

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING**

**ZOOM TELECONFERENCE WEBLINK**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86520851762?pwd=a2NPMWlzbE1xOGttSEpLSjZlZXNnQT09>

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

MEETING ID: 865 2085 1762 PASSWORD: 0504

**TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021 - 7:30 PM**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
21 MAY 13 PM 2:11

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, William Campbell, Julie Clay, Thomas DiDio, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, James Tedford, Steve Wakefield, Michael Wendus

Absent: Pauline Schaefer

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting:

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

**C.) CITIZENS FORUM**

Genaro Gonzalez, 133 West Main Street, spoke regarding various topics.

7:37PM – Citizens Forum ended

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Champagne updated the Town Council on the following topics:

- The new Social Services director has been appointed.
- The Vernon Voice has been expanded to include local volunteers as part of the Vernon Volunteer Collaborative. The second edition will be sent at the end of the month.
- The North Central District Health Department has received a \$266,577 grant from the state to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine for minority and traditionally underserved communities.
- The 2021 Mayor Champagne’s Summer Concert Series dates, sponsors and entertainers were announced.
- The Board of Education recognized the Town of Vernon’s pandemic efforts at a recent meeting.
- The Annual Fire Department Awards Night will be held at 7pm on Monday, May 17, 2021 at the Rockville High School Football Field with a rain date of May 24, 2021.
- The Memorial Day formal ceremony will take place at noon on Monday, May 31, 2021 at the new Central Park Veterans Memorial.
- July in the Sky will be held on June 30, 2021 with a rain date for July 7, 2021.
- Park and Recreation and Youth Services Summer Programs will be offered this year.

Mayor Champagne read Proclamations for the following:

- May 14, 2021 is Apraxia Awareness Day - Candace de Loureiro joined the call to accept the Mayor’s Proclamation.

- The first week of May, 2021 is Public Service Recognition Week, which is declared by the Office of Policy and Management.
- The week of May 2 through May 8, 2021 is Municipal Clerks Week. Karen Daigle, Town Clerk, joined the call to accept the Mayor's Proclamation.

**G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member Motola pulled C2. Motion carried unanimously to approve C1 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 April 27, 2021 included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (1) ONE PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUND TOTALING \$75.00 (5) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$499.76 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 27, 2021. FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 26, 2021.

**H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)**

**C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #12 and #13 for FY 2020-2021 as provided by Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer 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 #12 AND #13 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, JEFFREY A. O'NEILL.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve budget amendments #12 and #14 for FY 2020-2021. Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Director and Treasurer, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**J.) NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Request the Town Council graciously accepts the gift to the Town of Vernon and the Vernon Police Department from Doug and Jacki Friedrich, retiring owners of Friedrich's Jewelers, Inc.** (See letter dated April 21, 2021 to Detective Charles Hicking from Doug and Jacki Friedrich relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ACCEPTS WITH GRATITUDE THE GENEROUS DONATION FROM FRIEDRICH'S JEWELERS, INC. AND DOUG AND JACKI FRIEDRICH, OF TWO ANTIQUE OAK FLOOR CASES FOR TOWN HALL AND THE VERNON POLICE STATION. THE TOWN COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Letendre, made a motion to accept the gift to the Town of Vernon and the Town of Vernon Police Department from Doug and Jacki Friedrich. Mayor Champagne spoke and answered question. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 2. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of the new Vernon Director of Social Service.** (See the memorandum dated April 29, 2021 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council relative to same. A copy of the candidate's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1,3, AND 15 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MARTIN MATTHEW HELLMAN AS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Letendre, made a motion to approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Martin Hellmen as Director of Social Services. Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Letendre, amended the motion to correct the first name from Martin to Matthew. Matthew Hellman introduced himself and discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 3. **Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal requests from the Parks and Recreation Department, Public Works Department and Cemetery Department.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated April 27, 2021 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE VERNON PARKS AND RECREATION, PUBLIC WORKS AND CEMETERY DEPARTMENTS 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 Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Cemetery Departments as disclosed on the fixed asset information forms. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote

- 4. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute any and all documents relative to the School Readiness and School Readiness Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$323,745.00 for FY 2021-2022.**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

REQUEST THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZE MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTIVE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE SCHOOL READINESS AND SCHOOL READINESS ENHANCEMENT GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$323,745.00 FOR FY 2021-2022.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute any all documents relative to the School Readiness and School Readiness Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$323,745.00 for FY 2021-2022. Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director, 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 **APRIL 20, 2021** 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 on April 20, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **MARCH 20, 2021** 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 Special Town Council Budget Meeting of March 20, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **MARCH 22, 2021** 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 Special Town Council Budget Meeting of March 22, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **MARCH 25, 2021** 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 Special Town Council Budget Meeting of March 25, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **MARCH 29, 2021** 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 Special Town Council Budget Meeting of March 29, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **APRIL 1, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the Special Town Council Budget Meeting of April 1, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL BUDGET MEETING OF **APRIL 5, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the Special Town Council Budget Meeting of April 5, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

None

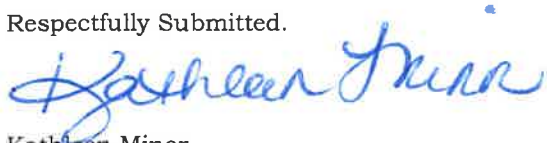
**Q.) ADJOURN (8:09PM)**

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor  
Recording Secretary