

May 15, 2018

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

May 15, 2018- 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

18 JUN -8 AM 10:55

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, Julie Clay, Mike Wendus, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, Pauline Schaefer, Steve Peterson and Ralph Zahner

Absent: Brian Motola

Entered During Meeting: None

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

C) CITIZENS FORUM

Carl Schaefer of 180 Fox Hill Drive, Vernon CT spoke in regards to the paving problems on various streets in Vernon. Town Administrator, Michael J. Purcaro spoke and explained that all vendors will be held responsible for the paving issues and the Town will be following up with every issue brought forward by the public.

With great sadness Mayor Daniel A. Champagne announced the passing of Administrative Assistant of the Planning Department- Debbie Rounds.

E) PUBLIC HEARING (7:35pm)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE "2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT HOUSING REHABILITATION LOAN PROGRAM".

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO CALL THE HEARING TO ORDER at 7:35PM

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

COMMENTS:

Peter Testa of A & E Services for L. Wagner & Associates, LLC spoke and answered questions regarding the status of the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program.

Town Administrator, Michael Purcaro explained that Mr. Testa has been working on this project for quite some time, recently the operations were moved from Planning Department back to the Social Services Department to raise its visibility. Mr. Purcaro thanked Marina Rodriguez for her time and effort and Director of Social Services, Allison Maynard in advance for the taking on the program.

Public hearing was adjourned at 7:44PM

7:44PM returned to the regular meeting.

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D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7:44 PM 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 ACQUISITION OF REAL ESTATE WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON, AND INVITES MARTIN BURKE, TOWN ATTORNEY, MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN R. MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

No action taken.

8:33PM Executive Session ended.

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

1. Senior Center exterior open area is being designed for outside active and passive recreational activities. The atrium is coming along with raised garden beds and sitting area.
2. Northeast Elementary School students recently visited Administration to coincide with their studies of our town and surrounding community. Each spring we encourage schools to send their students to visit and take advantage of the Grand Army of the Republic Museum. The GAR membership does their best to accommodate day time visits from students.
3. This weekend is the Department of Public Works Community Day. Activities start at 9:00 AM and continue through Noon. This event has grown each year to include other departments and information booths. Take a moment and stop by.
4. Also this weekend is the Vernon Fire Department Dedication of the Member Recognition Walkway. This event begins at 1:00 PM on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the Public Safety Building.
5. This weekend I am attending the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Jacob Lung of Vernon.
6. Administration is working with the towns of Ellington and Stafford to create a regional collaboration to apply for grants through Department of Economic and Community Development to assist our residents with the crumbling foundation issue. We will keep you posted on the progress of this group and my administration.
7. Presently Administration has gathered staff to investigate options for a cost effective Time and Attendance System that works for both the Board of Education and the Town Government.
8. Administration and the Director and Staff of the Water Pollution Control Facility are working to find ways to reduce the costs associated with our new facility upgrade. We will continue to investigate ways to reduce the impact on our residents.
9. Don't forget to call Administration and rsvp to our Memorial Day Parade, Monday, May 28, 2018. Staging begins at Northeast School at 8:30 AM and we step off promptly at 10:00 AM. All are welcome!
10. The Connecticut Greenway's Council has Selected Ann Letendre for their Unsung Hero Award for her efforts with the Friends of the Hockanum Linear Park. The ceremony is planned for June 1, 2018 at 10AM at the Nathan Lester House in Ledyard. Congratulations Ann

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne noted that New Business Number 2 has been pulled.

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G) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member DiDio pulled Consent items 2, 3 and 4. Motion to approve C-1 carried unanimously.

C 1. Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Current Years. (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated May 2, 2018 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHT (8) CURRENT YEAR REFUNDS TOTALLING \$7175.38 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 2, 2018.

H) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

C 2. Request the Town Council approve the placement of properties totaling \$178,973.42 on the Suspense Tax Ledger. (See copy of memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated May 2, 2018 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, and a copy of the properties reflected on the Suspense Tax Ledger are included for Town Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BY AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE SECTION 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING \$178,973.42 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED MAY, 2018.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the placement of properties totaling \$178,973.42 contained on the Suspense Tax Ledger report as provided by Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated May 2018. Collector of Revenue, Terry Hjarne spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

C 3. Request the Town Council approve the tax abatements of Town owned properties as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated April 23, 2018 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator regarding same. (A copy of the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue is included for Town Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE THE TAXES FOR 19 GROVE STREET, UNIQUE ID #41-0122-00037, AND 135 BOLTON ROAD, UNIQUE ID #29-0134-0002a AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 23, 2018.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to abate the taxes for 19 Grove Street, Unique ID #41-0122-00037, and 135 Bolton Road, Unique ID #29-0134-0002a as presented in the Memorandum dated April 23, 2018. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

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3. Request the Town Council amend Section 7.0 - LEAVE, and all subsections of the Town of Vernon Personnel Rules & Regulations in accordance with the Town Charter, Chapter XIV, Section 3, as presented by Assistant Town Administrator Dawn R. Maselek. (Please see proposed amendments and current language of aforementioned section.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER XIV, SECTION 3 - PERSONNEL RULES, AND THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 7.0 ENTITLED "LEAVE", HEREBY ADOPTS THE AMENDMENTS TO SECTION 7.0 IN ITS ENTIRETY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the amendments to section 7.0 entitled "LEAVE" in its entirety. 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

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to add additional agenda entitled New Business #4 as presented by Administration. Motion carried unanimously.

N) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATION ITEMS

New Business #4:

Request the Town Council schedule a public hearing on June 5, 2018 at 7:35PM in the Town Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to answer questions and hear comments relative to the Neighborhood Assistance Act submissions for 2018. (See memorandum from Allison Maynard, Director of Social Services to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated May 14, 2018 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35PM, TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018 IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT SUBMISSIONS FOR 2018.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing to take place at 7:35PM, Tuesday, June 5, 2018 in the Town Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon Connecticut to hear comments and answer questions relative to the Neighborhood Assistance Act submissions for 2018. Director of Social Services, Allison Maynard spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

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O) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF May 1, 2018 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 minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of May 1, 2018. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None

Q) **ADJOURNMENT (9:04pm):**

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

Received: May 22, 2018

Approved: June 5, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cassandra Minor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cassandra Minor
Recording Secretary.