

April 18, 2017

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE - 3RD FLOOR
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
17 MAY 22 PM 3:44

April 18, 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 Pauline Schaefer, Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras

Absent: Council Members, Kim Appleyard and Steve Wakefield

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

No one spoke at Citizen's Forum.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS

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

- Suburban Subaru presented a check on April 6, 2017 to Fidelco Guide Dogs. The Town of Vernon thanks Suburban for being a good community partner. Council Member Schaefer commented that she, Council Member Wakefield and Shaun Gately, were at the presentation of the check in the amount of \$71,500.
- The annual Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, was a success with 600 children participating and 400 pounds of chocolate eggs collected.
- Some upcoming events for your calendar: The Cupcake Extravaganza at Rockville High School is April 20th at 6:00 PM; The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 25th at 7:00 PM in the Rockville High School Auditorium, 70 Loveland Hill Road; there will be a community forum sponsored by ECHN/Prospect at the Rockville Hospital cafeteria from 5:00-6:15 PM to discuss community issues.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the

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consent agenda items as presented C1 – C12. Council Member Didio pulled C-4. Motion to approve C-1 – C-3 and C-5 – C-12 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 April 5, 2017 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SEVEN (7) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$1364.21, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 5, 2017.

- C 2. Request for the Town Council to approve Tax Abatements on Town Owned Properties.** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administration dated April 3, 2017 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE THE TAXES FOR 106 WEST STREET UNIQUE ID #22-0043-00007; 8 MORRISON STREET UNIQUE ID #22-0050-0003A; AND 133 TUNNEL ROAD UNIQUE ID#19-0144-00001 AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 3, 2017.

- C 3. Request for the Town Council to approve the properties totaling \$265,044.70 on the Suspense Tax Ledger.** (See memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Tax Collector dated April 6, 2017 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE SEC 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING \$265,044.70 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED APRIL 6, 2017.

- C 5. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program, adopt the Town of Vernon Affirmative Action Policy Statement for the Town of Vernon .** (A copy of said policy is included in the agenda packet for Council review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT** AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THIS DOCUMENT, ASSIGNED THE RESPONSIBILITY TO ACHIEVE THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF SAID GOALS AND OBJECTIVES TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

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- C 6. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program, adopt the Fair Housing Resolution for the Town of Vernon.** (A copy of said policy is included in the agenda packet.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON *FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION* AND AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON.

- C 7. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Block Grant Program, adopt the Fair Housing Policy Statement for the Town of Vernon.** (A copy of the Policy is included in the agenda packet.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON *FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT* AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON.

- C 8. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program, adopt the Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 document for the Town of Vernon.** (A copy of said document is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON *COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964* AND AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON.

- C 9. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program, adopt the ADA Notice for the Town of Vernon.** (A copy of said document is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON *ADA NOTICE*, AND TO PUBLISH THIS NOTICE IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

- C 10. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program, adopt the Municipal ADA Grievance Procedure for the Town of Vernon.** (A copy of said document is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON MUNICIPAL *ADA GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE* NOTICE AND AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO SIGN THE MUNICIPAL

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GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE NOTICE DECLARING THE TOWN OF VERNON'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

- C 11. Request the Town Council authorize the disposal or sale of a Parks Maintenance vehicle – 1995 Dump Truck.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated April 6, 2017 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OR SALE OF ONE (1) PARKS DEPARTMENT VEHICLE AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS ATTACHED.

- C 12. Request the Town Council approve the disposal or sale of various items from Vernon Center Middle School, Skinner Road School, Rockville High School, and Cafeteria equipment, previously approved by the Board of Education.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated April 6, 2017 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION OF ITEMS FROM VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL, SKINNER ROAD SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND CAFETERIA EQUIPMENT, AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment # 24, #25, #26, #27, #28 and #29 for fiscal year 2016-2017 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See the budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS, #24, #25, #26, #27, #28 and #29 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve budget amendments #24-29 for fiscal year 2016-2017. Mayor Champagne and John Ward answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 opposed, Council Member DiDio.

- I.) PENDING BUSINESS**
None

- J.) NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Request the Town Council authorize John D. Ward, Town Administrator to file and execute all documents relative to the Clean Water Funding Application.** (See

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memorandum from Robert Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control Authority to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated April 3, 2017 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE AND EXECUTE ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK RELATIVE TO THE CLEAN WATER FUNDING APPLICATION AND CORRESPONDING AGREEMENT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell proposed a resolution authorizing John D. Ward to file and execute paperwork relative to the clean water funding application and agreement. Mayor Champagne, John Ward, and Robert Grasis, Director of Water Pollution Control, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to add two agenda items, as New Business #5 and New Business #4. Motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS NEW BUSINESS #5 AND #4

5) REQUEST THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE A SPECIAL JOINT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

PROPOSED MOTION:

REQUEST THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE A SPECIAL JOINT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING WITH THE VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 2017 AT 9:00 AM AT THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT, WINDSORVILLE ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE UPCOMING UPGRADE TO THE TOWN OF VERNON WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY FOLLOWED BY A TOUR OF THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to schedule a joint town council meeting with the Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority for April 29, 2017 at 9:00 AM at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Motion carried unanimously.

4) APPOINTMENT OF TOWN OF VERNON FIRE MARSHAL

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1 AND 3 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF RAYMOND WALKER AS FIRE MARSHAL FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve Raymond Walker as Fire Marshal for the Town of Vernon. Council Members commented. Motion carried unanimously.

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J.) NEW BUSINESS (continued)

- 2) Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of the Town of Vernon Senior Center Director. (See memorandum dated April 18, 2017 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MAUREEN GABRIELE AS SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve Maureen Gabriele as Senior Center Director for the Town of Vernon. Ms. Gabriele answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

7:58 PM Recess; 8:09 PM Reconvened

- 3) Request the Town Council authorize the re-designation in the Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Account in the amount of \$2747.00 for renovations at Camp Newhoca. (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated April 6, 2017 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE RE-DESIGNATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING ACCOUNT FROM THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT TO THE CAMP NEWHOCA ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2747.00, WHICH AMENDS THE TOTAL PROJECT APPROPRIATION TO \$21,247.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to re-designate funds in the reserve for capital and non-recurring account from the Community Investment Act to the Camp Newhoca Roof Replacement Project in the amount of \$2,747, amending the total project appropriation to \$21,247. Marty Sittler, Parks and Recreation Director, spoke. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

Request the Town Council send proposed ordinance entitled "Section 11-22 AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE TOWN'S LIABILITY FOR INJURY CAUSED BY ICE AND SNOW ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS", to Public Hearing.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS FIVE AND SIX OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES", HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AMENDMENT OF SECTION 11-22 OF THE VERNON TOWN CODE, AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE TOWN'S LIABILITY FOR INJURY CAUSED BY ICE AND SNOW ON PUBLIC SIDEWALKS", AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017 LOCATED AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD

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FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to schedule a public hearing regarding an ordinance entitled "Amendment of Section 11-22 of the Vernon Town Code, an Ordinance Concerning the Town's Liability for Injury Caused by Ice and Snow on Public Sidewalks" at 7:35 PM on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 located at the Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. Mayor Champagne spoke. No discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

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 **APRIL 4, 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 April 4, 2017 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **APRIL 1, 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 April 1, 2017 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **MARCH 22, 2017** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the March 22, 2017 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **MARCH 25, 2017** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the March 25, 2017 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **MARCH 27, 2017** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the March 27, 2017 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF MARCH 30, 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 March 30, 2017 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2017 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 1, 2017 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 3, 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 April 3, 2017 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly report for Town Clerk's Office for March, 2017 as prepared by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
2. Monthly report for the Vernon Police Department for March, 2017 as prepared by Captain John Kelley.
3. Invitation to ECHN Town Hall Meeting, Wednesday, April 26, 2017 5:00 PM to 6:15PM in the Rockville General Hospital Cafeteria, 31 Union Street, Vernon, Connecticut "*A Conversation on Healthcare in your Community*".

Adjourn (8:16 PM)

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

Received: April 24, 2017

Approved: May 16, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,


Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary