

AGENDA  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**VIRTUAL INFO: CALL IN #1-929-205-6099**  
**Meeting ID: 840 5598 3405 Password: 0505**

~~TOWN HALL — 14 PARK PLACE — 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR~~  
~~VERNON, CONNECTICUT~~

**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2020**  
7:30 P.M.

- A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  - B.) ROLL CALL
  - C.) CITIZENS FORUM
- 

- D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION
  - E.) PUBLIC HEARING
- 

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to update the Town Council on various topics.

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G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

- 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 April 28, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$1815.25 AND ONE (1) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUND TOTALING \$741.07 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 28, 2020.

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H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

J.) NEW BUSINESS

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

**A Proposed Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance Amending Ordinance #233 Entitled Ordinance Pertaining to the Control of Dogs Within The Town of Vernon".** (A copy of said Ordinance is included for Council review. A number will be assigned once the Ordinance is approved.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SEC. 6, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES," HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #233 ENTITLED, ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON**", AT 7:45 PM ON TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE. THIS PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD VIA VIRTUAL TELECONFERENCE: CALL IN INFORMATION IS AS FOLLOWS: CALL IN: **1-929-205-6099**, MEETING ID: **840 5598 3405** PASSWORD: **0505**.

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **APRIL 21, 2020** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

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

Q.) ADJOURNMENT



PRINT FORM

# TOWN OF VERNON

# DEPARTMENT SUBMISSION FOR

# TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA

# CONSENT

# 1

FROM DEPARTMENT/NAME

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE

PROPOSED ITEM

TAX REFUNDS

SUBJECT

TAX REFUNDS

ACTION REQUESTED

REQUEST FOR TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEAR(S) AND CURRENT YEAR. (A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, IS INCLUDED IN THE COUNCIL PACKET.

DATED

04/28/2020

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

[Empty box for background information]

APPROPRIATION REQUIRED ?

NO  YES

AMOUNT SOUGHT

[Empty box for amount sought]

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

[Empty box for list of supporting documentation]

WORDING PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES  TAX REFUND(S) FOR PRIOR YEAR(S)

TOTALING  AND CURRENT YEAR  TOTALING

AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED



# TOWN OF VERNON

Terry Hjarne CCMC  
Collector of Revenue

8 Park Place, VERNON, CT 06066  
Tel: (860) 870-3660  
Fax: (860) 870-3585  
E-mail: thjarne@vernon-ct.gov

TO: Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator  
FROM: Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue  
DATE: April 28, 2020  
SUBJECT: Refunds for Town Council Approval

**PRIOR YEARS:**

VERNON VILLAGE INC.....	955.77
PAID IN ERROR - COURT ORDER	
VERNON VILLAGE INC.....	859.48
PAID IN ERROR - COURT ORDER	

**CURRENT YEAR: 2018 GRAND LIST**

VERNON VILLAGE INC.....	741.07
PAID IN ERROR - COURT ORDER	
<b>(2) Prior Overpayments .....</b>	<b>\$1,815.25</b>
<b>(1) Current Overpayments .....</b>	<b>\$741.07</b>

Cc: Jeff O'Neill TXP20111 TXC20111

# ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE # \_\_\_\_\_

## AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE #233 ENTITLED "ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON"

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town of Vernon that Ordinance #233 IS hereby amended as follows:

Sections 8-121 through 8-123 which now read:

Section 8-121 – Definitions.

*Dog* shall mean any member of the canine species, male, female, neutered male or spayed female.

*Owner* shall mean any person or persons, firm, association, partnership, LLC or corporation possessing, keeping or having custody of a dog.

*At large* shall mean off the premises of the owner, and not under the control of the owner by a leash, cord or chain.

Section 8-122 - Running at large prohibited at properties owned by the Town of Vernon and/or operated by the Vernon Board of Education and Parks and Recreation Department.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog to allow such dog to be at large within any property owned by the town and/or operated by the town board of education, or any property owned by the town and/or operated by the town parks and recreation department with the exception of any property which the town council may designate as an area for dogs to be at large.

(b) The provisions of this article shall not apply to dogs owned or controlled by government law enforcement agencies or organized fire departments or persons authorized by said agencies or departments to engage in search and rescue activity or training for such activity.

(c) Any violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each violation.

(d) This section shall be reviewed by the town council two (2) years from its effective date, and at such time the town council may amend or repeal this section if it so chooses.

Sec. 8-123. - Removal of feces.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping, walking or in control of any dog to allow or permit such animal to defecate upon any private property owned by another

person, condominium common elements, street, sidewalk, gutter or other public area unless such person shall remove all feces so deposited by such animal before leaving the immediate premises.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person who is blind or deaf, walking or in control of a guide dog licensed pursuant to General Statutes section 22-345, or by any person who is physically unable to remove said feces.

(c) The provisions of this article shall not apply to dogs owned or controlled by government law enforcement agencies or organized fire departments or persons authorized by said agencies or departments to engage in search and rescue activity or training for such activity.

(d) Any violation of this section shall be punishable by a fine of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each violation.

(e) This section shall be reviewed by the town council two (2) years from its effective date, and at such time the town council may amend or repeal this section if it so chooses.

Are hereby repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

Section 8-121 – Definitions.

*At large* shall mean off the premises of the owner, and not under the control of the owner by a leash, cord or chain.

*Dog* shall mean any member of the canine species, male, female, neutered male or spayed female.

*Livestock* shall mean any camelid or hooved animal raised for domestic or commercial use.

*Poultry* shall mean any species of domestic fowl, including, but not limited to, chickens, turkeys, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, waterfowl and game birds raised for domestic or commercial use.

*Owner* shall mean any person or persons, firm, association, partnership, LLC or corporation possessing, keeping or having custody of a dog, livestock or poultry.

Section 8-122 - Running at large prohibited at properties owned by the Town of Vernon and/or operated by the Vernon Board of Education and Parks and Recreation Department.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog to allow a dog to be at large or otherwise on the property of another without the permission of the owner or occupant of said property. It shall be unlawful for any owner of any dog to allow a dog to be at large on any property owned by the town and/or operated by the town board of education, or any property

owned by the town and/or operated by the town parks and recreation department with the exception of any property which the town council may designate as an area for dogs to be at large.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any owner of livestock or poultry to allow livestock or poultry to be at large or otherwise on the property of another without the permission of the owner or occupant of said property. It shall be unlawful for any owner of any livestock or poultry to allow livestock or poultry to be at large on any property owned by the town and/or operated by the town board of education, or any property owned by the town and/or operated by the town parks and recreation department. At all times, livestock and poultry shall be kept on the premises belonging to, or occupied by, the owner via leash, enclosure, fence, shelter, or other means, unless attended by or under the control of the owner/keeper.

(c) The provisions of this article shall not apply to dogs owned or controlled by government law enforcement agencies or organized fire departments or persons authorized by said agencies or departments to engage in search and rescue activity or training for such activity.

(d) *Penalties for offenses.* Any owner violating any provision of this article shall be fined in accordance with Section 1-9 of this Code of Ordinances. Each day that any such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense. The imposition of any fine hereunder shall not prevent the enforced abatement of any unlawful condition by the Town.

Sec. 8-123. - Removal of feces.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person owning, keeping, walking or in control of any dog, livestock or poultry to allow or permit such animal to defecate upon any private property owned by another person, condominium common elements, street, sidewalk, gutter or other public area unless such person shall remove all feces so deposited by such animal before leaving the immediate premises.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person who is blind or deaf, walking or in control of a guide dog licensed pursuant to General Statutes section 22-345, or by any person who is physically unable to remove said feces.

(c) The provisions of this article shall not apply to dogs owned or controlled by government law enforcement agencies or organized fire departments or persons authorized by said agencies or departments to engage in search and rescue activity or training for such activity.

(d) *Penalties for offenses.* Any owner violating any provision of this article shall be fined in accordance with Section 1-9 of this Code of Ordinances. Each day that any such violation shall continue shall constitute a separate offense. The imposition of any fine hereunder shall not prevent the enforced abatement of any unlawful condition by the Town.

MINUTES  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING  
 TELECONFERENCE CALL IN NUMBER: 1-929-205-6099  
 MEETING ID: 926 7957 8887 PASSWORD: 0421  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 - 7:30PM

RECEIVED  
 VERNON TOWN CLERK  
 20 MAY -1 PM 12: 05

Mayor Daniel Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B.) 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 Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Maryanne Levesque, 183 Bolton Road commented and commended the Town of Vernon for being one of the safest places in Connecticut.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

- Mayor Daniel Champagne spoke regarding COVID19 updates and explained how the Town of Vernon has responded
- A grant was received from the Harford Foundation to benefit both the Cornerstone and Hockanum Valley food pantries
- The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2020 at 7:00pm at Rockville High School with drive through and walk-up voting.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

- C 1.** Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Current year. (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated April 13, 2020 included in the Council packet.)



**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUND TOTALING \$22.19 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 13, 2020.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #15 and #16, for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer 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 #15 AND #16 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS.

- H.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)**  
None

- I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**  
None

- J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council consider the Suspension and Modification of Tax Deadlines and Collection Efforts.** (See memorandum dated April 15, 2020 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro and Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek relative to same.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, That the Town Council on April 21, 2020 hereby approves participation in a Deferment Program which shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to participate in a Deferment Program allowing a ninety (90) day deferment on taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with supporting documentation. Mayor Champagne spoke. Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with roll call vote.

**2. Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing on May 19, 2020 at 7:35 pm via teleconference (see call in information in the motion below) to hear comments and take the necessary action relative to the 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.** (See memorandum dated April 7, 2020 from Michelle Hill, Interim Director of Social Services for the Town of Vernon to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 19, 2020 AT 7:35 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE TO HEAR COMMENT AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO ***“THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM”***. THOSE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CALL IN TO THE TELECONFERENCE AS FOLLOWS: ***Call in information: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 967 5064 0235; Password: 0519.***

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on May 19, 2020 at 7:35PM via teleconference call relative to **The Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program**. Michelle Hill, Interim Director of Social Services, was available to answer questions. Motion carried with roll call vote.

**3. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program adopt the following documents, and further declare April, 2020 Fair Housing Month.** (See a copy of the six documents listed in the resolution below in your packet for review.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING ***SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM*** DOCUMENTS:

***TOWN OF VERNON - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT***

***TOWN OF VERNON - AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADA NOTICE***

***TOWN OF VERNON - AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE***

***TOWN OF VERNON - COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964***

***TOWN OF VERNON - FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT***

***TOWN OF VERNON - FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION***

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to adopt the **Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program** documents. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL JOINS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE IN DECLARING *APRIL, 2020 FAIR HOUSING MONTH* IN THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to declare April 2020 Fair Housing Month. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**4. Request the Town Council refer 8 Morrison Street, Vernon, CT to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review.** (See memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Town Council dated April 15, 2020 relative to same. Also included is the property card for reference.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 8-24 REVIEW FROM THE TOWN OF VERNON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AS IT APPLIES TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS *8 MORRISON STREET, PARCEL NO. 22-0050-0003A*.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to refer 8 Morrison Street, Vernon CT to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a 8-24 review. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to donate \$5,000 to Hockanum Valley and \$2,500 to Cornerstone. Mayor Champagne spoke. Action was not valid and died without a vote, as it had not been put forward as an additional agenda item.

**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 *APRIL 7, 2020* AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting held on March 17, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

1. Monthly Report – March, 2020 for the Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain John Kelley.
2. Monthly Report – March, 2020 for the Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Karen Daigle, Vernon Town Clerk.

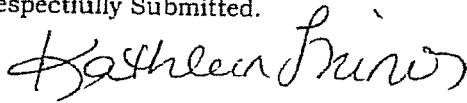
**Q.) ADJOURN (8:14PM)**

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor  
Recording Secretary