

February 5, 2019

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

February 5, 2019- 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

19 FEB 27 PM 1:34

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

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Steve Wakefield, Thomas DiDio, Mike Wendus, ~~Julie Clay~~, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, ~~Pauline Schaefer~~ and Ralph Zahner

Absent: ~~None~~ Council Members Julie Clay and Pauline Schaefer

Entered During Meeting: Steve Peterson and Brian Motola

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

C) CITIZENS FORUM

None.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7:33PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

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 THE FOLLOWING TAX APPEALS: *Key Bank National Association et al., v Town of Vernon et al., HBB-CV-18-6046014-S*; *BostonVernon, LLC, v Town of Vernon et al., CV-17-6039045-S*; and *BostonRockville II, LLC, v Town of Vernon et al., CV-16-S*, AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ASSESSOR DAVID WHEELER AND ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY MARTIN BURKE TO ATTEND.

7:35PM Council Member Motola entered Executive Session.

7:37PM Executive Session ended.

7:42PM Council Member Steve Peterson entered the meeting.

7:44PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to settle tax appeal **HHB-CV-18-6046014-S**, captioned KEYBANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION and FIRST NIAGARA BANK, N.A. vs Town of Vernon et al,” for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2017 for the assessed value of \$1,200,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$1,600,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2019 bill for the 2017 Grand List. Motion carried unanimously.

7:46PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to settle a tax appeal **CV-17-6039045-S** captioned BOSTONVERNON, LLC vs Town of Vernon, et al” for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for the assessed value of \$1,470,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$2,100,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bills for the 2016 and 2017 Grand Lists. Motion carried unanimously.

*(CV-16-S, captioned BOSTONROCKVILLE II, LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al- Plaintiff withdrawn)

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E) **PUBLIC HEARING:**

None.

F) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

1. I hope everyone took the opportunity to visit the Rockville Public Library Open House held last Thursday. The event was our first opportunity to show-off the Library and to demonstrate to the public how valuable our Library is to the greater Vernon Community. Thank you to our new Director Jennifer Johnston and her staff for their efforts on behalf of the Town of Vernon.

2. The 10th Annual Arctic Splash was a huge success. Thank you to all the sponsors and participants. This year's event exceeded the Parks and Recreation goal and raised over \$5000.00 for the "Send A Kid to Camp Fund".

3. Congratulations to Kid-Safe! After fulfilling all the requirements of the State of Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program, Kid Safe of Connecticut was awarded \$2500.00 from the Connecticut Water Company. The donation is being used to install a new energy efficient boiler for their Kids Safe Rockville facility.

4. The Town of Vernon and CILU have officially signed a three-year labor contract. Thank you to all involved for their efforts during the negotiation process.

5. Drawing your attention to the Council's recently passed Litter Ordinance. Take a moment and drive around town and you will see the positive impact this ordinance has had. We are presently having ongoing constructive conversations with a variety of entities to insure compliance continues.

6. In the agenda this evening is an item relative to the Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade, Amendment #4. Progressing to the next stage of this project is important and very time sensitive in order to meet all the required deadlines

G) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

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 January 18, 2019 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES NINE (9) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$2,155.87 AND FOURTEEN (14) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$10,260.70 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JANUARY 18, 2019.

C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Carlos Adamson (D), 72 School Brook Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence February 6, 2019 and expires December 31, 2022. (A copy of Mr. Adamson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CARLOS ADAMSON, (D), 72 SCHOOL BROOK LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN

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FEBRUARY 6, 2019 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2022.

H) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

None.

I) **PENDING BUSINESS**

None.

J) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion relative to a request by Council Member Ralph Zahner regarding the review of the Town of Vernon Charter.**

NO PROPOSED MOTION

Discussion ensued. No action taken.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the bid waiver and approve the contract with Tigh & Bond as stated in Amendment #4 – Engineering Services for the Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade.** (See memorandum dated January 31, 2019 from Robert Grasis, Director WPC to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne via Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII), SECTION NINE (9), OF THE TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY WAIVES THE SEALED BID PROCEDURE FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE OF THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY, AS PROVIDED IN AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO THE ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH TIGHE & BOND, 53 SOUTHAMPTON ROAD, WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,852,258.00; PENDING DEEP APPROVAL AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR, TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON ANY AND ALL INSTRUMENT(S) TO THAT EFFECT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to waive the sealed bid procedure for the construction phase of the improvements to the Water Pollution Control Facility, as provided in Amendment No. 4 to the Engineering Services Agreement with Tighe & Bond, 53 Southampton Road, Westfield, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$5,852,258.00; Pending DEEP approval and further authorizes the Mayor, to execute on behalf of the Town of Vernon and any and all instrument(s) to that effect. Discussion ensued. Director of Water Pollution Control, Robert Grasis spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council authorize the firm of Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP of 180 Glastonbury Boulevard, Glastonbury, Connecticut as the Town of Vernon Auditors for the FY2019 audit.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer dated January 30, 2019 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPOINTS THE FIRM OF MAHONEY, SABOL & COMPANY, LLP OF 180 GLASTONBURY BOULEVARD, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT AS AUDITORS TO AUDIT THE BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT #2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$78,200.00 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 AUDIT.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to appoint the firm of Mahoney Sabol & Company, LLP of 180 Glastonbury Boulevard, Glastonbury, Connecticut as auditors to audit the books and accounts of the Town of Vernon for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2019 and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute Contract #2007 in the amount of \$78,200.00 for the Fiscal Year 2019 audit. Discussion ensued. Finance Officer, Jeffrey O'Neill spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

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 INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.

O) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 15, 2019 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 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

Q) **ADJOURNMENT (8:03pm):**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Minor
Recording Secretary.