

July 16, 2019

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

July 16, 2019- 7:30 PM

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
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Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Steve Wakefield, Thomas DiDio, Mike Wendus, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, Pauline Schaefer, and Steve Peterson

Absent: Council Members Brian Motola and Ralph Zahner

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Julie Clay at 7:37PM

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

J) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council to approve the Vernon Republican Town Committee's endorsement of Stephen C. Linton, (R), 86 George Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a Vernon Board of Education member, to complete the unexpired term of David Kemp. (A copy of a letter of recommendation by the Vernon Republican Town Committee, dated July 7, 2019, and a copy of Mr. Linton's resume is included in the Council packet for review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE VERNON REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE'S NOMINATION OF STEPHEN C. LINTON, (R), 86 GEORGE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE JULY 17, 2019 TO COMPLETE THE TERM OF DAVID KEMP, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 11, 2019.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the Vernon Republican Town Committee's nomination of Stephen C. Linton, (R), 86 George Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a Vernon Board of Education Member for a term effective July 17, 2019 to complete the term of David Kemp, said term to expire on November 11, 2019. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously. Karen Daigle, Town Clerk swore Stephen C. Linton in.

G) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

C + 2 Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Pegi Deitz Shea, 27 Fox Hill Drive, Vernon, Connecticut to the volunteer position of Poet Laureate at the Rockville Public Library, said appointment to commence on July 17, 2019 and expires July 16, 2020. (A copy of Ms. Shea's resume is forthcoming and will be on the table at the Council meeting.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION APRIL 16, 2019 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF PEGI DEITZ SHEA, 27 FOX HILL DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE VOLUNTEER POSITION OF POET LAUREATE AT THE

July 16, 2019

ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 17, 2019 AND EXPIRES JULY 16, 2020.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment 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 17, 2019 and expires July 16, 2020. Discussion ensued.

Council Member Julie Clay entered the meeting at 7:37 PM

Motion carried unanimously.

J) **NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

2. **Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Daniel Wasilewski to the position of Town of Vernon Fire Marshal.** (See Mr. Wasilewski's resume included in the packet for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1 AND 3 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL WASILEWSKI AS FIRE MARSHAL FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Daniel Wasilewski as Fire Marshal for the Town of Vernon. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

C) **CITIZENS FORUM**

None.

D) **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

7:44 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. 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 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

7:45 PM Council Member Bush entered Executive Session #1.

8:14PM Executive Session #1 ended.

9:46PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion: Resolved, The Town Council hereby approves Budget Amendment #26 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as outlined in the Budget Amendment form provided by Finance Officer, Jeffrey O'Neill for the purpose of funding a feasibility study in the amount of \$68,000.00 by the University of Connecticut on 26 Park Place known as the former Vernon Senior Center. Motion carried unanimously.

E) **PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)**

None.

July 16, 2019

J) **NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

4. **Request the Town Council approve the \$25,000.00 from Open Space Fund to be sent to the Connecticut Farmland Trust to benefit the Strong Farm.** (Council Member Ann Letendre submitted this agenda item and will be present to answer questions as needed.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE EXPENDITURE OF \$25,000.00 FROM THE OPEN SPACE FUND TO BE SENT TO THE CONNECTICUT FARMLAND TRUST TO BENEFIT THE STRONG FAMILY FARM INITIATIVE.

8:16PM Council Member Ann Letendre left the table and recused herself from the vote.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schafer made a motion that the Town Council authorizes the expenditure of \$25,000.00 from the Open Space Fund to be sent to The Connecticut Farmland Trust to benefit the Strong Family Farm initiative. Ann Letendre spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously of members present.

D) **EXECUTIVE SESSION (continued)**

8:42PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2. Motion carried unanimously of present members. Council Member Letendre was not present for the vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (C) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SECURITY AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

8:59PM Executive Session #2 ended.

9:47PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion that the Town Council hereby resolves in accordance with chapter twelve (XII), section nine (9), of the Town Charter, that it is in the best interest of the Town to waive the sealed bid requirements for the cost associated with providing security services for the Water Pollution Control Facility located at 100 Windsorville Road, Vernon by Aron Security, Inc., 55 Middletown Avenue, North Haven, Connecticut for a period of one year and further authorizes Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro to execute on behalf of the Town of Vernon any instrument (s) to that effect. Motion carried unanimously.

9:00PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion to go into Executive Session #3. 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 LAND ACQUISITION AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

9:10PM Executive Session #3 ended.

No action taken.

E) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

1. The Town of Vernon July in the Sky was a huge success again this year. The Fireworks display was outstanding. Thank you to all the volunteers. Special Thanks to the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department for another successful event.

July 16, 2019

2. Ribbon Cutting Valley Falls Dam took place July 2, 2019, those in attendance included members of Schumack Construction; Town of Vernon Staff and DEEP Representatives. The construction of this dam has significantly impacted the function and appearance of the area and has improved the accessibility to this beautiful park for those with disabilities. Take a moment and visit Valley Falls to see the changes.
3. Two Grand Opening and Ribbon Cuttings took place recently, L & S Equipment LLC on Industrial Park Road and 360 Credit Union, on Talcottville Road. Welcome to both businesses.
4. UPDATE: The Town of Vernon Police Department Fitness Equipment Room is in the final stages of completion, a few last minute details and the room will be complete. Providing this equipment to our officers on site, helps to promote their Health and Fitness.
5. UPDATE: The Fitness Center at the Vernon Senior Center – is progressing with the equipment due to arrive in a few weeks. In addition, after a very wet spring the outside activity area will begin construction in the coming weeks. Senior Center membership is growing daily and programs are expanding to accommodate the new membership.
6. The CABA/CAPPS Annual Statewide Convention of Boards of Education and Superintendents has selected Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joseph Macary, Town Administrator, Michael Purcaro and I to make a presentation relative to our Town's very successful Shared Service Program, recognizing our program as a best practice model.
7. Connecticut Conference of Municipalities has chosen the Town of Vernon to conduct a workshop on Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (a/k/a Drone Aircraft) at the CCM statewide Convention in December. Presenters will be Sergeant, Robert Marra and Sergeant, Todd Thiel of the Vernon Police Department and Town Administrator, Michael Purcaro.
8. REMINDER: Tickets are still available to the 100th Anniversary of the Rockville Elks on July 27, 2019. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at the Elks Lodge, 9 North Park Street, Kevin's Coffee, 72 Windsor Avenue and Mark's Country Wine and Liquors, 12 Main Street, Ellington.
9. REMINDER: Summer Days Carnival – July 24 -27th, the Carnival is held at the old Golf Land property on Talcottville Road.
10. REMINDER: Flyers for the two Concert Series are on your table: Rockville Public Library's are during July and the Mayor's Series is during August. See the flyers for details

Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator made a presentation relative to the Town of Vernon Workers Compensation and LAP Insurance Program. Discussion ensued.

**G) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member DiDio requested to pull C3. Motion to move C1 carried unanimously.

**C 1. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Michael Mitchell, (I), 19 Quarry Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to commence on July 17, 2019 and expires December 31, 2024. (A copy of Mr. Mitchell's resume is included for Council review.)**

July 16, 2019

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1 & 6, AND CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SEC. 8-4a & b, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL MITCHELL, (I), 19 QUARRY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, TO ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON JULY 17, 2019 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2024.

**H) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM:**

C 3. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendment request #25 for FY 2018-2019 as outlined in the budget amendment forms included in the packet.** ( See budget amendment forms in the Council packet as provided by Finance Officer Jeffrey O'Neill.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #25 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER JEFFREY O'NEILL.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Request #25 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as outlined in the Budget Amendment forms provided by Finance Officer Jeffrey O'Neill. Discussion ensued. Martin Sitler, Director of Parks and Recreation spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

**I) PENDING BUSINESS**

None.

**J) NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

3. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary paperwork to receive the Youth Services Bureau cost sharing funding from the State Department of Children and Families in the amount of \$21,135.00.** (See memorandum from Michelle Hill, Director of the Youth Services Bureau to the Town Council and grant documents for review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE YOUTH SERVICES COST SHARING FUNDS FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN AMOUNT OF \$21,135.00.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary paperwork to make application for and receive Youth Services Cost Sharing Funds from the State Department of Children and Families in the amount of \$21,135.00. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request the Town Council approve the job description of Librarian at the Rockville Public Library.** (A copy of the job description is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF LIBRARIAN AT THE ROCKVILLE

July 16, 2019

**PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the job description of Librarian at the Rockville Public Library. Discussion ensued. Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator and Jennifer Johnston, Library Director spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Communications Specialist** (A copy of the job description is attached for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to adopt the job description of Communications Specialist. Discussion ensued. Allison Maynard, Director of Social Services, Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

**K) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

**Proposed Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance For Mass Gatherings".** (See Ordinance attached for Council review. A number will be assigned once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.)

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 FOR MASS GATHERINGS***", AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019 LOCATED AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding, an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance for Mass Gatherings", at 7:35PM on Tuesday, August 20, 2019 located at the Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon Connecticut to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed ordinance. Discussion ensued. James Kenny, Chief of Police spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Wendus, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to extend curfew until complete. Motion carried unanimously.

10:05PM Recess

10:12 PM Reconvened

Council Member Bush seconded by Council Member Clay made an amendment to the motion that the fee schedule is published by the Town annually. Amended motion carried unanimously. Main motion carried unanimously.

**L) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:**

None.

**M) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

July 16, 2019

**N) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

None.

**O) ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 4, 2019 AS AMENDED AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. (These minutes were amended and passed on June 18, 2019, the correct date was used during the discussion but the motion did not reflect June 4, 2019 date. For clarity, it is requested the Town Council move the motion again.)

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush to waive the reading of and approve the Regular Town Council Meeting minutes of June 4, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 18, 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 June 18, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON JULY 3, 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 Special Town Council Meeting minutes of July 3, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report – Vernon Police Department - June, 2019, as submitted by John Kelley, Captain.
2. Monthly Report – Vernon Town Clerk – May, 2019, as submitted by Karen Daigle, Town Clerk.

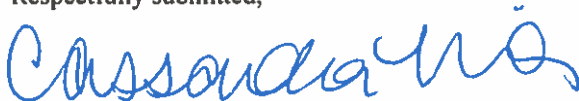
**Q) ADJOURNMENT (10:15pm):**

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

\*Clerk Note: C1 corrected to C2 due to typographical error.

Received: July 25, 2019  
Approved: August 20, 2019

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Minor  
Recording Secretary.