

May 18, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES
TOWN OF VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

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

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2021- 7:30PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85713490811?pwd=ZWxkU1FERXkzREowdWNRcEVxQnNOUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 1349 0811. **Passcode:** 0518

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

Absent:

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting: Steve Wakefield (7:45PM)

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

C.) CITIZENS FORUM – 7:32PM

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

7:37PM – Recessed until after Public Hearing

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE
“NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT SUBMISSIONS FOR 2021”.

7:37PM Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the Public Hearing to order

The Recording Secretary read the Public Notice.

Mayor Champagne asked for public comment.

7:39PM Public Hearing adjourned with no comment.

C.) CITIZENS FORUM (Continued)

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7:39PM - resumed

7:39PM - Closed with no additional comment

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

- Memorial Day Ceremony on May 31, 2021.
- The Town of Vernon Fire Department awards were held on May 17, 2021 – award recipients were announced.
- The Fiscal Year 2021 audit has been completed. The reports will be available to be picked up on May 19, 2021.
- In person meetings are being planned for the second Town Council meeting in June

Mayor Champagne asked all Town Council members for comment. Council Members Didio, Motola, Clay, Bush and Wakefield all commented in favor. Mayor Champagne asked if anyone has any concerns to please contact Administration.

- Plans are underway to reopen the Senior Center, Town Offices, summer camps and Youth Services Programs.
- Citizen's Block Project status
- Ribbon cutting for Vivo Chiropractic took place May 17, 2021.

Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director, provided Covid-19 vaccine and clinic updates.

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 (Wendus not visible or audible).

- 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 May 6, 2021 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$944.18 AND FOUR (4) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$506.46 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 6, 2021.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)

None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council endorse the application for Neighborhood Assistance Act 2021 application by the Tolland Agricultural Center and Opportunity Works, Inc.** (See

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memorandum from Michelle Hill, Interim Director of Social Services included in the Town Council packet dated May 7, 2021.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ENDORSES THE APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT 2021 BY THE TOLLAND AGRICULTURAL CENTER AND OPPORTUNITY WORKS INC.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to endorse the applications for the Neighborhood Assistance Act 2021 by the Tolland Agricultural Center and Opportunity Works, Inc. Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director and Interim Director of Social Services spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote (Wendus not visible or audible).

2. **Request the Town Council amend the motion previously passed for New Business #1 on the February 2, 2021 Town Council agenda to reflect the correct term for the incoming new Board of Education member, Jennifer Buckler.**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER III, SECTIONS 9 AND 10, THE TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE APPOINTMENT TERM FOR JENNIFER BUCKLER **FROM** FEBRUARY 3, 2021 – NOVEMBER 8, 2023 **TO** FEBRUARY 3, 2021 - NOVEMBER 8, 2021.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Letendre, made a motion to amend the appointment term for Jennifer Buckler to February 3, 2021 to November 8, 2021. Mayor Champagne spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote (Wendus not visible or audible).

3. **Request the Town Council the Town Council approve the Tax Abatement of Town owned property.** (See memorandum dated May 6, 2021 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated May 6, 2021 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator regarding same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE THE TAXES FOR 22 JEN DRIVE UNIQUE ID #24-0065-0006L AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED MAY 6, 2021.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to abate the taxes for 22 Jen Drive Unique ID #24-0065-006L as presented. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8:02PM – Recessed

8:05PM – Resumed

4. **Request the Town Council approve the placement of properties totaling \$191,834.91 on the Suspense Tax Ledger.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of

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Revenue dated May 6, 2021 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and a copy of the Suspense Tax Ledger are included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE SECTION 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING \$191,834.91 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED MAY, 2021.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the placement of properties totaling \$191,834.91 contained on the Suspense Tax Ledger Report. Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue and Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to amend the motion previously passed for New Business Item #1 to endorse applications for the Neighborhood Assistance Act 2021 by the Creative Living Community of Connecticut and Opportunity Works, Inc. Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro spoke and explained that Tolland Agricultural Center was an error. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

5. **Request the Town Council approve FY 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #14 for replacement of the compactor at the Vernon Transfer Station.** (See memorandum dated May 13, 2021 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #14 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM ATTACHED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Request #14 for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 as presented. Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works and Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer 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 **MAY 4, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the regular town council meeting minutes of May 4, 2021. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE **AMENDED** MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **FEBRUARY 2, 2021** AND THAT THE AMENDED MINUTES BE APPROVED. (THE END YEAR FOR THE TERMS FOR BOTH NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS SHOULD BE 2021.)

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the amended minutes of the regular town council meeting of February 2, 2021. Discussion ensued regarding the scrivener error on the term expiration date for Board of Education Member Kristiana Wintress. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

1. Monthly Report – April, 2021, Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain John Kelley.
2. Monthly Report – April, 2021, Vernon Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

Q.) ADJOURN (8:39PM)

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

Received: June 2, 2021

Approved: June 15, 2021

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary