack Kelley, Ivory Sandefur, Shanda Thayer, Jenny Low, Shana Richmond, Bill Beville, Paula Beville, Andrew Richmond, Seth Beville, Colleen Beville, Dan Turner, Reva Turner, Cody Low, Rachael Shaw, and Adam Simmons.

Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2015 City Council meeting as written and presented, seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Ardell Mitchell, project manager with Harmon Construction on the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Fire Restoration Project, informed Council that the City has now closed on 5 of the 8 properties. Bid specs are currently being prepared which will turn the property in to green space in the immediate future while making the property developer friendly. Mr. Mitchell presented Council with an updated schedule for the project that would issue plans to bidders on June 6<sup>th</sup>, have a pre bid meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup>, bid due and opening at a Board of Public Works meeting on June 26<sup>th</sup>, and a project award date on July 2<sup>nd</sup> at a Board of Public Works meeting. Completion of the project should occur by September 30, 2015. Councilman Hurley made the motion to accept the updated schedule and move forward with the design and bid schedule, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Campbell read a proclamation honoring the North Vernon Police Department and announced the week of May 15, 2015 National Police Week.

Police Chief James Webster acknowledged a couple of officers from the department for their role in saving the life of a man on Crestwood Drive on the night of September 17, 2015. Letters of Appreciation were given to Deputy Cody Low and Officer Wes Thayer, a Letter of Accommodation was given to Officer Seth Beville, and Sergeant Andrew Richmond was given the High Honor Award and the Life Saving medal for their efforts. Many of the officers from the NVPD and family and friends of those honored attended.

Chief Webster asked the Council for permission to do an equipment transfer. Former NVPD officer Michael Piirto was given the opportunity to purchase his duty rifle at a fair trade in market value of

\$575.00. Councilman Ochs made the motion to accept the transfer request, seconded by Councilman Hatfield. Motion carried 4-0. Chief Webster also reminded those in attendance that the department's annual "Backyard BBQ" would take place on May 15, 2015.

Colleen Kirchner was present to request from Council that her business at 220 East Walnut Street be repainted. The building in question was part of Stellar's Façade program and had been painted last fall. Ms. Kirchner claims that the building was supposed to be painted red, not the beige color it was painted. After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Shaw made the motion to have the City pay for the building to be painted the intended color, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

Council had a discussion on the Quarry Project and the engineering costs associated with the project. Council asked Water Superintendent Mike Hess and City Attorney John Roche to ask someone on the USB to attend the next Council meeting to discuss the project.

Rachael Shaw voiced her concern to Council about the amount of rocks on the diamond at Castetter Field and her concern for the safety of her softball team while sliding. Park Director Chad Speer told Council he's aware of the problem and that he and his staff pick up rocks from the field on a daily basis but that every time the field is raked, more rocks will work their way to the surface.

Wade Eaglin, representing the Senior Resource Center, requested from Council the second half of their budgeted committed from Council, as well as an additional \$1000.00 from Council to help pay for repairs to the 2005 van the center uses to pick up food and supplies. Councilman Ochs made the motion to release the second half of the money to the Senior Center, along with the additional \$1000.00 from Council's civic interest budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Shaw. Motion carried 4-0.

Councilman Shaw made the motion to pay the claims presented, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion to pay the claims approved 4-0.

Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin told Council that he had been working with Fire Chief Rick McGill and City Attorney John Roche on getting the 1977 Fire Fund set up with PERF. One of the steps of the application process requires certification of an applicant by the local board, which the City has yet to establish. Ideally, the board would consist of current and retired firefighters, but the City has neither at this point. However, Clerk Treasurer Gerkin told the Council that in cities where there are not sufficient members to appoint a local board, that state statute allows the board to be composed of (3) trustees, those being the executive, the fiscal officer, and fire chief. Councilman Shaw made the motion that the local board be made up of Mayor Harold Campbell, Clerk Treasurer Shawn Gerkin, and fire Chief Rick McGill until such time that the City has the amount of firefighters and retired firefighters to compose a more ideal local board. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0.

Due the fourth Monday of the month falling on Memorial Day, the Council decided to cancel their second May meeting. Clerk Treasurer Gerkin said he would schedule a Board of Public Works meeting the last week of May to take care of claims that would need paid.

Councilman Hatfield made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Ochs. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

