

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 13, 2015
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station meeting room located at 50 Green Street. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton	Jeffrey Fritz
Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette	Bill Funcannon
Alderman Michael Daniels	Victor "Ric" Chaput
Alderman Joe Klopfenstein	Christopher Robinson
Alderman Lynn Donnelly	Mike Winslow
Alderman Lowell Bertrand	Neil Kamman
Alderman Renny Perry	Martha DeGraaf
City Manager Mel Hawley	Mary Martin
City Clerk Joan Devine	Shannon Haggett

MINUTES: Minutes to the December 16th meeting were approved by motion of Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette, seconded by Alderman Lowell Bertrand, with all voting in favor.

WARRANT: The Warrant totaling \$112,551.08 was circulated for review and signatures of approval.

WASTEWATER SYSTEM PRESENTATION: City Manager Hawley reported there were events at the Macdonough Drive pump station; one on Christmas Eve and a smaller event that occurred in August. He advised Andy Kirkaldy did a great job last week with his article on the treatment plant operation and describing the latest incident. He went on to explain the capacities at the City's four pumping stations and what properties fed into each station. Three of the stations are almost identical, he advised, with wet wells. The Macdonough Drive station has two pumps that have the ability to pump at least 1.44 million gallons a day to the plant. Currently 99.6 percent of the city is on the system (there are 6 properties that are not). The treatment plant was upgraded in 2001 and is designed for 1.30 million gallons per day, he advised. Over the years various upgrades have been addressing our improvement of overflows but when we have a power outage we lose our pumping capabilities. We do have a trailer with a generator mounted on it to run the pumps in an emergency situation when the power goes out. The data system is tied into Mission Communications where daily monitoring of pumps is recorded, he advised. He went on to show graphs for each of the pump stations that he printed off the Mission system that clearly showed the spike in gallonage being handled for those two days when the spill occurred. Sump pumps, house drains, perimeter drains, etc. are all emptying into the system so when we have days of heavy rain and melting snow, we are generally on the alert. He pointed out that the Macdonough Drive pump station has limited users and is a weak link in our system; 300,000 gallons a day this dry summer was the average. Chris Robinson, who is a wastewater treatment plant operator in Shelburne, advised one-tenth of one percent in each gallon is sewer solids. Our spill was 216 gallons per hour so there was minimal pollution that went on, he advised. A Section 1272 Order is issued by the State, as found in Title 10, when there is a violation like what we had but it is a good thing as it makes towns come into compliance. Discussion ended at 7 p.m.

FY2014 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS: Copies of the FY2014 audit were distributed to the City Council. Manager Hawley advised fund balances can be found on pages 5, 27, 28, and 29. He pointed out that the General Fund ended with a fund balance of about \$149,000; we are using \$118,000 of it to keep taxes down this year.

2015 HIGHWAY MILEAGE CERTIFICATE: Manager Hawley advised we haven't made any changes regarding our streets so no corrections are necessary. These numbers are used to calculate our mileage aid from the State. The document was passed for signatures from the Board.

STRONG COMMUNITIES, BETTER CONNECTIONS PROGRAM: Manager Hawley advised he needs authorization to sign the Grant Recipient Project Commitments Form for the Vergennes Downtown Basin/Master Plan grant the City was awarded. Only partial funding was received so there is a revised scope of work than applied for. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to authorize Manager Hawley to sign the document, seconded by Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette, with all voting in favor.

COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PLAN: Mayor Benton advised we need to get a handle on where we want to go with our recreation. He feels we need to write a mission statement and a recreation plan and that he would like to put together a group to start working on this. It will create structure, policy and procedure, he advised.

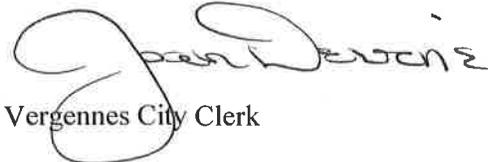
PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUND PROJECT: City Manager Hawley reported that the advisory group for the pre-school/toddler park met and came up with a proposal that was presented to the Development Review Board. They have scheduled a public hearing on the proposed plan for February 2nd.

ISO PUBLIC PROTECTION RATING: The Vergennes Fire Department has been able to maintain its Class 4 classification for another five years. Class 4 is the best rating a volunteer department can obtain. If the rating decreases to a 5, for example, commercial properties will see a ten percent increase in their insurance premiums.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: At 7:10 p.m. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to go into an executive session to discuss a potential land purchase from L.F. Benton Company. The motion was seconded by Senior Alderman Randall Ouellette. Mayor Benton departed at this time and Senior Alderman Ouellette took over the meeting. At 7:21 p.m. Alderman Bertrand moved to adjourn the executive session, seconded by Alderman Daniels, with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:21 p.m. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Alderman Mike Daniels, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Daniels", is written over the printed name "Vergennes City Clerk". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Vergennes City Clerk