

**COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF VERNON  
MAY 18, 2020  
5:30PM**

**PRESENT – MAYOR: Candice Hodges; COUNCIL MEMBERS: Joey Brock, Gwendolyn March, Laura Brewer, Jeanie Shipes, Becky Baxley; CITY CLERK: Tracy Walker; PUBLIC WORKS: Jason Rhoton; FIRE CHIEF: Mike Owens; REC DEPT: McKenzie Faison, Shaina Prevatt**

**ABSENT - CITY ATTORNEY: Michelle Jordan**

**INVOCATION** given by Tracy Walker

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** recited by all

**CONSENT AGENDA** MTA given by Becky Baxley with a second from Jeanie Shipes, the motion carries with all in favor

- APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS (Mar-Apr)
- APPROVE MEETING MINUTES
- APPROVE CHANGES IN DEPOSITS AND ADJUSTMENTS (Feb-Apr)
- APPROVE ADJUSTMENT <\$50.00

**MAYOR'S REPORT Candice:** we have been involved in several phone conferences and webinars, I have been in touch with several of our local business making sure that they are applying for all available government funding, I am currently working with Allison from FEMA and I need some information from the Recreation Department as far as funds that were lost due to this pandemic, Zumba would like to start back in the Community Center as well, I had a ZOOM mediation regarding the Agner v City of Vernon case, they walked away and I do not see another mediation in the future

**ATTORNEY'S REPORT N/A**

**CLERK'S REPORT Tracy:** I included a copy of the check that was sent to Ms. Joyce Harris which means that the lease has on the Sportsplex has been paid through the year2022, Mr. Cooper had a massive sewer back up in his house over the weekend, I emailed both DOT and WSP they are not claiming responsibility for this issue Joey instructed Jason to document everything since they did take responsibility for Marshall's Tire Store's back up; the old Home Ec building is falling down, we need to do something with it as it is not secure because the door does not lock the council asked for quotes; the Churches are being charged the residential rate instead of commercial, the council asked that I see how many churches that we have in Vernon and the financial impact it would make on them and also how we could get them to show up on reports

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT Mike:** we are still under a fire ban and we have been busy literally putting out small fires

**RECREATION REPORT McKenzie:** since we didn't have a season there really is no report to give **Tracy:** we are currently working on refunding all of the parents **McKenzie/Shaina:** how do we go about getting all of our equipment back from the coaches since City Hall is not open to the public, we have paperwork that each coach signed stating that they would be responsible for all equipment that is not returned, the council suggested setting up a time/day/place to have equipment returned; in the meantime, we will give all coaches 2 weeks to turn in their equipment

**PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT Jason:** we are getting ready to cut grass, I need a new compressor for the plant which is around \$2,000.00 (added to agenda as item #8) and well 3 needs an analyzer rebuilt which will be approximately \$1,800.00 (added to agenda as item #9)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Jimmy Boyett (re: deputy clerk):** I wanted to make you aware that you have a problem at City Hall and it is not Tracy, I have never been talked to so hateful in my life; she (Michelle) has no professionalism, I had an issue with a my last two bills one really low and the other super high, I was told that I was charged a disconnect and reconnect fee due to a returned check, Tracy replied that this was not the case, the bill was high due to usage of

almost 13,000 gallons. Joey spoke up and stated that this is not the first complaint that he has heard, he has already counseled the deputy clerk, and instructed the city clerk to write the deputy clerk up at the next complaint. Joey asked Jason to speak with the street employees regarding meter read issues; the city clerk reminded council that radio read meters would prevent mis-read meters. Becky asked the council, due to the circumstances that Mr. Boyett explained, if we could accept checks from him again, the council agreed that would be fine. The council thanked Mr. Boyett for coming in, Candice apologized for the way he was treated.

## OLD BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. **BRUNSON, WILKERSON, BOWDEN & ASSOCIATES PC QUOTE OVERVIEW** – Lee Steverson and Johnny Bowden presented their audit proposal MTA hiring BWB for not more than \$15,000.00 for 2019 audit by Becky Baxley, with a second from Jeanie Shipes, motion passes with all in favor
2. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$(206.09)** adjustment to account 1167 – garbage (11 months) & late fees MTA made by Gwendolyn March, with a second from Becky Baxley, following a brief discussion, the motion passes with all in favor
3. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$(92.38)** adjustment to account 53 – verified leak MTA made by Jeanie Shipes, with a second from Becky Baxley, the motion passes with all in favor
4. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$(99.04)** adjustment to account 1047 – verified leak MTA made by Becky Baxley, with a second from Jeanie Shipes, the motion passes with all in favor
5. **MOTION TO APPROVE** refunding registration fees for baseball season MTA made by Laura Brewer, with a second from Becky Baxley, following a brief discussion, the motion passes with all in favor
6. **MOTION TO APPROVE** softball tournament the first weekend in June MTA made by Becky Baxley, following a brief discussion, the motion dies for lack of a second
7. **MOTION TO APPROVE** removing old white drop off box and creating a slot in the clerk's office for secure payments MTA made by Becky Baxley, with a second from Gwendolyn March, following a brief discussion the issue was tabled in order to receive quotes on installation
8. **MOTION TO APPROVE** purchasing a new compressor for \$2,000.00 MTA made by Gwendolyn March, with a second from Jeanie Shipes, the motion passes with all in favor
9. **MOTION TO APPROVE** repairs to well 3 totaling \$1,800.00 MTA made by Becky Baxley, with a second from Gwendolyn March, the motion passes with all in favor

**Joey Brock:** we need to look at the Recreation Department and discuss it at the next Workshop (6/1/20)

**ADJOURNMENT** with no further business to discuss, Gwendolyn March made the motion to adjourn with a second from Jeanie Shipes, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – ANYONE WHO DESIRES TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL MUST SIGN IN WITH THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO THE MEETING STARTING AND PROVIDE THE TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION. THERE IS A TIME LIMIT OF FIVE (5) MINUTES. NO VERBATIM RECORD BY A CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER IS MADE OF THESE PROCEEDINGS. ACCORDINGLY, ANY PERSON WHO MAY SEEK TO APPEAL ANY DECISION INVOLVING THE MATTERS NOTICED HEREIN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE AT THESE PROCEEDINGS UPON WHICH ANY APPEAL IS TO BE BASED (SEE SECTION 286.0105, FLORIDA STATUTES SUBMIT ALL REQUESTS VIA EMAIL TO [CLERK@VERNONFL.COM](mailto:CLERK@VERNONFL.COM). IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT AND SECTION 286.26, FLORIDA STATUTES, PERSONS NEEDING A SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCEEDING SHOULD CONTACT THE CITY CLERK OFFICE AT 850-535-2444 FORTY-EIGHT (48) HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THIS PROCEEDING.

E-MAIL: [CLERK@VERNONFL.COM](mailto:CLERK@VERNONFL.COM)

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