

October 15, 2019

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

October 15, 2019- 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

19 NOV 26 PM 4:01

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, Brian Motola, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, Pauline Schaefer, and Ralph Zahner

Absent: Council Members Mike Wendus and Steve Peterson

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Julie Clay

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

C) CITIZENS FORUM

Council Member Ralph Zahner spoke in relation to his two-year term as Council Member for the Town of Vernon.

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Proclamation was presented by Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to Kiley Gray, Center Road School student relative to the 2019 Invention Convention. Kiley demonstrated her invention of the Tracker Ball 300. Discussion ensued.

7:36 PM Council Member Julie Clay entered the meeting.

Presentation was made by Deputy Mayor Steve Wakefield and Council Member Pauline Shaefer to Mayor Daniel Champagne and the Town of Vernon Parks and Recreation Department relative to the proceeds from the 2019 Summer Days Carnival. A check in the amount of \$10,517.00 was presented to Mayor Daniel Champagne and Director of Parks and Recreation, Martin Sitler.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7:51 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer 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 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Note: Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek was not in attendance.

8:29 PM Executive Session ended.

9:15 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to enter into the negotiated Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Vernon and Local 1471, Council 4 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2022 on the terms and conditions presented. Motion carried unanimously.

October 15, 2019

E) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

F) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to make a presentation to the Town Council on the following topics:

1. REMINDER: Anyone interested in participating in the ARCTIC SPLASH, December 7th at Valley Falls Park. Parks and Recreation is accepting applications. A registration form in on the table or call 860-870-3520 for more information.
2. ELLINGTON PROPERTY - as part of the Town of Vernon's due diligence, bids are being secured for the soil testing. We will keep you informed as things progress.
3. FOX HILL RADIO TOWER UPGRADE - The Radio Tower Upgrade is nearing completion. Currently the departments are running tests to verify all functions and connectivity to our fiber network. The fencing and landscaping are underway with Public Works. Thank you to everyone involved in this multi-year project.
4. ET-341 PROGRESS PHOTOS - On the monitors this evening are some photos of the Fire Departments new Engine Tanker 341. We look forward to the tankers delivery. When it arrives the department will have the vehicle on display at an upcoming Town Council meeting for your review.
5. BUDGET TRANSFER OF \$3500.00 - Earlier this month my office received a complaint relative to the trash at the city bus stops. After investigating the situation and discussing options with Public Works and Parks and Recreation a decision was made to purchase heavy duty trash receptacles for the city bus stops and other areas identified by DPW and Parks. The receptacles will be emptied using our existing side loader garbage truck. This will assist us in our ongoing efforts to keep trash to a minimum in all public areas.
6. ELECTRONIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION - the Town of Vernon's First Vehicle Charging Station located at the Senior Center will be operational next week. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled. This project is an important part of the Town of Vernon Sustainable Community initiative.
7. MONEY BOX AT COMMUNITY DAY – At the Public Works Community Day a Donation Box was provided to help fund some of Social Services activities and programs. This year the contributions totaled \$554.00. Thank you to everyone who supported Community Day and the Social Services Department projects.
8. COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST UPDATE - This month a committee of individuals will review the applicants for this position and schedule the first round of interviews. We are looking forward to the hiring of the Communications Specialist and continuing our Community Engagement Project with the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. Thank you to all involved with making this public private partnership possible.
9. VETERANS MEMORIAL PROGRESS - The Veterans Memorial in Central Park is moving along nicely. The walls and stairs have been reinforced along with the installation of more appropriate landscaping. The final stage will begin this week with the installation of the Memorials to those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and the resetting of the existing memorials. Once the cement is poured to secure all in place, a dedication ceremony will be scheduled.
10. HALLOWEEN, October 31, 2019 – Parks and Recreation is revamping the traditional kids Halloween Party and bringing the festivities to Town Hall and the Library. Children can visit the Library and Town Hall between 4:00PM and 6:00PM on October 31, 2019 and receive treats. Please share the change in venue with your friends and neighbors. Hopefully this will be first of many years of Halloween at the Library and Town Hall.
11. UCONN ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL PUBLIC FORUMS - The UCONN Performing Arts Students have scheduled four additional public forums to gather information and measure support for the development of a performing arts center at the Town of Vernon's former Senior Center, located at 26 Park Place on the following dates: On October 15, 2019 two forums were held at the New Vernon Senior Center, 135 Bolton Road at 11:15

October 15, 2019

AM and 12:45 PM; one will be held at Rockville High School on October 16, 2019 at 6:00 PM and the final forum will be held at Center Road School, 6:30 PM on October 17, 2019. All are welcome to attend.

12. THE GOVERNOR'S 2019 STATEWIDE EMERGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE - The Town of Vernon will be participating in this annual initiative on December 5, 2019. This is an exercise designed to prepare all emergency personnel relative to cyber and physical security threats. More information to come in November

G) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member Clay pulled Consent #2. Motion to pass C1, C3 – C5 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 October 4, 2019 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$35.83 AND FOURTEEN (14) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$1372.80 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED OCTOBER 4, 2019.

C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Daniel Wasilewski, Town of Vernon Fire Marshal, 55 West Main Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence October 16, 2019 and expires February 20, 2022. (Mr. Wasilewski is a town employee and therefore no resume is attached)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL WASILEWSKI, 55 WEST MAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON OCTOBER 16, 2019 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 20, 2022.

C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Wayne W. Reiske, (U) 29 Reservoir Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cemetery Commission, said term to commence on October 16, 2019 and expires June 30, 2022. (A copy of Mr. Reiske's resume is attached for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19A-296; CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 10, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF WAYNE W. REISKE, (U), 29 RESERVOIR ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE OCTOBER 16, 2019 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2022.

C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Robert Mullan, (R), 51 Blue Ridge Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence October 16, 2019 and expires June 30, 2020. (A copy of Mr. Mullan's

October 15, 2019

resume is included for Council review. It should be noted that Mr. Mulan is filling the unexpired term of Bruce P. Skivington, who has resigned.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2 & 6; THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT MULLAN, (R), 51 BLUE RIDGE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON OCTOBER 16, 2019 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2020.

H) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #2, for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached. (See budget forms with explanation attached to this agenda item.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #2 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY O'NEILL FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Requests #2 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 as provided by Jeffrey O'Neill Finance Officer and Treasurer, on the attached budget amendment forms. Discussion ensued. Finance Officer and Treasurer, Jeffrey O'Neill spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

I) **PENDING BUSINESS**

None.

J) **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to add proposed motion to New Business Number 1. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Discussion and Update relative to funding of the Dog Park Project. (A budget amendment to follow. Included in the agenda are the documents from Council's previous discussion on this matter.

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL FUND TO ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10780290 OBJECT CODE: 57290 - OTHER TOWN BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$61,000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING THE TOWN OF VERNON DOG PARK.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve an additional appropriation from the Town of Vernon General Fund to Account Number: 10780290 Object Code: 57290 – Other Town Buildings and Grounds, in an amount not to exceed \$61,000.00 for the purpose of funding the Town of Vernon Dog Park. Discussion ensued. Director of Parks and Recreation Martin Sitler, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the job description of Civil Engineer in the Engineering Department.** (A copy of the job description is included for Council review.)

October 15, 2019

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 *CIVIL ENGINEER*.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the job description of Civil Engineer. Discussion ensued. 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 OCTOBER 1, 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 October 1, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Q) ADJOURNMENT (9:16 pm):

9: 14 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. – Motion was withdrawn.

Discussion ensued. Motion on Section D - Executive Session was made.

9:16 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received: October 22, 2019
Approved: November 19, 2019

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Santoro
Recording Secretary.