

**City Of New Virginia
Council Meeting Minutes
January 8th, 2024**

The Council met in regular session on Monday January 8th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. for the January council meeting.

Justin Strange was officially sworn-in as Mayor through December 31, 2025.

Pam Dunkin, Josey Galivan and Chris Truman were officially sworn-in as Council Members through December 31, 2027.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Strange with Council Members Dunkin and Truman present and Galivan present via phone. Taylor absent.

Minutes from the December meeting and Treasurer's Report were approved.

Old business discussed: The trees along North Street at the northeast corner of town have been removed.

The house in the 300 block of Main Street has been removed.

The Urban Revitalization Plan is nearing completion and is currently scheduled to be finalized at the February council meeting. The Warren County Assessor will be contacted regarding the February 1st deadline for tax abatement applications.

The financials for the summer and fall truck pulls will be finalized to compare income to expenses to help determine if there will be a fall truck pull this year.

Citizen Input: There was citizen input for the Council to consider doing work on the alley between Main Street and West Street at the start of the 500 block, the north/south alley behind 704 West Street, the alley on the south side of the Legion Hall, as well as consider asphaltting South Street. Other citizen input included solar panels to provide energy to the city. The final citizen input was the concern of the build-up of junk and the appearance of the property in the 100 block of Broadway Street.

Water Utilities discussed: The Council was informed of high water usage at the old school house building. The cause of the high usage is being looked into. An online water bill payment issue for a property in the 300 block of West Street is being worked on. The company that the City purchased the software from for the operation of the new sonic water meters and valves has filed for bankruptcy. There are two other businesses that are working on taking over the operation of the SET software so there will be no disruption in service.

Fire Department Business: Fire Chief Jake Zuercher was present to discuss the re-appointment of current representative and alternate or appointment of a new representative and alternate for the Warren County 911 Board. Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to re-appoint Jake Zuercher as the representative and Dave Schaefer as the

alternate for the Warren County 911 Board. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher discussed with the Council, the possibility of hiring for staffed EMS positions to cover EMS calls in conjunction with the Warren County Board of Supervisors. The positions would be hired by the City of New Virginia and under the operation of the City. The EMS positions would be funded by Warren County through LOST funds initially and then by an EMS Essential Service Tax if passed by Warren County voters. The Council is interested in this proposal to insure EMS services for citizens of the New Virginia community.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher updated the Council on Rapid Response Truck 769 that was damaged in an accident on December 15th. The truck was totaled out by the City insurance carrier. A new truck will be ordered this week and projected to be in service in April. The truck had full replacement coverage minus a deductible.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher reviewed the 2023 fire department call responses. There were 48 fire responses and 132 EMS/Ambulance responses for a total of 180 responses.

Fire Chief Jake Zuercher discussed some fire department members not meeting minimum attendance/response requirements. These members will be sent a letter regarding their lack of participation.

Law Enforcement: – The report summary from the Sheriff’s Office for the month of December was reviewed. Deputies received or initiated 41 calls for service during the month of December. Officers spent in excess of 40 hours in the City for the month. Officers patrolled in excess of 262 miles within the city limits for the month. Three citations and/or warnings were written for traffic/parking violations that occurred within the City of New Virginia proper.

Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to pass and approve Resolution 2024-01 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A NEW AGREEMENT AND CONTRACT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF NEW VIRGINIA AND THE WARREN COUNTY SHERIFF LOCKING IN THE RATE AT THE SAME RATE AS FISCAL YEAR 2024 (\$12,596.00) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025, 2026 AND 2027. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to add Mayor Justin Strange and Deputy City Clerk Brent Baughman and to keep City Clerk Jennifer Baughman and City Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Truman on all City State Bank bank accounts and remove former Mayor Norville Huston. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to add Mayor Justin Strange, Deputy Clerk Brent Baughman, City Council Member/Mayor Pro-Tem Chris Truman and keep City Clerk Jennifer Baughman on the City safe deposit box signature card and remove former Mayor Norville Huston. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to pass and approve Resolution 2024-02 – A RESOLUTION NAMING CITY STATE BANK AND IOWA PUBLIC TRUST AGENCY INVESTMENT TRUST (IPAIT) DEPOSITORIES OF CITY FUNDS. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Truman moved, seconded by Dunkin to designate the Indianola RHT/Independent Advocate as official paper for publication of City Budget, State of Iowa Annual Financial Report, ordinances and any other necessary legal publications. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Dunkin moved, seconded by Truman to designate the Tri Corner Express as official paper for publication of City Council Meeting Minutes, public notices and any other legal publications for 2024. A roll call vote was taken: 2 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Dunkin to re-appoint Robert Stuyvesant as City Attorney for the City of New Virginia for 2024. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Galivan moved, seconded by Dunkin to approve the re-appointment of City Clerk – Jennifer Baughman; Deputy City Clerk – Brent Baughman; Office Assistant – Stephanie Galivan; Mayor Pro-Tem – Chris Truman. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The first half of fiscal year 2023-24 financials were reviewed.

The 2024-25 city budget was discussed. The Iowa Legislature approved legislation that will significantly reduce the levies available for use and implements a Combined General Fund Levy that may result in revenue reductions. Some items to be considered in the budget process include water main street valves, fire department building updates including new drywall in the laundry room, sidewalks, additional fence work at GAMP, movie rentals for movie nights in the park.

GAMP UPDATE
January 8th, 2024

The persons name and phone number interested in cleaning GAMP Community Building has been obtained and will be contacted in January.

The concrete pads for the disc golf course will be poured this spring.

KEEP IOWA BEAUTIFUL PROGRAM

The interested parties for the mural project on the north side of the old hardware store have been reviewed and a decision on the artist has been made.

There are several events being planned for in 2024. One of the first events will be a kite flying event in April.

The Elf Club did a great job with the lighting of the tree and Christmas displays in Old Settlers Park. The Elf Club lights and displays have been taken down and placed in storage. The Elf Club is looking to make the Christmas display in Old Settlers Park even bigger and better.

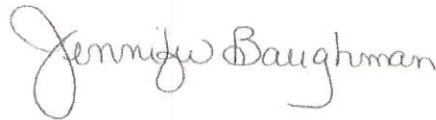
The Warren County Auditor's Office is interested in using the GAMP Community Building for the November 2024 elections. The Council approves the use of the GAMP Community Building for the November 2024 elections.

Filling the vacant Council Member seat due to Justin Strange becoming Mayor was discussed. Proper procedures for appointing a new person to the Council seat will be reviewed.

The City Treasurer position was discussed. A search for the City Treasurer position will be done this month for Council approval at the February council meeting.

Truman moved, seconded by Galivan to approve payment of all City bills. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

With no further business to come forth, Galivan moved, seconded by Truman to adjourn meeting. A roll call vote was taken: 3 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m. The February council meeting is scheduled for Monday February 5th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. **February meeting date – Monday February 5th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**



Jennifer Baughman, City Clerk