

July 21, 2020

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
20 SEP -9 PM 12:22

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING

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

MEETING ID: 896 2074 0934 PASSWORD: 0721

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020 - 7:30 PM

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

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B.) ROLL CALL

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

Absent:

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting: Brian Motola

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

- Ann Letendre, 29 Gottier Road, spoke regarding the ballot drop box
- Professor Brittney Yancy spoke regarding declaring racism as a Public Health Crisis
- Maryann Levesque, 183 Bolton Road, commented on the ballot drop box and tax drop box.
- Tom DiDio, 112 Box Mountain Drive commented regarding virtual meeting platforms

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:40 PM.

E.) PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

- A Moment of Silence in honor of former Town Council member Steve Peterson was observed.
- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented the following updates to the Town Council:
- The Mayor's 2020 Concert Series will be held at McCoy Field in Henry Park on August 6th and August 13th.
- The Vernon Dog Park officially opened on Monday July 13th
- 19 Grove Street is progressing
- The older Ford Expedition will be replaced in the Police Department fleet
- As part of Vernon's Sustainable Initiative to reduce energy costs the installation of solar panels and canopies on various town owned properties and schools with an estimated cost of \$1,229,227 over the next 25 years.
- There will be a specific window designated in the office of the Town Clerk in lieu of an exterior ballot box to ensure protected voting.

July 21, 2020

Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey O'Neill presented an update on the municipal bond financing which will save a total of \$1,828,809.64 in principal and interest payments over the next 11 years.

Town Administrator and Director of Emergency Management and Incident Commander, Michael J. Purcaro presented the following updates to the Town Council on the Town of Vernon's COVID-19 recovery and response operations:

- Testing continues and has expanded to twice a week at St Bernard's Church – consideration adding testing within the school systems is being discussed, more information will be following. Antibody testing has been added as well.
- The Town of Vernon sponsored regional blood drives are continuing due to great success and additional dates will be offered.
- The Local Recovery Advisory Committee is continuing to meet weekly and continues to provide assistance to area businesses and the feedback has been positive.
- The Town of Vernon Public Schools reopening committee continues to meet. The plan is being designed in a flexible and adaptable way to ensure the best possible way to meet the needs of all of our families.
- A Town of Vernon was a recipient of a grant in the amount of \$8,557 to purchase PPE for the Fire Department and EMS from FEMA through the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) Program.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member Clay pulled C-2. Motion to approve C-1 and C-3 through C-10 carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- C-1 Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #1, for fiscal year 2020-2021 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See budget amendment form with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #1, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM.

- C-3 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 July 2, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUND TOTALING \$204.77 AND TWO (2) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$221.18 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JULY 2, 2020.

July 21, 2020

- C-4 **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Pegi Deitz Shea, (D), 27 Fox Hill Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, to the volunteer position of Poet Laureate at the Rockville Public Library, said term to commence on July 22, 2020 and expires on July 20, 2021.** (A copy of Ms. Shea's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION APRIL 16, 2019 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF PEGI DEITZ SHEA, 27 FOX HILL DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE VOLUNTEER POSITION OF POET LAUREATE AT THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 22, 2020 AND EXPIRES JULY 20, 2021.

- C-5 **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of William J. Gilson, Jr., (D), 95 Skinner Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on September 1, 2020 and expires on August 31, 2023.** (A copy of Mr. Gilson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. GILSON, JR., (D), 95 SKINNER ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 31, 2023.

- C-6 **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Tim Poloski, (D), 38 Risley Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Capital Improvements Committee, said term to commence on September 1, 2020 and expires on August 31, 2023.** (A copy of Mr. Poloski's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TIM POLOSKI, (D), 38 RISLEY ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 31, 2023.

- C-7 **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of M. Lisa Moody, (R), 89 Campbell Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Capital Improvements Committee, said term to commence September 1, 2020 and expires on August 31, 2023.**
(A copy of Ms. Moody's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S

July 21, 2020

REAPPOINTMENT OF M. LISA MOODY, (R), 89 CAMPBELL AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 31, 2023.

- C-8 Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Kathy Minor, (D), 83 Berkeley Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Inland Wetland Regulatory Commission, said term commences July 22, 2020 and expires on December 31, 2022.** (A copy of Ms. Minor's resume is included for Council review. Ms. Minor is completing the unexpired term of Michael Guminiak.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF KATHY MINOR, (D), 83 BERKELEY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 22, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2022.

- C-9 Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of the DPW, 375 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence July 22, 2020 and expires February 20, 2023.** (Mr. Ryniewicz is a present Town of Vernon employee and therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR APPOINTMENT OF DWIGHT RYNIEWICZ, DIRECTOR OF DPW, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 22, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 20, 2023.

- C-10 Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jordan Coe, (I), 151 Griswold Road, Wethersfield, Connecticut (President and Co-Owner of Waverly Markets, LLC.) as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission, said term to commence July 22, 2020 and June 30, 2025.** (A copy of Jordan Coe's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.S.G. § 7-136 AND ORDINANCE NO. 15; TOWN CODE SECTION 10-81 AND 82, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JORDAN COE, (I), 151 GRISWOLD ROAD, WETHERSFIELD, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 22, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

- H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)**

- C-2 Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #31, #32, #33, #34, #35 and #36 for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer**

July 21, 2020

Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached. (See budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #31, #32, #33, #34, #35 AND #36 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move Consent Agenda item C-2. Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Director and Treasurer, Diane Wheelock, Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council refer Jen Drive final conveyance to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 referral required under Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes.** (See memorandum from David Smith, Vernon Town Engineer dated July 16, 2020 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL REFERS TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION'S AUGUST 6, 2020 REGULAR MEETING THE FINAL CONVEYANCE OF JEN DRIVE TO THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR A REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-24 OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to refer to the Planning and Zoning Commission's August 6, 2020 regular meeting the final conveyance of Jen Drive to the Town of Vernon. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Bush, by roll call vote.

2. **Request the Town Council authorize the transfer of FY 2019-2020 available funds from the Board of Education Operating Budget to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account.** (See letter from Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools dated July 1, 2020 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TRANSFER OF \$431,906.30 FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATING BUDGET FY2019-2020 TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the transfer of \$431,906.30 from available funds in the Board of Education operating budget FY

July 21, 2020

2019-2022 to the Board of Education reserve fund for capital and non-recurring expenditures. Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joseph Macary spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member Levesque, with roll call vote.

- 3. Request the Town Council authorize Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to sign and certify the Town of Vernon's continued funding for the FY 2021 Matching Grant funding for the Dial-A-Ride Municipal funding grant.** (See memorandum dated July 14, 2020 from Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER TO CERTIFY THE TOWN OF VERNON'S CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE FY 2021 DIAL-A-RIDE MATCHING MUNICIPAL FUNDING GRANT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to authorize Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, to certify the Town of Vernon's continued funding for the FY 2021 Dial-A Ride matching municipal funding grant. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

- 4. Request the Town Council authorize Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to sign on behalf of the Town of Vernon the contract between the Town and Capital Workforce Partners to operate the 2020 Summer Youth Employment Program.** (See memorandum from Michelle Hill, Director Youth Services to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN AND CAPITAL WORKFORCE PARTNERS TO OPERATE THE 2020 SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to authorize Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, to sign on behalf of the town the contract between the town and Capital Workforce Partners to operate the 2020 Summer Youth Employment Program. Michelle Hill, Director of Youth Services, answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

- 5. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute all the necessary forms to make application for and receive FY 2021 Emergency School Readiness Summer funds in the amount of \$29,310.00.** (See documents from Michelle Hill relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE BE AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY FORMS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE FY 2021

July 21, 2020

EMERGENCY SCHOOL READINESS SUMMER FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$29,310.00

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion that Mayor Daniel A. Champagne be authorized by the Town Council to execute the necessary forms to make application for and receive FY 2021 Emergency School Readiness summer funds in the amount of \$29,310.00. Motion carried unanimously with 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 **JUNE 16, 2020** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the virtual regular Town Council meeting held on June 16, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:38PM – Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following amended motion to go into Executive Session:

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (B) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT RELATED TO **PHELPS V TOWN OF VERNON FILE #0121745** AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND AND ATTORNEY RICHARD BARTLETT OF THE LAW FIRM MCGANN, BARTLETT AND BROWN TO ATTEND.

8:47PM – Executive Session ended.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AGREES TO THE FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT AS PRESENTED IN THE MATTER OF **PHELPS V TOWN OF VERNON FILE #0121745** TO RESOLVE SAID CLAIM. ONCE THE SETTLEMENT IS EXECUTED, IT WILL BECOME PUBLIC.

Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

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

July 21, 2020

1. Monthly Report – June 2020 Vernon Police Department as submitted by Capital John Kelley.
2. Monthly Report – June 2020 Vernon Town Clerk as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

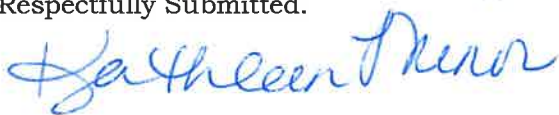
Q.) ADJOURN (8:49PM)

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

Received: August 12, 2020

Approved: August 18, 2020

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary