

April 20, 2021

**APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 - 7:30 PM
Join Zoom Meeting**

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
21 JUL -2 PM 12:08

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84630620894?pwd=U2c5bTVXZE10OVVsQ3p2WINDUDRpZz09>

CALL IN: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 846 3062 0894 Passcode: 0420

One tap mobile

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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, Michael Wendus

Absent: Steve Wakefield

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting:

Also Present: Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, Karen Daigle, Recording Secretary

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

(TOWN COUNCIL TO RECESS TO VIRTUAL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING 7:35 PM)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO RECESS UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE ***“CONSTRUCTION OF A TURF FIELD/TRACK AT ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL.”***

7:35PM – Mayor Champagne called for a recess to begin the virtual Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting

9:06PM – Regular meeting resumed

C.) CITIZENS FORUM

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne updated the Town Council on the following topics:

- The Town of ***Vernon Fire Department*** is the recipient of a grant from the Annual Connecticut Water Company's Firefighter Support Grant Program in the amount of \$957.00. Congratulations to the department!

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- The Town of Vernon has supported the North Central District Health District (NCDHD) to apply for a grant to assist with vaccinating our hardest to reach residents and local business in our regional health district area. “We strive to vaccinate everyone who wants to be vaccinated.”
- **COVID Update:** Through the efforts of the Town of Vernon, Priority Urgent Care, and NCDHD we have held clinics for multi-lingual members of our community. The Hartford Courant recently featured our efforts on the front page of their daily paper twice in the past week, and the Governor commended these efforts in his COVID press conference yesterday.
- The construction is almost complete on the **new Pavilion at the Senior Center.** Take a ride by and take a look. It will provide a picnic area for events, waiting area for outside games and activities as well as shelter from the unpredictable New England weather.
- **REMINDER:** The **Annual Town Meeting is April 27, 2021** commencing at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be virtual and the ZOOM information has been published in the legal notice. The vote will be drive thru and walk up at Rockville High School, 70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, CT.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, 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 Current years.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated April 8, 2021 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (8) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$3523.21 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 8, 2021

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s reappointment of Daniel C. Wright, (U), 44 Lakeview Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on April 22, 2021 and expires on April 21, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Wright’s resume is attached for Council review.) (Note: an updated resume has been requested).

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 242 THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE’S REAPPOINTMENT OF DANIEL C. WRIGHT, (U), 44 LAKEVIEW DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR A TERM BEGINNING APRIL 22, 2021 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 21, 2024.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s reappointment of Carmine P. Pellegrino, (U), 15 Lakeview Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on April 22, 2021 and expires on April 21, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Pellegrino’s resume is attached for Council review.) (Note: an updated resume has been requested.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 242 THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CARMINE P. PELLEGRINO, (U), 15 LAKEVIEW DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 22, 2021 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 21, 2024.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)

None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing on May 18, 2021 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 2021 Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program.** (See memorandum dated April 13, 2021 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 18, 2021 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: 857 1349 0811; Password: 0518.***

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, moved to schedule a public hearing on May 18, 2021 at 7:35 PM to hear comment and take action relative to The Neighborhood Assistance Act Tax Credit Program. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 2. Request the Town Council approve the job description for Police Chief.** (See memorandum from Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator in the Town Council packet relative to same.)

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 ***POLICE CHIEF***.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved to approve the job description of Police Chief. Discussion ensued. Mayor Champagne answered questions. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 3. Request the Town Council approve the job description for Refuse/Recycling Program Supervisor.** (See memorandum from Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator in the Town Council packet relative to same.)

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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 ***REFUSE/RECYCLING PROGRAM SUPERVISOR***.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved to approve the job description of Refuse/Recycling Program Supervisor. Discussion ensued. Mayor Champagne answered questions. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

4. **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, 2021 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 Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved to adopt the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program documents. Discussion ensued. Mayor Champagne answered questions. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL JOINS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE IN DECLARING ***APRIL, 2021 FAIR HOUSING MONTH*** IN THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved to adopt April 2021 as Fair Housing Month. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

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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 6, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to waive the reading of the minutes from the April 6, 2021 regular meeting and accept them as presented. Motion carried by voice vote with one abstention (Schaefer).

9:21 PM – Mayor Champagne called for a recess until the end of the virtual Public Hearing/Special Town Meeting.

9:53 PM – Virtual regular meeting resumed. Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to extend curfew to the end of business. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

10:11 PM – Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to enter into Executive Session:

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

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

10:28 PM – Executive Session ended and resulted in the following action:

PROPOSED MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE NEGOTIATED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE **TOWN OF VERNON AND WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SUPERVISORS, REPRESENTED BY LOCAL 818 OF COUNCIL 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO** EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023, APPROVES AND AUTHORIZES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Vernon and Water Pollution Control Supervisors, Represented by Local 818 of Council 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023, and authorized Town Administrator, Michael J. Purcaro, to sign said agreement. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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PROPOSED MOTION #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE NEGOTIATED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE **TOWN OF VERNON** AND THE **AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, LOCAL 818 OF COUNCIL #4, AFL-CIO** EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024, APPROVES AND AUTHORIZES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN SAID AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Vernon and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local 818 of Council #4, AFL-CIO effective July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024 and authorized Town Administrator, Michael J. Purcaro, to sign said agreement. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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

1. Monthly Report – March, 2021, Town Clerk’s Office, as submitted by Karen Daigle, Town Clerk.
2. Monthly Report – March, 2021, Vernon Police Department, as submitted by Captain John Kelly.

Q.) ADJOURN (10:32PM)

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

Received: April 27, 2021

Approved: May 4, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary