

**WORKSHOP
CITY OF VERNON
NOVEMBER 4, 2019
6:30 PM**

**PRESENT-MAYOR: LAURA BREWER; COUNCIL MEMBERS: JOEY BROCK,
GWENDOLYN MARCH, JEANIE SHIPES, BECKY BAXLEY; CITY CLERK: TRACY
WALKER; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: JASON RHOTON**

Invocation – by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – by all

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: David Musholt – Friday afternoon we received a phone call from City Hall, on Monday morning, my wife called and spoke with, I believe Christina was her name, and she told my wife that the water bill had not been received, we did not receive a bill, she said just to put the money in the drop box which we did, Tuesday morning our water was turned off, I turned it back on because I had already paid the bill, Thursday night I got home and the water was off again so I turned it back on again, at this point I was pretty upset so I called and said that I was going to send a \$500.00 check and that should cover me for a whole year at least, my new bill shows another \$50.00 charge for turning the water back on; per Joey, since Christina handled this, he was charged \$50.00 for turning it on right; I explained that he was charged \$25.00 Administrative Non-Payment Fee, \$25.00 Administrative Re-Instatement Fee, and \$50.00 Meter Tampering Fee; Joey has explained the consequences of turning the meter back on with Mr. Musholt then asked if the employee turned the water off; I explained that he turned it off then Mr. Musholt turned it back on, then the employee locked the meter in the on position, when City Hall received payment, Public Works took off the lock and then turned the meter back off instead of on; I have only started having issues in the last year, I would like the \$100.00 fees taken off; Joey stated that he had no problems waiving the fees due to the issues we had with the deputy clerk; the Council agreed to credit the \$100.00 fees back this one time only; Mr. Musholt asked that we mail him some sort of receipt showing where the charges were backed off. **Trevor Marshall** – turned in a proposal for the old fire department to be used as a shop and to operate out of it, Jason took Trevor to the building to see what he thought, Jason did not have a problem; Trevor stated that it does need a new roof which he will take care of; Trevor would like a lease agreement with the first year's rent to be waived while he fixes the building with an estimate of \$7500.00 in repairs; the Clerk will check on insurance as the building is not insured at this point in time and the attorney will work on the lease agreement, with a 3 year lease.

1. **Lacey Camacho – Pool Hall** – Ms. Camacho did not show up for the workshop
2. **Pastor Elvis Brown – Community Center 11/13, 11/20, and 12/4** – he, his wife, and church are looking to start a program called ENGAGE, for school-aged children

1st thru 6th grades where they will bus the kids here helping them to express themselves through art 4:30-6:30 pm they will also have tutors available to help with homework, our hope is to be able to expand this beyond the 3 initial sessions; joey asked that I put this on the next agenda to be voted on, the meeting is after their first scheduled session so we will have a special meeting this Thursday at 5:30; Joey asked that we move our meetings up to 5:30, all council agreed to this change, 3 children have already registered; (at 21:55 on the recording, Gwendolyn made a comment about the temporary deputy clerk being at the table then told Joey that we need to go ahead and advertise for the open positions, it is not on here, they need to be advertised)

3. **Haddock Property (City Square)** – DEP wants to put up a structure at the City Square on the South side beside the old fire department some construction work within the next 6 months to a year and will be complete in 2-3 years; Joey asked the clerk to tell them to go ahead with their work
4. **Recreation restructure** – Timothy, Shaina, and McKenzie submitted their version of the job duties that they would take on, the council will review and approve at the meeting, add this to the agenda as well; Board Members will be ready to be approved at the meeting as well; they would like to be paid monthly for a total of \$18,690.67/year 3 ways; there is no reason that we cannot use the gym, there is no paperwork to support any black mold, the gym is just going to waste, one net needs to be replaced, all the others look to be brand new, it also needs to be painted; the Community Center also needs some attention like being re-painted as it is just peeling everywhere; the Mayor stated that a lady approached her and asked to use the tennis courts if she could get a vendor to donate the paint and netting; this will also be added to the special meeting on Thursday night at 5:30; Joey asked who would show up to the meeting to give the recreation report, Timothy Garner volunteered; Joey asked Timothy to look for a building to keep the equipment secure
5. **IRS Update** – the IRS has received my letter and is requesting an additional 60 days to review the request
6. **Purchase of walk-behind bush hog** – the street department has requested a walk-behind bush hog; there is money in the budget; per Jason this will help to keep us from tearing up our big bush hog; add this to the agenda; Joey asked the fire department, public works, and recreation start logging City-owned equipment
7. **Unemployment claims** – the former Deputy Clerk and Public Works Director have filed unemployment claims, I had to submit responses last week; Gwendolyn stated that they should receive the money because they are going to get it anyway, just give it to them
8. **Locking mailbox at City Hall** – I am asking for a \$90.00 for a locking mailbox at City Hall; the USPS costs \$140.00 per year; Joey asked that we place another camera on the box and add this to the agenda
9. **Christmas Bazaar** – Gwendolyn will not be doing this, Laura was asked to take over, she asked if it could be done in the Community Center, Jeanie volunteered to help

Becky – requested an update on the audit; Mr. Hamilton is almost complete; he is coming to meet with me tomorrow to wrap up some questions that he has and then he will submit it to Grimsley, Cavin; Jason and Tracy, I appreciate y'all, this has not been easy; I appreciate y'all stepping up; and Ms. Olene, I appreciate you being up there and helping Ms. Tracy when you can; Gwendolyn stated that the positions need to be advertised and gave Tracy the directive to do so; Vernon has to follow it's own policy; then Joey reiterated to advertise for the position; the attorney recommended once again that while the positions are still open to get an employment attorney to come in and review the personnel policy and suggest changes; per Joey, I have a lady that is interested in the job so I told her to attend Workshops and Meetings, I plan to be fair through this process

Mayor – when are we going to get rid of that dirt pile at the track; Jeanie is coming to get 2-3 dump trucks full; Jason volunteered to get rid of the rest of the dirt; Becky verified that anyone that wants dirt can come and get it

Gwendolyn – I think our Trunk or Treat was mis-advertised, people thought that the City was supplying the candy, but this was not the case, Mr. Goulding stated that with all of the other Cities going before us, people should have known better

Joey – any updates on the roofing contracts; per the City Clerk, the funds were obligated on Friday, the next step is for me to get the approval for an Improved Project

Tracy – Mr. Roberts on Hillcrest Circle who we have already had issues with has used 1,260 more gallons of water and has broken up with his girlfriend and is now requesting water to be put in his name; Jason asked if he could remove the meter to keep them from using any more water; Gwendolyn suggested that he take a deputy with him to do that; Jimmy stated that he has some locks that they City can have to try before we pull the meter

Jason – the blower from the list that Jimmy gave me needs to be fixed, I am working on it; the dryer will cost approximately \$2300.00 - \$2500.00; per Joey, put this on the agenda

With no further business to discuss, the Workshop was adjourned at 7:52 PM