

## **Workshop / City of Vernon**

### **10/4/21 @ 5:30**

**PRESENT – MAYOR:** Candice Hodges; **COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Rebecca Baxley, Gwendolyn March, Laura Brewer, Chad Jackson; **CITY CLERK:** Tracy Walker; **CITY ATTORNEY:** Michelle Jordan; **RECREATION:** Timothy Garner; **NOT PRESENT - COUNCIL:** Joey Brock; **PUBLIC WORKS:** Jason Rhoton; **FIRE CHIEF:** ShiQuan Green.

**Council President Baxley called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM**

**Invocation** – by Candice Hodges

**Pledge of allegiance** – recited by all

**Public Participation:** **Gary Owens** – requested the City Council to look into ditches running parallel to Ms. Miner’s property, extra trash cans, miscellaneous fire hydrant issues, junk in yards, and vacant houses/yards being cleaned up. **Fredrick Schmitz** – water bill high due to tree falling during Hurricane Ida and uprooting pipe and asked if meter could be leveled; Council advised to verify leak fixed and add to 10/18 agenda for possible bill adjustment.

- 1. Randall Garner – IT issues/updates** Mr. Garner addressed the council on the realities of increased cyber-attacks and ransom attacks on society lately; he advised council the cost of retrieving the system after an attack and how a Cyber security update would be beneficial to have. Mr. Garner gave a brief description of the updates, Council asked what the cost would be for the update, Mr. Garner advised the cost would be \$1860 for Holston & Garner IT to go through the system to see which upgrades are needed, council thanked him for coming and advised the clerk to look into whether or not we have insurance to cover cyber-attacks like these.
- 2. Kevin Williams – wrestling** requested the use of the pageant dressing room for the Washington County Dolphins wrestling team practices; the boys are ages 5-15 yrs. Prefer at no cost, but low cost would be okay. Following a brief discussion council agreed that since it was for the local children that they see no problem with pro bono as long as insurance is provided by the Dolphins; item to be placed on the 10/18 agenda.
- 3. Foster Folly News Article** the City clerk addressed concerns regarding possible HIPAA violations an article printed on 9/3.
- 4. Vernon Family Dollar Major Development Review** the City Clerk advised, once they have completed all their meetings with the county, they will be here to address the City Council.

5. **6/28/21 special meeting minutes** President Baxley asked again for council to review the video from this meeting so that they can decide whether to have them retyped or leave them as is, as the motion does not read properly.
6. **Vernon Express' meter** pictures provided to council showing their meter has been concreted in; they have agreed to fix it at their cost.
7. **Public Works Dept laptop update** it has been ordered and should arrive this week at a cost of \$469.00. Add to 10/18 agenda for Holston's security to be add this laptop as well as the Fire Department's.
8. **Council/citizens calling employees instead of City Hall** the clerk stated that there is a problem with council and the public calling the public works director and the street workers about work orders instead of reporting problems to City Hall.
9. **Vernon Drugs** we need to move the backflow or put a barrier up as this is an ongoing issue with people backing over it. Council advised to have the public works look at it.
10. **VHS Project Graduation** requesting a donation, last year we gave \$1500, we only budgeted \$1000 for miscellaneous this year; therefore, to match that, the remaining \$500.00 will be split three ways and donated from the salaries of: Candice Hodges, Rebecca Baxley, and Chad Jackson.
11. **Home Game** Timmy reminded the Council that this Saturday, 10/9 at the high school football field from 9 a.m.-until, is the Washington Dolphins home game with a total of 6 games scheduled throughout the day.
12. **Halloween** trick or treating will be held Saturday, 10/30 from 5PM to 7PM.

**ADJOURNMENT** with no further business to discuss, motion made by Gwen March and received a second from Chad Jackson, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM 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](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.