

July 17, 2018

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

July 17, 2018- 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK

18 OCT -4 PM 5:33

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

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Steve Wakefield and Ann Letendre

Entered During Meeting: None

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

C) CITIZENS FORUM

None.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7:32 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer 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 GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING REAL ESTATE TAX APPEALS: VERNON MANOR HEALTH CENTER LLC., v TOWN OF VERNON, Docket No. CV-17-6039334-S; BOSTONCOMMONS, LLC., v TOWN OF VERNON, Docket No. CV-17-6039044-S; AND K BROTHERS LLC., v TOWN OF VERNON, Docket No. CV-17-6039333-S, AND TOWN OF VERNON ASSESSOR DAVID WHEELER AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO TO ATTEND.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to settle the tax appeal for the property address commonly known as 180 Regan Road Map 21, Block 021F, Lot 00091. CV-17-6039334-S, captioned "VERNON MANOR HEALTH CENTER LLC vs. Town of Vernon, et al" for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for the assessed value of \$2,940,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$4,200,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bills for the 2016 and 2017 Grand List Years. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to authorize the Town Attorney to settle tax appeal for the property address commonly known as 520 Hartford Tpke. Map 19, Block 0016, Lot 0001D. CV-17-6039044-S, captioned "BOSTONCOMMONS LLC vs. Town of Vernon, et al," for taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2016 for the assessed value of \$3,500,000 or the 100% fair market value of \$5,000,000 and to adjust assessment and tax bills for the 2016 and 2017 Grand List Years. Motion carried unanimously.

7:54PM Executive Session # 1 ended.

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7:55PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200, (6) (D), HEREBY GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS RELATIVE TO THE LUCINA MEMORIAL CHAPEL RESTORATION PROJECT, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, JEFF O'NEILL TOWN OF VERNON FINANCE OFFICER AND ALAN WEST, CEMETERY SUPERINTENDENT TO ATTEND.

No action taken.

8:06PM Executive Session #2 ended.

E) PUBLIC HEARING:

None.

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Robert Grasis, Director of the Water Pollution Control Authority and Ray Weaver, Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority updated the Town Council on the Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade progress.

Mayor Daniel A. Champange made the following presentation to the Town Council:

1. JULY IN THE SKY, was a huge success this year. All reports indicate that everyone had a wonderful time and Parks and Recreation put on a wonderful show of activities and of course the awesome fireworks display. Thank you to all those who worked and especially all the volunteers for the evening.
2. The combined efforts of our Town of Vernon and Board of Education staff in conjunction with our Health and Safety Committees and the Risk Management Committee, I am pleased to inform you that we received a Member Equity check in the amount of \$30,950 from CIRMA for FY 2017-2018. The Town and BOE earned this rebate because of outstanding results from our Risk Management Program and our general liability experience.
3. In the agenda this evening, you will find a budget amendment for the upcoming scheduled Primary events. Election season is upon us and our Registrars will be hard a work from now until November.
4. Also in your agenda this evening, is a request to schedule a public hearing relative to the Community Development Block Grant available through the Department of Housing for those homeowners impacted by Crumbling Concrete. This Public Hearing will be held, and our application submitted, on behalf of Ellington, Stafford and Vernon. Please pass the word to those impacted to come and testify at the hearing.
5. Vernon ROCKS Coalition is requesting assistance in getting the word out to our families for the summer lunch program. Locations in Vernon are Talcott Park, 70 Elm Street; Henry Park, South Street; and Park West Apartments, 178 Terrance Drive all at 11:45 AM – 12:30 PM for more information please call Vernon Youth Services at 860-870-3555.
6. The Town of Vernon Emergency Management Team, including CERT and BOE staff, conducted a regional shelter review with the American Red Cross this month at VCMS.
7. The Summer Days Carnival is just around the corner. This year's event is scheduled for July 25-28 at the old Golf Land Complex, Route 83. Please come and enjoy the fun. For more information contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 860-870-352.
8. I would like to take a moment to thank the Public Works Department for their outstanding work in the Social Service Department on the renovation of the offices. The ability to complete the project in-house provided a tremendous savings and an opportunity to showcase the talents of the department.
9. The Social Service Department and Senior Center are working in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture to participate in a Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. The Town of Vernon has a submitted a request for vouchers that will be distributed to senior citizens to use at all local Farmer's Markets. This program will connect our seniors with healthy food options at no cost to them or the Town of

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Vernon. It's a true win – win.

10. This Friday, July 20, 2018, at 10:00 AM there will be a ceremonial signing of the New Senior Center By-Laws at the new Senior Center located at 135 Bolton Road. All are welcome. On behalf of all our senior citizens, I would like to extend a special thank you to the Town Council for all your consideration of this project and ultimately your support.

11. In an effort to continually improve our services, Administration and the Finance Department have been working together to improve efficiency relative to our vendor payment processing procedures. Our initial goal has been achieved, and our vendor requisitions are being paid at net 30 days or better. Thank you to all those involved for their continued efforts in this regard. More exciting updates to follow as we evaluate and improve our business processes.

12. Finally, I would like to thank the Town Council for their continued efforts relative to the Rockville Public Library and the many changes occurring on behalf of all our residents. On July 2, 2018, a ceremonial signing took place at the library to continue our forward progress. I believe that without the hard work of the committee and Town Council Members Brian Motola, Ann Letendre and Julie Clay would have taken far longer to complete. In addition, the continued support and hard work of this entire Council has provided a strong foundation on which to continue providing library services to our entire community.

Council Member Schaefer added two additional items regarding The Hartmann Family Foundation on the update of McCoy Field and the passing of Chet Morgan who served the Town of Vernon for many years.

G) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member DiDio, made a motion to pull Consent #3. Motion to approve Consent C-1, C-2, C-4, C-5, C-6 and C-7 carried unanimously.

C 1. Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Year. (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated July 3, 2018 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHTEEN (18) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALLING \$3832.39 AND EIGHT (8) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$540.27 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JULY 3, 2018.

C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #35 for fiscal year 2017-2018 as provided by Finance Officer Jeff O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #35 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018 AS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER JEFF O'NEILL ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED.

C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Bruce Kellogg, (D), 173 Tallwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission, said term to commence on August 20, 2018 and expires June 30, 2023. (A copy of Mr. Kellogg's resume is included for Council review.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.S.G. § 7-136 AND ORDINANCE NO. 15; TOWN CODE SECTION 10-81 AND 82, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF BRUCE KELLOGG, (D), 173 TALLWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 20, 2018 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2023.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Vincent J. Bologna, (D), 227 Tracy Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Arts Commission, said term to commence on July 23, 2018 and expires on June 30, 2021. (A copy of Mr. Bologna's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 09-21-76 AMENDED ON 09-21-1982 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF VINCENT J. BOLOGNA, (D), 227 TRACY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON ARTS COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 23, 2018 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2021.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Donald Scott Schubert, (R), 22 Wildwood Road, South, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Inland Wetland Regulatory Commission, said term to commence on July 18, 2018 and expires December 31, 2019. (A copy of Mr. Schubert's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Schubert is completing the term vacated by Lynda Morhardt.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF DONALD SCOTT SCHUBERT, (R), 22 WILDWOOD ROAD, SOUTH, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 18, 2018 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2019.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Carmen Melarango, (R), 71 Pearl Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence on July 18, 2018 and expires on June 30, 2021. (A copy of Mr. Melarango's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2 & 6; THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CARMEN MELARANGO, (R), 71 PEARL DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 18, 2018 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2021.

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H) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #1 for fiscal year 2018-2019 as provided by Finance Officer Jeff O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #1 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER JEFF O'NEILL ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to approve budget amendment Request #1 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as provided by Finance Officer Jeff O'Neill. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

I) PENDING BUSINESS

None.

J) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council to schedule public hearing to hear comments and answer questions relative to the CDBG Small Cities Block Grant Program for Crumbling Foundation Testing. (See memorandum dated July 11, 2018 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM, TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2018, AT THE THIRD FLOOR TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE TOWN HALL MEMORIAL BUILDING, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING'S CRUMBLING FOUNDATION TESTING PROGRAM FUNDS UNDER THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing to take place at 7:35 PM, Tuesday, August 21, 2018, at the Third Floor Town Council Chambers in the Town Hall Memorial Building, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to hear comments regarding to The Department of Housing's Crumbling Foundation Testing Program Funds under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council approve the transfer of \$150,000.00 to the Blight Reduction Fund established October 10, 2012, from the sale of 129 Talcottville Road. (See memorandum dated July 11, 2018 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE TRANSFER OF \$150,000.00 FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF 129 TALCOTTVILLE ROAD TO THE SPECIAL FUND ENTITLED "BLIGHT REDUCTION FUND".

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the transfer of \$150,000.00 from the proceeds of the sale of 129 Talcottville Road to the Special Fund entitled "Blight Reduction Fund". 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 SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 20, 2018 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the Minutes from June 20, 2018 Special Town Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Q) **ADJOURNMENT (8:56PM):**

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

Received: July 24, 2018
Approved: August 21, 2018

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Minor
Recording Secretary