

February 18, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3RD FLOOR - 7:30PM
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
20 MAR 23 AM 10:49

FEBRUARY 18, 2020

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, Michael Wendus, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque

Absent:

Entered During Meeting: Linda Gessay, after being sworn in

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Ann Letendre, 29 Gottier Drive, spoke regarding the approved Vernon Dog Park.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:37 PM.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Linda Gessay, (R), 6 Lewis Street, Vernon, Connecticut to the Vernon Town Council to fill the unexpired term for Steve Peterson. (See a copy of Ms. Gessay's resume for review. A letter from the Vernon Republican Town Committee Chair, Robert Hurd will be provided at the meeting.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER III, SECTION 9 ENTITLED, "FILLING VACANCIES", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF LINDA GESSAY, (R), 6 LEWIS STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF STEVE PETERSON, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE WITH THE SWEARING IN THIS DAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2020 AND EXPIRES NOVEMBER 8, 2021.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the appointment of Linda Gessay to the Vernon Town Council with a term effective February 18, 2020 and expiring November 8, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms Gessay was sworn in by Town Clerk, Karen Daigle.

7:40 PM - Council Member Gessay entered the meeting.

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F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Constance DeVereaux, Associate Professor in Residence, and Dramatic Arts Director at the University of Connecticut, and her students, gave a presentation relative to the UCONN Feasibility Study as it relates to a proposed art center at 26 Park Place. Town Administrator Michael Purcaro spoke and discussion ensued.

Mayor Champagne introduced Cheryl Forbes as the new Communications Specialist hired through the Hartford Foundation. Ms. Forbes spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

(1) THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Executive Session #1 – Mayor Champagne pulled from Agenda

8:32 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2:

(2) THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (C) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SECURITY AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

8:33 PM - recess to welcome Cheryl Forbes

8:41 PM – Executive Session #2 reconvened

No action taken on Executive Session #2

9:10 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion to go into Executive Session#3:

(3) THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (D) TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATION AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

9:50 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, motioned to extend curfew until close of business. Motion carried unanimously.

No action taken on Executive Session #3

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Executive Session ended at 9:57 PM.

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (CONTINUED)

- On Sunday, February 16, 2020 a proclamation was presented to Ruth G. Hakey, of Vernon in celebration of her 100th Birthday.
- On March 25, 2020 there will be a presentation by Catherine Marx, Partnership Specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau at the Vernon Senior Center for the membership
- The Town of Vernon Drone Program was called upon to assist with a mutual aid, search and rescue involving a blind Enfield resident who was lost in the woods for over 33 hours.
- Mayor Champagne met with the student at Opportunity Works and their advisors at 55 West Main Street and encourages a visit to the gift shop that helps support the students.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda items C1 and C2. Council Member Motola pulled item C2. Motion carried to approve C1 with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Gessay.

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Current year.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated February 7, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ELEVEN (11) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$10,253.43 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 7, 2020.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #8, #9 and #10, for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See budget forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #8, #9 AND #10 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to move Consent Agenda item C2. Finance Officer and Treasurer, Jeffrey O'Neill, answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

J.) NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

2. **Request the Town Council approve the job descriptions for *Equipment and Maintenance Supervisor* for the Department of Public Works.** (See job description attached.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF ***EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR*** FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the job descriptions for Equipment and Maintenance Supervisor for the Department of Public Works. Town Administrator Michael Purcaro, Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek and the Director of Public Works, Dwight Ryniewicz spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

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 4, 2020*** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Shaefer, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting held on February 4, 2020. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Gessay.

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

February 18, 2020

1. Monthly Report for the Town Clerk – January, 2020 as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.
2. Invitation to Town of Vernon Fire Department 2019 Awards Ceremony on Monday, February 24, 2020 at Rockville High School

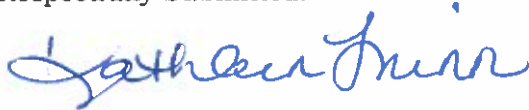
Q.) ADJOURN (10:09PM)

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

Received: February 25, 2020

Approved: March 3, 2020

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary