

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING

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CALL IN NUMBER: 1-929-205-6099 (NY) 1-301-715-8592 (DC)

MEETING ID: 845 0100 3760 PASSWORD: 0316

TUESDAY, March 16, 2021 – 7:30 PM

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

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited

B.) ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Thomas DiDio, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Pauline Schaefer, James Tedford, Steve Wakefield, Michael Wendus

Absent:

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting:

Also Present: Kathleen Minor, Recording Secretary

C.) CITIZENS FORUM

- Susan Reudgen, 61 East Street, spoke regarding vaccination efforts of town administration
- Michael Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, spoke regarding various topics
- Genero Gonzalez, 59 High Street spoke regarding the vaccine

7:49PM – Citizens Forum ended

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Champagne spoke regarding the following topics:

- The new Community Magazine will be launched at the end of March
- Primitive Renditions relocated to Shops at 30 and a formal grand re-opening ceremony is scheduled for the end of March.
- Vernon citizen Loan Nguyen received the “Hero Award” sponsored by Dunbar Jewelers
- The interviews for the position of Social Services Director have occurred.
- Budget meetings begin Saturday 3/20/2021
- A soft launch of the new Town of Vernon website and is being managed by Communications Specialist David Owens.
- Solar Canopy projects are underway at Center Road School, Vernon Police Department, Northeast School and Lake Street School as part of the Sustainable Community initiative
- The regional blood drives have been moved from the Senior Center to Center 375 beginning 3/19/2021

- COVID vaccine clinic updates were provided.

Council Member Wakefield commented on the vaccination efforts lead by town administration.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- C 1.** Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current years. (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated February 18, 2021 and March 5, 2021 respectively included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHT (8) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$6028.36 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 18, 2021.

PROPOSED MOTION #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUND FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$41.23 AND TWELVE (12) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$6341.24 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 5, 2021.

- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve FY 2020-2021 budget amendment #10 request as provided in the budget amendment forms provided by Jeffrey A. O’Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer. (See memorandum dated March 8, 2021 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Jeffrey A. O’Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #10 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY A. O’NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS.

- C 3.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s reappointment of Tara Trapp, (R), 52 East Street, Vernon, Connecticut, as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on April 5, 2021 and expires on April 4, 2024. (A copy of Ms. Trapp’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 REAPPOINTMENT OF TARA TRAPP, (R), 52 EAST STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 5, 2021 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 4, 2024.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s appointment of Thomasina Russell, (D), 21 Chamberlain Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on March 17, 2021 and expires on August 30, 2022. (See Ms. Russell’s resume for Council review. It should be noted that Ms. Russell is completing the unexpired term of Paul Jonas.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE’S APPOINTMENT OF THOMASINA C. RUSSELL, (D), 21 CHAMBERLAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 17, 2021 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 30, 2022.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s reappointment of Richard J. Quinn, (D), 110 Main Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on April 7, 2021 and expires on April 6, 2026. (A copy of Mr. Quinn’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 REAPPOINTMENT OF RICHARD J. QUINN, (D), 110 MAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 7, 2021 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 6, 2026.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s appointment of Kelly L. O’Brien, (R), 10 Oakmoor Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said appointment to commence on March 17, 2021 and expires on August 30, 2023. (A copy of Ms. O’Brien’s resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE’S APPOINTMENT OF KELLY L. O’BRIEN, (R), 10 OAKMOOR DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 17, 2021 AND EXPIRES AUGUST 30, 2023.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s appointment of Carl W. Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority, said term to commence on March 17, 2021 and expires on February 28, 2026. (A copy of Mr. Schaefer’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 APPOINTMENT OF CARL W. SCHAEFER, (R), 1A FOX HILL DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY.

SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 17, 2021 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2026

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s appointment of Kathleen A. McCarthy , (U), 29 Windermere Avenue, Apt 10, Vernon, Connecticut as a tenant commissioner for the Vernon Housing Authority, said term to commence on March 17, 2021 and expires February 28, 2025.** (A copy of Ms. McCarthy’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 APPOINTMENT OF KATHLEEN A. MCCARTHY, (U) 29 WINDERMERE AVENUE, APT 10, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS TENANT COMMISSIONER FOR THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 17, 2021 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2025

- H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)**
None
- I.) PENDING BUSINESS**
None
- J.) NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal request for the Vernon Public Schools.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O’Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 8, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET INFORMATION FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 2. Request the Town Council consider the request by Vernon Community Arts Center to extend the lease for 709 Hartford Turnpike and share the utility costs.** (See memorandum from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 12, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE ONE YEAR LEASE MODIFICATION WITH THE VERNON COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to authorize Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, to sign any and all documents relative to the one-year lease modification with the Vernon Community Arts Center. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PROPOSED MOTION #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE PAYMENT OF FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE UTILITY COSTS FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 709 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, SAID FIFTY PERCENT (50%) UTILITY COSTS WILL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE UTILITY COMPANY AS REQUIRED THROUGH THE PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET. THE REMAINING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) WILL BE PAID BY THE TENANT, VERNON COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER PER SAID LEASE DATED APRIL 25, 2016.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to authorize the payment of fifty percent (50%) of the utility costs for the property known as 709 Hartford Turnpike through the public works budget with the remaining fifty percent (50%) to be paid by the tenant, Vernon Community Arts Center per said lease dated April 25, 2016. Mayor Champagne spoke. Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **FEBRUARY 16, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the regular meeting on February 16, 2021 and approve as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

None

Mayor Champagne stated that the meeting previously scheduled for March 2, 2021 was cancelled due to the light agenda.

Q.) ADJOURN (8:15PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted.

Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary