

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2016
MINUTES

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

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| Mayor William Benton | Alderman Jeffrey Fritz |
| Senior Alderman Renny Perry | Alderman Lowell Bertrand |
| Alderman Mark Koenig | City Manager Mel Hawley |
| Alderman Michael Daniels | City Clerk Joan Devine |
| Alderman Lynn Donnelly | Sierra Bertrand (6:10 p.m.) |

WARRANT: The warrant presented for approval in the amount of \$733,508.59, which included the 3rd quarter education tax to ANWSU, was circulated for review and signatures of approval.

MINUTES: The minutes to the February 9, 2016 meeting was amended. At the top of page 3 dealing with sidewalk extension on South Maple Street, the second sentence was corrected to read, "He also reported the Addison County Board of Realtors has applied for a \$15,000 grant through the National Association of Realtors towards the cost of the installation of sidewalk from Thomas Circle on South Maple Street to the trailer park located just across the City line in Waltham." Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Senior Alderman Perry, with all voting in favor.

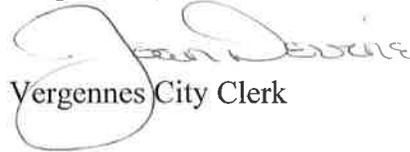
DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION FUND GRANT: City Manager Hawley advised he had been working with the Vergennes Partnership regarding another streetscape project involving a grant application for sidewalk replacement at the intersection of Green and School Streets and has a preliminary plan for the project that was engineered by Norman LeBoeuf. The deadline for applications for funding is March 7th. He advised he will be leaving on vacation March 3rd. The Boys and Girls Club as well as Bar Antidote will be made handicapped accessible as well as additional outside seating for Bar Antidote in anticipation of their expanding to the ground floor. He has met with restaurant owner Ian Huizenga and property owner Hans Vorsteveld and they are requesting a loan from the Water Tower Fund for approximately \$20,000 that would be their share of the estimated project costs of \$80,000. The Downtown Transportation Fund will cover 50 percent of the cost if awarded, the City pays 25 percent and the property owner pays the remaining 25 percent, he advised. Senior Alderman Perry advised the Vergennes Partnership can get involved at this point and write the grant application and submit it on behalf of the City. Getting estimates quick enough for the amended project is critical to the application especially if it is competitive, he stated. They will have to come up with a preliminary plan at the very least. Alderman Fritz advised Norman LeBoeuf shot the full property when preparing a plan for Manager Hawley so that should not be a problem. He also pointed out that this is a very visible corner so we need to do this correctly. Mayor Benton stated he agrees in theory to the City's \$20,000 share from the Water Tower Fund and the potential loan to Hans Vorsteveld, owner of the property, for another \$20,000. Alderman Mark Koenig questioned how this would play out if the voters do not approve a reserve fund for the water tower revenues on hand. City Manager Hawley advised, if not approved, water tower revenues will go into the general fund on June 30th but we can continue to do as we have always done according to the policy until that time. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to allocate \$40,000 from the Water Tower Fund for this project and authorize submission of the grant application. Alderman Mike Daniels seconded the

motion with all voting in favor except Alderman Jeff Fritz who recused himself from the vote due to his affiliation with the Boys and Girls Club as one of their board members.

VTel WIRELESS: VTel Wireless would like to locate some wireless equipment on the water tower, advised Manager Hawley. This conversation qualifies for an executive session if the City Council so chooses. They are trying to improve the connectivity of their facility at St. Paul's Church to its network, he advised, and will need to install a small-scale 2' diameter antenna. They are offering a monthly fee in the vicinity of \$200. Senior Alderman Renny Perry moved to authorize City Manager Hawley to finalize negotiations and be authorized to sign a contract with VTel Wireless on behalf of the City. The motion was seconded by Alderman Lowell Bertrand with all voting in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: At 6:30 p.m. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Mark Koenig, with all voting in favor. The Annual City Meeting will be held Monday, February 29th, beginning with a desert social at 7:00 p.m. in the Opera House. The next regular City Council meeting will be held March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Fire Station.

Respectfully submitted,



Vergennes City Clerk