

December 15, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
21 FEB 11 AM 11:17

TELECONFERENCE CALL IN NUMBER: 1-929-205-6099

MEETING ID: 896 5941 1685 PASSWORD: 1215

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020 – 7:30 PM

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited

ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Thomas DiDio, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Pauline Schaefer, Jim Tedford, Steve Wakefield, Michael Wendus

Absent:

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting:

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Recording Secretary Kathleen Minor

B.) CITIZENS FORUM

- Mark Shekleton, 280 Phoenix Street spoke regarding pedestrian safety and the recent petitions
- Eileen Dee, 137 Washington Street – spoke regarding speed humps
- Joann Bianca, 162 Washington Street – spoke regarding sidewalks
- Mike Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive – spoke regarding safety
- Genaro Gonzalez, 59 High Street – spoke regarding various topics

7:44PM – Citizens Forum ended.

D.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

E.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne updated the Town Council on the following topics:

- The Historical Society Video Project documenting local historic monuments was recently completed and released at can be found at <https://vernonhistoricalsoc.org>.
- Winterfest 2020 received over 1050 cars passing through the new format and the lights continue to be displayed nightly from 4pm-10pm nightly through the holiday season.
- The TOV late night business hours have been changed with the exception of offices normally open 24 hours for the two holiday weeks.
- Anyone interested in ad space for the first edition of the new town magazine can contact Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator.
- The Vernon Volunteer Firefighters Association are collecting toys through 12/19/2020.
- A joint Town Council and Board of Education meeting will be held January 5, 2021 via Zoom to discuss medical insurance.
- Socktober, organized by Tommy Glinski, a 7th grade student at VCMS, raised \$915.15 and collected 2331 pairs of socks for the homeless.

December 15, 2020

- The annual Wreaths Across America Ceremony will be held Saturday, December 19, 2020 at Lugg Field, Grove Hill Cemetery.
- The Office of Emergency Management is closely monitoring the upcoming winter storm and is coordinating our local preparedness efforts. Refuse and Recycling has been postponed for December 17, 2020 pickup, as well as the COVID-19/Flu clinic at the Senior Center.

Mayor Champagne wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member Wakefield pulled C2. Motion carried unanimously to approve C1 by roll call vote.

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current years.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated December 7, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIX (6) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$2,230.14 AND TWENTY (20) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$4,264.82 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED DECEMBER 7, 2020.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment requests #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8 for FY 2020-2021 as provided by Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated December 10, 2020 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #4, #5, #6, #7 AND #8 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve budget amendment requests #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8 for FY2020-2021. Mayor Champagne spoke regarding request #8. Chief James Kenney spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1.) Update for the Town Council provided by Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer relative COVID Grants from State. (no documents attached.)

Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer updated the Town Council on the COVID grants and funds received. Overall, \$261,046 has been or will be received from various sources. We have recovered 92% of expenses submitted for reimbursement through both the State of Connecticut Municipal Coronavirus Relief Fund and the Federal CARES Act.

December 15, 2020

2.) Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal requests by the Police and Parks and Recreation Departments. (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated December 8, 2020 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE POLICE AND PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENTS AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET INFORMATION FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to approve the asset disposal requests by the Police and Parks and Recreation Departments. Mayor Champagne answered questions regarding the purchase of vehicle and spare parts. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

None

N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON ***DECEMBER 1, 2020*** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting held on December 1, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

C.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:22 PM - Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion to enter into Executive Session #1:

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

8:43 PM - Executive Session #1 ended. No action taken.

December 15, 2020

8:45 PM - Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to enter into Executive Session #2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote

9:23 PM - Executive Session #2 ended and resulted in the following action:

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion pursuant to Chapter X, Sec 3, and Chapter XI, Sec 3, of the Vernon Town Charter and the Town Council, hereby approves Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's recommendation to renew the contract of Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, and further approves the contract for same as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion that the Town Council hereby moves to approve the adjustment to the Emergency Management Director's stipend and benefits as presented. Motion carried with 11 in favor by roll call vote (Council Member Clay had left the call).

P.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION

None

Q.) ADJOURN (9:29PM)

Mayor Champagne reminded the Town Council of the joint Board of Education and Town Council Special Meeting to be held on January 5, 2021.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Received: January 7, 2021

Approved: January 19, 2021

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary