

**WORKSHOP  
CITY OF VERNON  
JULY 6, 2020  
5:30 PM**

**PRESENT – MAYOR: Candice Hodges; COUNCIL MEMBERS: Joey Brock, Gwendolyn March, Jeanie Shipes, Becky Baxley; CITY ATTORNEY: Michelle Jordan; CITY CLERK: Tracy Walker; PUBLIC WORKS: Jason Rhoton; RECREATION DEPARTMENT: McKenzie Faison, Dixie McClendon, Timothy Garner**

**Invocation** – by Tracy Walker

**Pledge of allegiance** – recited by all

**Public Participation:** Paul Brewer asked for a water at his new place on Dalton Street for irrigation; the City Clerk advised that he currently has a bad debt for an old tap that was never paid, we do have an ordinance that states a customer cannot have a bad debt and current account at the same time; Mr. Brewer stated that he would pay for the bad debt balance in payments by the end of the year, the Council asked the City Clerk to check with the collection agency and make sure that they will accept payments and add this to the next agenda

1. **Open bids for demolition of old Home Ec Building (Joey)** – Joey opened the bids as follows:  
WG Miracle Land Development - \$18,450  
Travis Griffin - \$18,800 (price subject to change if workload or duties change)  
Wesley Griffin - \$18,400  
Dannie Walker - \$21,000  
This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting
2. **Updated employee evaluations** – per the Mayor’s suggestion; I have added “customer service” to the employee evaluations for your review/approval; this will be added to the net agenda
3. **CARES Act funding (Candice)** – the County is receiving 4.4 million and will be distributing money throughout the municipalities; Vernon is slated to receive \$122,000 and will only cover COVID related expenses; the money must be spent by the end of the year; I strongly feel like we should follow suit and give a grant to the small businesses in town, we have talked about thermometer scanners, spray misters, and the glass that has been installed, this money CANNOT be used for lost revenue or wages; the Council has been given a list of all businesses in the City limits; this will be added to the next agenda
4. **Church Ave / Court St paving (Jason)** – paving will begin shortly and are hoping to be finished before school starts; the new patch is working perfectly (City Clerk provided pictures) the cold patch would have been gone the following day-we have had about 3” of rain in the past three days; can I cash in my vacation like I did last year
5. **Backflows (Joey/Tracy/Jason)** – I have provided everyone with the test that was performed at South Bridge Styles which was dated on a Saturday at 3:10 and simply states unit leaking

failed and also quotes for different types of backflows which we can use any as long as they are lead free; Wausau does charge for the testing and the actual backflows, they do NOT use the Watts brand; Joey verified that Jason is the one that installs them and Jimmy tests them within 10 days of installation, Joey pressed this issue to ensure that Jimmy is the only one to test them; Jimmy suggested reviewing the backflow ordinance with FRWA; Tony Hall's backflow is in a bad location; Joey asked the City Clerk to contact Tamara and Tony and let them know that the City will be replacing and moving both of them free of charge

6. **Back to School giveaway 7/25/20 (Community Center)** – Shaina and McKenzie will be using the Community Center for their annual back to school giveaway, Timothy also stated that the Recreation Department has been involved in the past would the Council have any objections to that being a continued pattern
7. **Shady Grove (Joey/Gwendolyn)** – We have some big issues at Shady Grove, the bathrooms are in terrible shape, we need to lock the bathrooms at all times and sign the key out from City Hall, and we need cameras out there; 6/21 Joey found that someone had broken into the concession stand
8. **Tournaments** – the day after the tournament, Joey went to the Sportsplex and took pictures of the damage caused by someone doing donuts; he also went out the day before the tournament and noticed that Timothy had a flag that was way too small and told him to go to the City Hall and use their flag for the weekend which was not done, Shaina went on social media and bashed the City Council and Timothy as the Recreation Director; Joey was quite upset that not only was there no police presence but also no DOT signs until 10:00 that morning; the concession stand was an absolute disaster, when asked by Becky when the concession stand was cleaned, McKenzie admitted that she had not been back to the Sportsplex since the tournament, she and Shaina did, however clean up the High School's parking lot the following day; Joey let the council know that Timmy has been coordinating with Charles Glover about taking care of the fields
9. **Use of Sportsplex for scrimmage games** – since Shaina was not in attendance at this meeting and is the one who inquired about this, discussion was deemed unnecessary; there is a big dead oak tree that might be on the City property that the council needs to be aware of
10. **Night deposit drop box update** – the City Clerk has only received one estimate to install the drop box, this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting
11. **Community Center / City Hall cleaning fees** – Stef cleans for \$25.00/week to clean City Hall would you like to look at the prices that she is being paid, Becky stated that the bathrooms in the Community Center are moldy and need to be cleaned, this should be \$75 - \$100, the bathrooms are worth at least \$350 all
12. **Outstanding (A/R water/sewer) balances – letters** – the City Clerk is suggesting sending letters to everyone that owes from the past several months stating the balance must be paid within 3 months on all outstanding balances below \$300.00 and all that owe more must be paid within 6 months add to the agenda for the next meeting
13. **Pole barn – 3429 Owens Ave** – the county requires City approval for any structure being erected, approved by all
14. **2998 Church Street – threatened lawsuit** – customer moved in December and her daughter was supposed to fill out paperwork to discontinue service, she is now requesting a refund of her deposit (issued in August 2012) and is planning to sue because we are still billing her for water
15. **Salvation Army drive up food giveaways** – 7/20 and 8/17 to give food to residents in the City Hall parking lot

**Timmy Garner** — as of 6/21 Shaina Prevatt stepped down from the board and we had someone express interest in joining the board, no one from the board objected to this request, Christina Parrish's addition to the rec board will be on the agenda at the next meeting

**Tracy Walker** — 7/13 at 5:30 we will have a closed meeting to discuss the camera system; our 2018 audit has been completed and 2019 has been turned in to our new auditors

**Joey Brock** — cemetery issue — the Friday before Father's day we had a customer call because the cemetery looked awful and she had family planning to meet there on Father's Day asking for public works to mow and weed eat, they spent 4 hours out there working after being pulled off of patching Church Street; maybe we should take bids for someone else to take care of the cemetery

**Laura Brewer** — we need to do something with that dirt pile

**Jimmy Cook** — I am having issues with my driveway, Joey stated that he would have Jason go out and take a look at it

**With no further business to discuss, the Workshop was adjourned at 7:46 PM**