

November 19, 2019

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

November 19, 2019- 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

19 DEC 11 PM 1:59

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, Julie Clay, Mike Wendus, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, Pauline Schaefer and Maryann Levesque

Absent: Council Member Steve Peterson

Entered During Meeting: None

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

ADOPTION OF TOWN COUNCIL RULES

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER V, SECTION 4, ENTITLED "*PROCEDURES*", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ADOPTION OF THE 2019-2021 TOWN COUNCIL RULES AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the adoption of the 2019-2021 Town Council Rules as presented. Discussion ensued. Town Clerk, Karen Daigle spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER V, SECTION 2, ENTITLED "PRESIDING OFFICER", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF STEVE WAKEFIELD, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE FOR THE 2019-2021 SESSION OF THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the nomination and election of Steve Wakefield, Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2019-2021 session of the Vernon Town Council. Motion carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE 2020 AS REQUIRED BY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE FOIA 2020 TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL DATED NOVEMBER 15, 2019.

November 19, 2019

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the FOIA 2020 Town Council schedule as presented in the Memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Town Council dated November 15, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

C) **CITIZENS FORUM**

Carl Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, Vernon spoke regarding the Town Council Rules, Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade Building Committee members and Christmas lights in Rockville Center.

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 GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT, Helen A. Wolverton Trustee, 23 Maple Street, Vernon Connecticut (22-0052-0005B), AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; DAVID WHEELER, TOWN ASSESSOR AND ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY MARTIN BURKE, ESQ. TO ATTEND.

Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek and Assistant Town Attorney Martin Burke, Esq were not in attendance.

8:02PM Executive Session ended.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion: The Town Council authorizes Assistant Town Attorney, Martin Burke to settle tax appeal "CV-19-605346-S, captioned Helen A. Wolverton Revocable Trust VS Town of Vernon et al," for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2018 for the assessed value of \$168,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$240,000 and to adjust the assessment and tax bill on the January, 2020 bill for the 2018 Grand List. Motion carried unanimously.

E) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

F) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Veterans Day - Thank you to everyone who came to support the Veterans Day Ceremonies. The dedication of the Afghanistan and Iraq Memorials were well received. Special Thanks to Vernon resident Edward King, who hand built a stone wall in Henry Park, stone by stone in remembrance of his fellow Vietnam Vets. Please take a moment to go to the tower and see the wall it is absolutely beautiful.

This evening I regret to inform you that Steve Peterson has resigned from his seat at the Town Council for medical reasons. Steve is a valued member of this body and we wish him all the best.

This month we will say good-bye to retiring members of our staff: Steve Krajewski, Assistant Director of Parks and Dave Gooch, Engineer. We wish them well in their retirement. Also leaving us this month is Social Services Director Allison Maynard.

Continuing the long tradition of excellence in our Finance Department, the Town of Vernon's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (or CAFR) qualified for the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for the fiscal year ending 2018. This achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

REMINDER: The Annual Winterfest Celebration is planned for Central Park on December 6, 2019 beginning at 5:30PM. Don't miss the arrival of Santa and the Torchlight Parade at 6:15PM. Earlier that same day the Library

November 19, 2019

has their Annual Tree Festival planned from 4-7PM and on Saturday, December 7, 2019 the Arctic Splash begins at 1PM in Valley Falls Park. All are welcome!!! Flyers for all the events are on your desk this evening.

Wreaths Across America is planned for December 14, 2019 in Grove Hill Cemetery, Lugg Field, 11:30AM arrival is recommended and the ceremonies begin promptly at 12:00 Noon.

Vernon Police Explorer Post #800 celebrated their 50th Anniversary last night at the Elks Lodge. Thank you to all the members for their hard work and contributions to the Town of Vernon and our citizens.

On December 3, 2019 the Town of Vernon will be honored at the Annual CCM Conference for our achievements in the area of Sustainability. The Town of Vernon will receive a Silver designation. Also at the Conference, five of our employees will graduate as Certified Connecticut Municipal Officials. Congratulations to Shaun Gately, Dave Smith, William Meier, Diane Wheelock and Michael Purcaro. Thank you to all town employees for their commitment to these programs.

Ribbon Cuttings this month included Rockville Pharmacy, and Trail Run.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and their families!

Robert Grasis, Director of Water Pollution Control provided an update to the Town Council on the WPCF Upgrade.

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 C1 and Council Member Motola pulled C2. Motion to move C3 -C7 carried unanimously.

C 3. Request the Town Council tax refunds for prior and current years. (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne dated November 8, 2019 included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES FOUR (4) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$867.50 AND FIFTY-FOUR (54) CURRENT YEAR REFUNDS TOTALLING \$13,445.76 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE, MAYOR DATED NOVEMBER 8, 2019.

C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority as an alternate Director, said term to commence on January 1, 2020 and expires on December 31, 2022. (Michael J. Purcaro is the Town Administrator and therefore does not require a resume.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 242 THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR A TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2022.

C 5. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Mayor Daniel A. Champagne as a Director for the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence November 11, 2019 and expires on November 8, 2021. (Mayor Champagne's appointment runs with his term as Mayor.)

November 19, 2019

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 242 THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE, MAYOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR A TERM BEGINNING NOVEMBER 11, 2019 AND EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 8, 2021.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Judy Lampson, (U), 1 Eleanor Street Ext., Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Human Services Advisory Commission, said term to commence November 20, 2019 and expires June 30, 2021. (A copy of Ms. Lampson's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3, 05-02-1989 TOWN RESOLUTION VOL. 24, PAGE 382 AS AMENDED /VOL. 37 PAGE 266 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 02-19-2002, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDY LAMPSON, (U), 1 ELEANOR STREET EXT, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING NOVEMBER 20, 2019 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2021.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Gloria Townsend (R), 61 Zoey Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to commence on November 20, 2019 and expires December 31, 2023. (A copy of Ms. Townsend's resume is included for Council review.)**

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 GLORIA TOWNSEND, (R), 61 ZOEY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON NOVEMBER 20, 2019 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2023

H) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #4, for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment form attached. (See the budget amendment form with explanation attached to this agenda.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #4, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, JEFFREY A. O'NEILL.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve budget amendment request #4 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 as outlined in the budget amendment form provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer, Jeffrey A. O'Neill. Discussion ensued. Finance Officer and Treasurer, Jeffrey A. O'Neill spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #42, for fiscal year 2018-2019 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment form attached. (See the budget amendment for with explanation attached to this agenda.)**

November 19, 2019

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #42, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, JEFFREY A. O'NEILL

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to approve budget amendment request #42, for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as outlined in the budget amendment form provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer, Jeffrey A. O'Neill. Discussion ensued. Finance Officer Jeffrey A. O'Neill spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

I) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None.

J) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council reaffirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Attorney Louis A. Spadaccini as Town Attorney.** (See Attorney Spadaccini's resume attached.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHARTER CHAPTER XI, SECTION 5, ENTITLED "OTHER OFFICERS", HEREBY AFFIRMS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS A. SPADACCINI, ESQ., AS TOWN ATTORNEY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to affirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Louis A. Spadaccini, Esq., as Town Attorney. Discussion ensued. Town Attorney Louis A. Spadaccini, Esq. thanked the Town Council. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council reaffirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Martin B. Burke, Esquire, as Assistant Town Attorney.** (See Attorney Burke's resume attached.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHARTER CHAPTER XI, SECTION 5, ENTITLED "OTHER OFFICERS", HEREBY AFFIRMS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MARTIN B. BURKE, ESQ., AS ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to affirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Martin B. Burke, Esq., as Assistant Town Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal or sale of items from the Rockville Public Library.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated November 14, 2019 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OR SALE OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the disposal or sale of fixed assets for the Rockville Public Library as disclosed on the fixed asset disposal request forms. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute all necessary documentation relative to the FFY 2019 State Homeland Security Grant – Region 3 MOA.** (See

November 19, 2019

memorandum dated November 13, 2019 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO THE FFY2019 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AND FURTHER AGREES TO BE THE CUSTODIAL OWNER OF REGIONAL ASSETS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute a Memorandum of Agreement on behalf of the Town of Vernon, with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department relative to the FFY2019 State Homeland Security Grant Program and further agrees to be the custodial owner of regional assets. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary paperwork to make application for and receive Local Prevention Council Grant funds in the amount of \$5342.00.** (Grant application attached.)

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 LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5342.00.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary paperwork to make application for and receive local Prevention Council Grant Funds in the amount of \$5,342.00. Discussion ensued. Youth Services Director, Michelle Hill clarified aspects of the application. 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 15, 2019 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 Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 15, 2019. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Levesque.

November 19, 2019

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

1. Monthly Report – Town Clerk’s Office for September, 2019 as submitted by Karen Daigle, Town Clerk.
2. Monthly Report – Vernon Police Department for September, 2019 as submitted by Captain John Kelley.

Q) **ADJOURNMENT (8:28pm):**

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

Received: November 26, 2019
Approved: December 3, 2019

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Santoro
Recording Secretary.