

**COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF VERNON
MARCH 16, 2021
5:30PM**

PRESENT – MAYOR: Candice Hodges; COUNCIL MEMBERS: Joey Brock, Laura Brewer, Jeanie Shipes, Gwendolyn March, Becky Baxley, Chad Jackson; CITY ATTORNEY: Michelle Jordan; CITY CLERK: Tracy Walker; PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR: Jason Rhoton; FIRE CHIEF: ShiQuan Green; RECREATION DIRECTOR: Timothy Garner

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JOSEPH BROCK AT 5:33

Invocation - by Tracy Walker

Pledge of allegiance – recited by all

CONSENT AGENDA Motion was made by Gwendolyn March to approve the consent agenda the motion received a second by Becky Baxley; motion carries with all in favor.

- APPROVE CHANGES IN DEPOSITS AND ADJUSTMENTS (JAN-FEB)
- APPROVE MINUTES (DEC-FEB)
- APPROVE ADJUSTMENT \$50.00 AND LESS

MAYOR'S REPORT – Forestry can give \$2500 grant to purchase trees to replace some of those taken from the highway construction. Due to it taking 9 months to get approval from DOT on Live Oaks, we need input on what type of tree and where to plant them. We can put into DOT for next year on the Live Oaks to be planted along highway. I will be contacting DEP and The Army Core of Engineering about getting upgrades on our sewer plant. I am waiting on our lobbyist to schedule an appointment. If anyone is wanting to attend the meeting too is more than welcome to come. The Cares Act Rescue Fund (stimulus checks) There is more than just stimulus checks in it. The City of Vernon is going to get 296,00 which goes towards front line employees, it can go to the citizens, business grants, and rescue worker (fire dept). My thoughts are to divide this money up X amount for the businesses that we had the applications for, and then take a dollar amount and apply it to each citizens utility bill, and we have the fire dept that has a list of things needing to be done. I also think each member of the fire dept should also receive a check. These funds do not go to the county they will come straight to us.

The other funds that went through the county have been mailed to us, these funds will go to the original businesses that filled out the applications. The MSCOT grant is a grant through DOT to help repair roads and resurfaces them. The MSCOT would do Pompey, Yellow Jacket and McFatter intersection and about a quarter mile of Dawkins. Fred Fox said it looks good for CBDG doing Church Street. We would know within 21 days.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT – Received a draft **interlocal** on Animal control ordinance from Washington County, still waiting on the code enforcement. Should have them ready for the next workshop hopefully be able to set the public hearing to adopt the two ordinances. Still waiting on the title work to come back on the cemetery. It has been a little complicated. Need council to approve going ahead with the title work on the track park behind city hall it too looks like it will be complicated.

CLERK'S REPORT – Everyone was provided with a copy of Mr. Welch's water bill from his office, in which he also had an irrigation well installed. And he has not used any city water in the past year, it looks like he is using the well for his office. He is now requesting one at his residence on Jackson Ave. Joey Brock request that Mr. Welch be called and asked to appear in person at the next workshop, which is April 5th. Included in your packets is ordinance 11-199 which explains the fee that apply to water and sewage bills.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Responded to a structural fire on Bonnet Pond, was an old barn. Need update on tires for trucks. Joey Brock advised Fire Chief to get a list together of all equipment due to pending grant. Tires are needed now. Add to agenda as number 12 for motion to approve tires. We do not have a brush truck; we are in possession of a truck that belongs to Washington County but there is no tag on the truck. Need someone to call and talk with Rick Kerr the county fire coordinator. Council advised to add a brush truck to his list.

RECREATION REPORT – Baseball, Softball sign-ups went good, just need a couple more for wee ball and we have 2 tee-ball teams. We have one 7-8 baseball and one 7-8 softball; we need a coach for 7-8 softball. We are 2 away from making

2 teams for 9-10 baseball 9-10 softball need 2 girls, 11-12 baseball 1 team. Did not make a 11-12 softball. Need electrical work at the sports plex. We got a sponsor to add 10 lights to the batting cage. Will soon need a new batting cage net. Sportsplex grass will be cut tonight. Opening day will be April 10th due to Easter. Joey Brock requested for the clerk to pull Mr. Garner's contract for the next workshop on April the 5th, to discuss a pay increase due to him taking on extra duties. (Concessions) Requested update on grants. Clerk advised no update at this time. The drag is missing was parked in the back by pole barn and now is gone.

PUBLIC WORKS' REPORT – Started mowing grass and ditches, not doing cemetery right now. Filter system at the plant is bypassed right now. Samples are failing. Need to order new filters, and still waiting on parts for auger.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

NEW BUSINESS:

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY: MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS The incumbent Mayor and all incoming council were sworn in.

ELECT COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Joey Brock stepped down as council President. Chad Jackson nominated Becky Baxley as new President which was seconded by Gwendolyn March passed with all in favor.

ELECT VICE PRESIDENT: Joey Brock nominated Gwendolyn March which was seconded by Chad Jackson passed with all in favor.

1. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$155.37 (credit)** adjustment to account 78 – Feb bill estimated incorrectly, motion was made by Becky Baxley and received a second by Laura Brewer, motion carries with an all-in favor.
2. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$69.64 (credit)** adjustment to account 1080 – Jan bill estimated incorrectly, motion was made by Laura Brewer and received a second by Chad Jackson, motion carries with an all-in favor.
3. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$51.28 (credit-sewer)** adjustment to account 1158 – verified leak, motion was made by Gwen March and received a second by Laura Brewer, motion carries with an all-in favor.
4. **MOTION TO APPROVE** WCBCC Broadband Interlocal Agreement motion was made by Becky Baxley and received a second by Laura Brewer, motion carries with an all-in favor.
5. **MOTION TO APPROVE** Renewing Lease Agreement with Trevor Marshall (old fire dept) , motion was made by Gwen March and received a second by Laura Brewer, motion carries with an all-in favor.
6. **MOTION TO APPROVE** Wausau's Possum Pageant 7/31/21 in the Community Center, motion was made by Becky Baxley and received a second by Chad Jackson, after a brief discussion verifying that it would be at no cost, motion carries with an all-in favor.
7. **MOTION TO APPROVE** Irrigation Well at 3336 Jackson Ave, Tabled by Joey Brock until Mr. Welch can be asked to attend the April 5th workshop.
8. **MOTION TO APPROVE \$50 (credit/non-payment & reinstatement fees/Jan)** adjustment to account 798, motion was made by Becky Baxley and received a second by Gwendolyn March, motion carries with an all-in favor.
9. **MOTION TO APPROVE** \$125 plumber reimbursement to Dee's Restaurant (leak on our side), motion was made by Gwendolyn March and received a second by Laura Brewer, after brief discussion to verify that customer followed proper procedures, motion carries with an all-in favor.
10. **MOTION TO APPROVE** Professional Service Agreement with Automation Control Service, LLC for evaluation of the Alarming System (auto-dialer/WWTP) of no more than \$5,000, motion was made by Gwendolyn March and received a second by Chad Jackson, after a brief discussion motion carries with an all-in favor.
11. **MOTION TO APPROVE** Southern Tire Mart \$2900.00 for Fire Dept. tires, motion was made by Laura Brewer and received a second by Chad Jackson, after a brief discussion motion carries with an all-in favor.
12. **MOTION TO APPROVE** Title search on track park behind city hall, motion was made by Becky Baxley and received a second by Gwendolyn March, motion carries with an all-in favor.
13. **MOTION TO APPROVE** servicing filter system at WWTP motion was made by Gwendolyn March and received a second by Chad Jackson, after a brief discussion motion carries with an all-in favor.
14. **MOTION TO APPROVE** Project Graduation donation, motion was made by Laura Brewer and received a second by Chad Jackson, after a brief discussion motion carries with an all-in favor to donate \$1500.

After all motions were complete Gwendolyn March suggested that the council and all present have a moment of silence in memory of the young man that drowned in the creek Saturday. Candice Hodges suggested for donations from the council members to help the family. Candice offered her salary for the month. Becky offered hers, Mr. Goulding donated \$100 cash and challenged everyone to match it. All council agreed to donate their monthly salary.

Per the Mayor, no one is available to shoot off fireworks on 7/4, so we will schedule our celebration for 7/3/21. The clerk requested if it was okay with council to see if Christian Birge would be able to perform at the 4th of July celebration.

ADJOURNMENT with no further business to discuss, motion was made at 6:39PM by Gwendolyn March and received a second from Chad Jackson, the meeting was adjourned with all in favor.

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. 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 WEBSITE: WWW.VERNONFLORIDA.NET