

April 21, 2020

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING**  
TELECONFERENCE CALL IN NUMBER: 1-929-205-6099  
MEETING ID: 926 7957 8887 PASSWORD: 0421  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 - 7:30PM**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
20 JUN -5 AM 11:39

Mayor Daniel Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

**A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**B.) ROLL CALL**

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

**Absent:**

**Entered During Meeting:**

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

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Maryanne Levesque, 183 Bolton Road commented and commended the Town of Vernon for being one of the safest places in Connecticut.

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

- Mayor Daniel Champagne spoke regarding COVID19 updates and explained how the Town of Vernon has responded
- A grant was received from the Harford Foundation to benefit both the Cornerstone and Hockanum Valley food pantries
- The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2020 at 7:00pm at Rockville High School with drive through and walk-up voting.

**G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- 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 April 13, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

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**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUND TOTALING \$22.19 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 13, 2020.

- C 2.** **Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #15 and #16, for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #15 AND #16 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS.

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

None

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**J.) NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council consider the Suspension and Modification of Tax Deadlines and Collection Efforts.** (See memorandum dated April 15, 2020 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro and Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek relative to same.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved, That the Town Council on April 21, 2020 hereby approves participation in a Deferment Program which shall offer to eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents a deferment by ninety (90) days of any taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to participate in a Deferment Program allowing a ninety (90) day deferment on taxes on real property, personal property or motor vehicles, or municipal water, sewer and electric rates, charges or assessments for such tax, rate, charge, or assessment from the time that it became due and payable. Eligible taxpayers, businesses, nonprofits, and residents are those that attest to or document significant economic impact by COVID-19, and/ or those that document they are providing relief to those significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with supporting documentation. Mayor Champagne spoke. Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried with roll call vote.

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**2. Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing on May 19, 2020 at 7:35 pm via teleconference (see call in information in the motion below) to hear comments and take the necessary action relative to the 2020 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.** (See memorandum dated April 7, 2020 from Michelle Hill, Interim Director of Social Services for the Town of Vernon to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING ON MAY 19, 2020 AT 7:35 PM VIA TELECONFERENCE TO HEAR COMMENT AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO ***“THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM”***. THOSE WISHING TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CALL IN TO THE TELECONFERENCE AS FOLLOWS: ***Call in information: 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 967 5064 0235; Password: 0519.***

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on May 19, 2020 at 7:35PM via teleconference call relative to **The Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program**. Michelle Hill, Interim Director of Social Services, was available to answer questions. Motion carried with roll call vote.

**3. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program adopt the following documents, and further declare April, 2020 Fair Housing Month.** (See a copy of the six documents listed in the resolution below in your packet for review.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING ***SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM*** DOCUMENTS:

***TOWN OF VERNON - AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT***

***TOWN OF VERNON - AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADA NOTICE***

***TOWN OF VERNON - AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE***

***TOWN OF VERNON – COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964***

***TOWN OF VERNON – FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT***

***TOWN OF VERNON – FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION***

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to adopt the **Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program** documents. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

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**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL JOINS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE IN DECLARING ***APRIL, 2020 FAIR HOUSING MONTH*** IN THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to declare April 2020 Fair Housing Month. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

**4. Request the Town Council refer 8 Morrison Street, Vernon, CT to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review.** (See memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Town Council dated April 15, 2020 relative to same. Also included is the property card for reference.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 8-24 REVIEW FROM THE TOWN OF VERNON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AS IT APPLIES TO THE DISPOSITION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS ***8 MORRISON STREET, PARCEL NO. 22-0050-0003A.***

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to refer 8 Morrison Street, Vernon CT to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a 8-24 review. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously with a roll call vote.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to donate \$5,000 to Hockanum Valley and \$2,500 to Cornerstone. Mayor Champagne spoke. Action was not valid and died without a vote, as it had not been put forward as an additional agenda item.

**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 7, 2020*** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting held on March 17, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

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1. Monthly Report – March, 2020 for the Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain John Kelley.
2. Monthly Report – March, 2020 for the Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Karen Daigle, Vernon Town Clerk.

**Q.) ADJOURN (8:14PM)**

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

Received: May 1, 2020

Approved: May 5, 2020

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor  
Recording Secretary