

**WORKSHOP
CITY OF VERNON
FEBRUARY 3, 2020
5:30 PM**

PRESENT – MAYOR: LAURA BREWER; COUNCIL MEMBERS: JOEY BROCK, GWENDOLYN MARCH, JEANIE SHIPES, BECKY BAXLEY; CITY CLERK: TRACY WALKER; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: JASON RHOTON; RECREATION DEPARTMENT: TIMOTHY GARNER, DIXIE MCCLENDON, MCKENZIE FAISON, SHAINA PREVATT

ABSENT – FIRE DEPARTMENT: MIKE OWENS

ABSENT – CITY ATTORNEY: MICHELLE JORDAN; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: JASON RHOTON

Invocation – by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – by all

1. **Special Meeting - Executive Session**
2. **Review Roofing Quotes** – following a brief discussion regarding pricing and warranty information, the decision was made to award the bid to Code Red Roofers (present) at the Meeting; Code Red Roofers is the only company that has been present at meetings and been in contact with City Hall
3. **WWTP Project Closeout** – I will get some paperwork to Jason to review
4. **City Election / Early Voting (WCSE)** – with the early voting the council has two choices: Michelle and I can split up the time to come in early and stay late or we can give the workers keys and access codes to get in on their own; the Council agreed to have City staff employees handle opening/closing City Hall with the approval of overtime; Michelle has an emergency ordinance on her laptop that she will provide and have ready for the Meeting which will need to be added to the agenda; elections were set for 3/24 with qualifying to take place 2/18 – 2/24, the ordinance will also extend the current council members and the mayor terms until the election; now, who is to run is still up for debate, the call was finally made to fill the Mayor's and the open position; per the attorney everyone went up for elections last year because of the charter amendment issue so only the empty seat and the mayor's seat are up this year, between now and next year's election, we have got to fix this charter; Becky requested a "Plan B" just in case the charter amendment is not passed; per Michelle, Ordinance 06-177 will need to be pulled and supplied to the Council, this ordinance approved an election in order to adhere to the original intent of the City Charter, also I would suggest that all council members review and approve the charter amendments

5. **Sandra K Smith / Traverse Drive** – she still wants a new water meter, I have provided the council with copies of her bills; Jason is still working on getting some information together for the attorney to submit a letter
6. **Civil suit against former clerk** – I have provided the council with paperwork that I was provided today, the majority of money that the City is looking to recover will have to go through the civil theft statute where the burden of proof will still be on the City because it was related to her pay and not only signed by herself, but also a member of council, Michelle Jordan suggested requesting the money back that she was not supposed to receive, she will draft a letter for the City
7. **Municipal Engineering Contract** – per Michelle, the contract that they sent over is an industry standard task order edition, I have stricken some provisions that I do not believe should be approved at all, I have also submitted a memo with questions that the Council needs to answer; City Clerk will submit the proposed changes to Municipal Engineering for their review
8. **Direct Deposits** – I reached out to BanyonData about moving a deposit for services from something that we are not using to this service, the balance due would be \$495.00 plus \$195.00/year for support, this would make a little less work for the President and Vice President who would no longer have to come in every two weeks to sign paychecks, all AP checks could be signed at the meetings
9. **Options for Sportsplex Driveway** – Joey looked at the property and saw that there are options available, Jason inquired if the property behind the fields could be built up and used for parking or additional fields, Shaina asked how an individual could go about paying the \$525.00 that he is demanding, we explained that is not due because we have the lease locked down for the next two years, when I called to obtain his attorney's contact information, he admitted to me that we still have two years left on the current lease; Joey stated that even if Mr. Harris blocks the driveway, people can get to the parking area via the trail at the Sportsplex sign
10. **Set council meeting for TUESDAY 2/18/20 in observance of President's Day** – Council agreed; Attorney, Michelle Jordan stated that she would not be here for the meeting as Esto has their regular meetings scheduled for Tuesday nights
11. **CDGB Application Cycle – Fred Fox** – Fred Fox is not here; the City Clerk has provided paperwork from Fred Fox to review so that we can start working on our next CDBG grant

Recreation – Dixie stated they need a battery for the dragger, since it is under \$500.00, no approval is needed; the Council does not want the high school to use the dragger as they are letting the kids use it and they tore up the high school's equipment; McKenzie stated they need lights for the field, they have 3 boxes which is a total of 12 lights, they need a minimum of 17 – 20 so they need 2 more boxes, then asked who replaces the lights, someone with a bucket truck will need to do it, Joey said to get up with him and he would get Dow Morris out there; per Shaina, they have 14 teams signed up for the tournament, we need a grounds crew to line the fields and pick up trash the day of the tournament, so I reached to the baseball team and offered them \$499.99 as a fundraiser for them; Timothy is supposed to be getting another

quote to enclose the pole barn – the quote was approximately \$5500.00, they will work on getting more quotes

Rhonda Dickinson – thanked Buddy Baxley for removing the tree from the car on Court St; the state will be placing their structure on the square for around 2 years, will they be digging more test holes, do we need to postpone work on the gazebo for now; I have hired someone to help me improve the looks and access to the cemetery and Jason will be helping with the piles that we have made, there is a dead tree at the entrance that could come down and block access to the cemetery or fall across the storage building owned by the Masonic Lodge, the Lodge do not want to sell the lot but has given me permission to take down the tree but we are unsure where the property lines are or who the tree belongs to I have someone scheduled to give me a quote within the next 24 hours so I would like permission from the City to get rid of that tree, all Council agreed, Joey confirmed that the cemetery is being surveyed

Becky – I was notified over the weekend that Vernon Express has a sewer leak behind their property, the citizen that called stated that her husband rented a U-Haul from there and could see the sewage all over the back of the property, they do have a new owner; Jason stated that they have a grinder pump and 3 clean outs in the front, the previous owner took the cap off of the clean out in the back of the building, they have made a trench to the city ditch; Michelle Jordan suggested contacting the Health Department which will be taken care of tomorrow, so now they are frying chicken and have fertilizer in the back; if they do not rectify this soon the City will have to file a lawsuit against them called a “Nuisance Abatement” this would be an emergency basis where we would go to court to ask them to order the store to clean it up within “X” amount of time, all ditches run to the creek, Jason will go out tomorrow and get pictures and send them to the City Clerk

Jeanie – the roads look good, thanked Jason

Jason – I went to a meeting with Anderson Columbia about 2 weeks ago, 2/17 they will be shifting lanes from Court to Pompey is the plan right now, weather permitting; they want me to move and replace about 20 feet of water line on Pompey (by the Church) which the Council approved immediately, the meter at the Church can be moved towards the Church because it will be in the middle of the road if not; Joey asked if Reed Marshall was getting a water meter, Jason verified that he would have water only; Joey inquired about Jason’s schooling for water certification

Tracy – my time off request is TENTATIVE based on weather as I cannot move in the rain

With no further business to discuss, the Workshop was adjourned at 7:44 PM