

January 16, 2018

Approved Minutes  
Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting  
Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Vernon, Connecticut  
January 16, 2018- 7:30PM

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
18 FEB 15 PM 5:30

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

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

Entered During Meeting: None

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

C) CITIZENS FORUM

None

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMIMISTRATION

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented a Proclamation to departing member of the Town Council Member Ginny Gingras

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7:37PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1 and added Town Administrator Michael Pucaro to attend :

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 REAL ESTATE TAX APPEALS: Connecticut CVS Pharmacy, LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al; Robert Poulos vs. Town of Vernon et al; Janaki Corp, LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al; Anthony Waggoner vs. Town of Vernon et al; Briar Knoll NCM, LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al; and Diamond 67 LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al; AND INVITES ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY MARTIN BURKE AND TOWN OF VERNON ASSESSOR DAVID WHEELER TO ATTEND.

Council Member Wakefield seconded by Council Member Motola, made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to settle tax appeals as listed in the following amounts as presented and recommended by the Town Attorney Martin Burke and Town Assessor David Wheeler:

- 1) CV-17-6039042-S, captioned "Connecticut CVS Pharmacy, L.L.C. vs. Town of Vernon et al, " for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for 142 Talcottville Rd., the assessed value of \$1,890,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$2,700,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2018 bill for the 2016 Grand List. Furthermore, 22 Windsor Ave., the assessed value of 1,155,000 or the 100% fair market value of 1,650,000.
- 2) CV-17-6038849-S, captioned "Diamond 67 LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al, " for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for 117 Reservoir Rd., the assessed value of \$735,000 or the 100% fair market value of

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\$1,050,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2018 bill for the 2016 Grand List and refund as necessary.

- 3) CV-17-6039241-S, captioned " Janaki Corp LLC vs. Town of Vernon et al, " for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for 451 Hartford Tpke., the assessed value of \$1,260,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$1,800,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2018 bill for the 2016 Grand List.
- 4) CV-17-6038851-S, captioned "Anthony Waggoner, ET AL vs. Town of Vernon et al, " for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for 36 Sutton Drive., the assessed value of \$119,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$170,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2018 bill for the 2016 Grand List.
- 5) CV-17-5018849-S, captioned "Robert Poullos vs. Town of Vernon et al, " for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for the following properties and to adjust assessment and tax bill on the January 2018 bill for the 2016 Grand List.

121 High St. Assessment of 35,000 and fair market value of \$50,000.

125 High St. Assessment of 84,168 and fair market value of \$120,240.

126 High St. Assessment of 63,000 and fair market value of \$90,000.

128 High St. Assessment of 21,000 and fair market value of \$30,000.

132 High St. Assessment of 56,000 and fair market value of \$80,000.

03 Hammond St. Assessment of 35,000 and fair market value of \$50,000.

52 Hammond St. Assessment of 70,000 and fair market value of \$100,000.

29 McLean St. Assessment of 56,000 and fair market value of \$80,000.

26 Grove St. Assessment of 84,000 and fair market value of \$120,000.

149 East Main St. Assessment of 59,500 and fair market value of \$85,000.

167 East Main St. Assessment of 52,500 and fair market value of \$75,000.

01 West St. Assessment of 16,100 and fair market value of 23,000.

07 West St. Assessment of 16,100 and fair market value of 23,000

Motion carried unanimously.

8:17PM Executive Session #1 ended.

8:19PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2 and added Town Administrator Michael Pucaro to attend:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-200, (6) (A), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS WITH VERNON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR'S ASSOCIATION – July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2022, AND INVITES SUPERINTENDENT DR. JOSEPH MACARY AND BOE CHAIRMAN ANNE FISHER TO ATTEND.

8:56PM Executive Session #2 ended.

8:56PM Recess; 9:01PM reconvened.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to move and accept the Vernon School Administrators Association Contact as presented by Superintendent Dr. Macary and the Board of Education Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member Steve Peterson.

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E) **PUBLIC HEARING:**

None.

F) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION:**

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

1. The **Senior Center Construction** is winding down. Flooring is beginning this week and the rooms are being painted. Very exciting time for our seniors. We'll keep you posted as the Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting get closer.

2. **19 Grove Street** has cleared the final hurdles and we will be planning the design of the new park to take its place. The entrance to our Historic District will now be flanked by the cleaned up Amerbelle complex and a beautiful water side park to enjoy as visitors walk the area. As soon as the snow stops flying we will begin the beautification. Stay tuned for more details.

3. **REMINDER:** Last call for the retirement dinner for Diane and Jim Luddecke scheduled for this Friday at Adams Mill. There are still a few tickets left if you are interested.

4. Bernice Dixon's presentation scheduled for this evening will be postponed and rescheduled for next meeting.

5. The new **Pitney Bench** has been installed in Central Park, it's new home. The bench will share the space during Winterfest with the Santa's House directly in front of Town Hall. If you have a moment stop by and take a look, it's a beautiful bench and great spot to take a moment and reflect on a piece of Rockville's history.

6. **Scouts from Troop #223** will be visiting the Mayor's Office this week to complete their Community Involvement badge. Please, if you know of other troops that are working on badges, the scouts know that they are welcome to come visit and experience their government in action. Just call the office and book an appointment.

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 item C-3. Motion to approve C-1 and C-2 carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Shai-Anne R. Gaston, 30 Elm Street, A1, Vernon, Connecticut as an under 21 member of the Youth Services Advisory Board.** (A copy of Ms. Gaston's resume is included for Council review. Ms. Gaston is not eligible to be a registered voter, therefore, her affiliation is not listed.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECT. 3; TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 08-24-1976 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 03-01-1994, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF SHAI-ANNE R. GASTON, 30 ELM STREET, A1, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN UNDER 21 MEMBER OF THE YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 17, 2018 AND EXPIRES ON HER 21<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY.

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- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Nathanael L. Roman, 53 Ward Street, Vernon, Connecticut as an Under 21 Member of the Youth Services Advisory Board.** (A copy of Mr. Roman's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Roman is not eligible to be a registered voter, therefore, his affiliation is not listed.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECT. 3; TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 08-24-1976 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 03-01-1994, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF NATHANAEL L. ROMAN, 53 WARD STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN UNDER 21 MEMBER OF THE YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 17, 2018 AND EXPIRES ON HIS 21<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY.

**H) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #9, #10, #11 and #12 for fiscal year 2017-2018 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer James M. Luddecke 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 REQUESTS #9, #10, #11 AND #12 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve budget amendment requests #9, #10, #11 and #12 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. Finance Officer James Luddecke spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- I) PENDING BUSINESS**  
None.

**J) NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council schedule a public hearing relative to the sale of the Town owned property known as 133 Tunnel Road, Vernon, Connecticut, said public hearing to be scheduled on February 6, 2018 at 7:35 PM to hear comment and answer questions relative to the proposed sale of same.** (See memorandum dated January 3, 2018 from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SALE OF THE TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES KNOWN AS 133 TUNNEL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018 AT 7:35 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED SALE.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing relative to the Sale of the Town owned property known as 133 Tunnel Road, Vernon Connecticut to be held on Tuesday February 6, 2018. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Zahner.

2. **Request the Town Council approve designated resources in the Capital Project Fund, for the LottieFisk Generator.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated December 27, 2017 relative to same.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE RE-DESIGNATION OF \$69,831.45 IN THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDS, FROM THE MEMORIAL BUILDING/ANNEX/SENIOR CENTER GENERATOR LINE ITEM, TO A NEW DESIGNATION FOR THE LOTTIE FISK BUILDING GENERATOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,541.88; AND IN ADDITION, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TRANSFER OUT OF \$2,289.57 NET BALANCE WITHIN THE CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND GENERATOR LINE ITEM, TO THE RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT LINE ITEM DESIGNATION, FOR THE CITIZENS' BLOCK BUILDING RENOVATION.

FURTHERMORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE TOWN'S SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO INCLUDE THE LOTTIE FISK BUILDING GENERATOR, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$67,541.88.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to authorize the re-designation of \$69,831.45 in the Capital Projects Funds, from the Memorial Building/ Annex/ Senior Center generator line item to a new Designation for the Lottie Fisk Building Generator in the amount of \$67,541.88, to approve the transfer out of \$2,289.57 net balance within the Capital Projects Fund generator line item, to the reserve for capital and non-recurring expenditures amount line item designation, for the Citizens' block building renovation, and to amend the towns Six Year Capital Improvement Plan to include the Lottie Fisk Building generator amount of \$67,541.88. Finance Officer James Luddecke spoke and answered questions. Parks and Recreation Director Marty Sitler spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the job description for Traffic Control Maintainer in the Department of Public Works.** (See memorandum from Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator in the Town Council packet relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1(B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPT THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF TRAFFIC CONTROL MAINTAINER.**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to adopt the job description of Traffic Control Maintainer. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Tedford.

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4. **Request the Town Council approve the policy entitled “Town of Vernon – Parks and Recreation Department Temporary Sign Policy as presented.”** (See memorandum from Marty Sitler, Director Parks and Recreation dated January 9, 2018 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE NEW POLICY ENTITLED “TEMPORARY SIGN PERMIT POLICY”, AND THE FEE STRUCTURE CONTAINED WITHIN.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adopt the new policy entitled “Temporary Sign Permit Policy” and the fee structure. Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member DiDio made an amended motion to change the fee structure to \$5.00 per site for 21 days, which carried with 8 in favor and 2 opposed, Council Members Wendus and Peterson and 2 abstentions, Council Members Bush and Campbell. Parks and Recreation Director, Marty Sitler spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to table the vote for 2 weeks. Motion carried with 7 in favor (tie-breaker vote cast by Mayor Daniel Champagne) and 6 opposed, Council Members Schaefer, DiDio, Motola, Zahner, Letendre, and Peterson

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to extend the curfew 15 minutes. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member Campbell.

**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 December 19, 2017 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the regular Town Council Meeting of December 19, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Memorandum dated December 28, 2017, from Robert Kleinhans, Director of Public Works and John LaBossiere, Building Official offering suggestions for “*Cold Weather Preparedness*”, to all Town of Vernon

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employees.

2. Memorandum dated January 8, 2018 from Leslie Campolongo, to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to the a "*Clean Energy Communities – Bright Ideas Grant*".

3. Memorandum dated January 3, 2018 from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to All Town of Vernon Employees relative to the "*Finance Department Transition.*"

Q) **ADJOURNMENT (10:05pm):**

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

Received: January 23, 2018

Approved: February 2, 2018

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Minor  
Recording Secretary