

February 7, 2017

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE - 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
17 FEB 24 PM 12:38

February 7, 2017 - 7:30 PM

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

**A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**B) ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Council Members Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras

**Absent:** Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Kim Appleyard and Steve Wakefield

**Entered During Meeting:**

**Also Present:** Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Michael Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, read a letter to Mayor Daniel Champagne and Town Administrator John Ward regarding the proposed bond for a senior center. As State Representative for most Vernon residents, he requests that the Town make application for state bond funds toward the cost of the senior center.

James Krupienski, 104 Crestridge Drive, spoke on the vacant land already purchased for a new senior center and questioned the proposed purchase and bonding for an existing building on another site.

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)**

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "Section 11-2 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE TOWN'S LIABILITY FOR INJURY CAUSED BY ICE AND SNOW ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS".

- MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
- CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE INTO THE RECORD
- MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED COMMENTS

James Krupienski, 104 Crestridge Drive, spoke on the details and language of the ordinance with regard to Connecticut General Statutes Section 7-163a, incorporating the statute rather than break out and state each provision. Town Attorney Louis Spadaccini spoke on the clarification of the wording to the public and answered questions.

- MAYOR CHAMPAGNE DECLARED THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED (7:43 PM)

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- RETURNED TO THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM (continued)**

Peter Olson, 39 Tolland Avenue, spoke about State snow removal and snow removal at his properties. He encouraged enforcement of the ice and snow ordinance.

Jennifer Holt, 30 King Street, spoke regarding the purchase of 135 Bolton Road for the senior center. She expressed her concerns for the condition of the building, wanting the Town to do its due diligence with regard to the purchase. She requested the council vote "no" to send this to public hearing.

Peter Olson, 39 Tolland Avenue, spoke concerning the purchase of the new piece for the senior center. He would like to see a senior center in Rockville, as he believed there are other possibilities in this section of town.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:51 PM

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**  
None

**F.) PRESENTATIONS**

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

Mayor Champagne expressed his concern over the governor's budget presentation and how the State may force towns to raise taxes, and also the crumbling foundation issue in Vernon and the State.

Mayor Champagne, Parks and Recreation Director Marty Sittler and Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Steve Krajewski, presented the Outstanding Organization Award to Jeff Olender of Olender's Body Shop, for their continued sponsorship of many teams and activities in town. They presented the Outstanding Volunteer Coach Award to Dan Resendes, for his untiring commitment to coaching many teams since 2007.

**G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented # C1 – C11. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request for the Town Council to approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Year . (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated January 24, 2017 is included in the Council packet.)**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THREE (3) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$2165.36 AND SIXTEEN (16) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$1504.99, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JANUARY 24, 2017.

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- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Robert Kleinhans, Town of Vernon Director of Public Works, 375 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2017 and expires on February 20, 2020** (Mr. Kleinhans is presently an employee of the Town of Vernon, therefore no resume is included.)

**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 REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT KLEINHANS, TOWN OF VERNON DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Charles E. Bettinger, (R), 15 Kingsbury Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2017 and expires on February, 20, 2020.** (A copy of Mr. Bettinger's resume is included for Council review.)

**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 REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARLES E. BETTINGER, (R), 15 KINGSBURY AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Robert D. O'Gara, (R), 22 Donnell Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2017 and expires on February 20, 2020.** (A copy of Mr. O'Gara's resume is included for Council review.)

**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 REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT D. O'GARA, (R), 22 DONNELL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Jon-Paul Roden, (R), 105-35 Maple Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2017 and expires on February 20, 2020.** (A copy of Mr. Roden's resume is included for Council review.)

**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 REAPPOINTMENT OF JON-PAUL RODEN, (R), 105-35

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MAPLE AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 20, 2020.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Peter F. Olsen, (R), 39 Tolland Avenue, Rockville, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority, said term to commence on March 1, 2017 and expires February 28, 2020.** (A copy of Mr. Olsen's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF PETER F. OLSEN, (R), 39 TOLLAND AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2017 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2020.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #11 for fiscal year 2016-2017 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer James M. Luddecke 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 REQUEST #11 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AS PROVIDED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Donald W. Sierakowski, (D), 56 Warren Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission, said appointment to commence on February 8, 2017 and expires on April 3, 2019.** (A copy of Mr. Sierakowski's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (TOWN CODE SEC. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. SIERAKOWSKI, (D), 56 WARREN AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 8, 2017 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 3, 2019.

- C 9. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Carmen Melaragno, (U), 71 Pearl Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said appointment to commence on February 8, 2017 and expires June 30, 2021.** (A copy of Carmen Melaragno's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF

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CARMEN MELARAGNO, (U), 71 PEARL DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2017 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021.

- C 10. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Francis Galat, (U), 631 Dart Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Regulatory Commission, said term commences on February 8, 2017 and expires December 31, 2019.** (A copy of Mr. Galat's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF FRANCIS GALAT, (U), 631 DART HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 8, 2017 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2019.

- C 11. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Bruce Kloter, (U), 8 Frog Hollow Road, Ellington, Connecticut as a regular member of the Economic Development Commission, said term to commence on February 8, 2017 and expires June 30, 2017.** ( A copy of Mr. Kloter's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Kloter is completing the unexpired term of Jill Dulilsky.)

**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 APPOINTMENT OF BRUCE KLOTER, (U), 8 FROG HOLLOW ROAD, ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 8, 2017 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2017.

**H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

None

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**J.) NEW BUSINESS (See J #2 later in minutes)**

- 1. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department relative to the FFY 2016 State Homeland Security Grant Program.** (See memorandum dated January 13, 2017 from Michael Purcaro, Emergency and Risk Management Director to John D. Ward, 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 FFY2016 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM

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AND FURTHER AGREES TO BE THE CUSTODIAL OWNER OF REGIONAL ASSETS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute a memorandum of agreement with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department relative to the Federal FY2016 State Homeland Security Grant Program and further agrees to be the custodial owner of regional assets. Emergency and Risk Management Director, Michael Purcaro, answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**  
None

L.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

**(ACTION – PUBLIC HEARING HELD IN SECTION “E”)**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED “Section 11-2 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE TOWN’S LIABILITY FOR INJURY CAUSED BY ICE AND SNOW ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS”.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the ordinance entitled “Section 11-2 An Ordinance Concerning the Town’s Liability for Injury Caused by Ice and Snow on Public Sidewalks”. No discussion took place. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Campbell.

M.) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.**

**NOTE:** This is being presented as an **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM** upon the recommendation of Town of Vernon - Bond Counsel.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to add an agenda item concerning a proposed ordinance for the purchase of a parcel with buildings and improvements located at 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut, and improvements for use as a Senior Center, and the issuance of bonds and notes to finance the appropriation. Motion carried unanimously.

**INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

1. Request the Town Council to consider, deliberate and decide on a proposed Ordinance entitled: “An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,245,000 for the Acquisition of the Property known as 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut; and the Design, Reconstruction and Improvements to such property for use as a Senior Center, and Authorizing the Issue of \$3,245,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance the Appropriation.” Proposed Ordinance further identified as Ordinance B-17-01. Further, the Town Council hereby ratifies and confirms the referral by the Town Administrator of the proposed ordinance entitled “An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,245,000 for the Acquisition of the Property known as 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut; and the Design, Reconstruction and Improvements to such property for use as a Senior Center, and Authorizing the Issue of \$3,245,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance the Appropriation,” further

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identified as B-17-01, to the Planning and Zoning Commission, pursuant to section 8-24 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as of 1958, as amended, said statute entitled "Municipal Improvements."

**Mayor recommends action of the proposed ordinance.**

**PROPOSED MOTION #1A:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, UPON CONSIDERATION AND DELIBERATION HEREBY APPROVES THE PROVISIONS OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,245,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 135 BOLTON ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT; AND THE DESIGN, RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SUCH PROPERTY FOR USE AS A SENIOR CENTER, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,245,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION." PROPOSED ORDINANCE FURTHER IDENTIFIED AS ORDINANCE B-17-01.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the provisions of the proposed ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,245,000 for the Acquisition of the Property known as 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut; and the Design, Reconstruction and Improvements to Such Property for Use as a Senior Center and Authorizing the Issue of \$3,245,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance the Appropriation." The Mayor spoke explaining the steps already taken in inspecting the building. Public Works Director, Robert Kleinhans, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED MOTION #1B:**

RESOLVED: THAT THE REFERRAL BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT DESCRIBED IN THE FOLLOWING ENTITLED ORDINANCE, "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,245,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 135 BOLTON ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT; AND THE DESIGN, RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SUCH PROPERTY FOR USE AS A SENIOR CENTER", FOR A REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 8-24 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES OF CONNECTICUT, REVISION OF 1958, AS AMENDED, SAID STATUTE ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS"; IS HEREBY RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson, proposed a resolution to refer the above stated proposed Ordinance to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a report pursuant to Section 8-24 of the Connecticut General Statutes, entitled "Municipal Improvements". No discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM #1 Continued**

**J.) NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

2. Request that the Town Council set a Public Hearing on February 21, 2017, at 8:00 P.M. to be held at the third floor Town Council Chamber in the Town Hall Memorial Building, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut, to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed Ordinance as outlined below:

A. *"An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,245,000 for the Acquisition of the Property known as 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut; and the Design, Reconstruction and*

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*Improvements to such property for use as a Senior Center, and Authorizing the Issue of \$3,245,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance the Appropriation."*

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SETS A PUBLIC HEARING ON FEBRUARY 21, 2017, AT 8:00 P.M., TO BE HELD AT THE THIRD FLOOR TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE TOWN HALL MEMORIAL BUILDING, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED:

- A. "AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,245,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 135 BOLTON ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT; AND THE DESIGN, RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO SUCH PROPERTY FOR USE AS A SENIOR CENTER, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,245,000 BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION."

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding an Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Appropriating \$3,245,000 for the Acquisition of the Property known as 135 Bolton Road, Vernon, Connecticut; and the Design, Reconstruction and Improvements to Such Property for Use as a Senior Center, and Authorizing the Issue of \$3,245,000 Bonds and Notes to Finance the Appropriation." Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- N.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**  
None

- O.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2017 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 regular Town Council meeting. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- P.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION**  
None

**Adjourn ( 9:05 PM)**

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

Received: February 10, 2017

Approved: February 21, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen C. Dagle  
Recording Secretary