

<p>VERNON TOWN COUNCIL</p> <p>REGULAR MEETING</p> <p>TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR</p> <p>VERNON, CONNECTICUT</p> <p>TUESDAY, JULY 20, 2021</p> <p>7:30 P.M.</p>	<p>RECEIVED VERNON TOWN CLERK 21 AUG - 3 PM 12: 57</p>
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DRAFT MINUTES

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Recited

B.) ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Thomas Didio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Michael Wendus, Laura Bush, William Campbell, James Tedford, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque

Absent: Steve Wakefield

Entered During Regular Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZENS FORUM

- Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, spoke regarding PCR testing and COVID
- Elana Owens, 24 Elizabeth Lane, spoke regarding flooding and drainage issues
- Maryann Levesque, 183 Bolton Road, spoke regarding the Town of Vernon vaccine efforts

7:43PM - Citizens forum ended

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:43PM – Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made the following motion to go 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 TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

8:08PM – Executive Session ended.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion for the Town Council to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Town of Vernon and the Vernon Police Association, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

- The status and response to the 14" of recent rain and the impact to residents and the town was discussed. Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director, spoke regarding the storm water management system as well.
- Vernon Dog Park has a sink hole in the small dog area – a retention basin emptied into the Hockanum River and the pipe needs repair and that area will be closed during this repair.
- The 12th Annual Summer Days Community Carnival is Wednesday July 21 through Saturday July 24. Council Member Schaefer spoke regarding the event.
- The Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons have been installed at Center Road and Phoenix/Washington. The remaining locations will be installed once permits are finalized with the State of CT Department of Transportation.
- The schedule for swimming at Newhoca Beach, Community Pool and Valley Falls Beach were announced. The North Central District Health Department and town is testing the water quality regularly and any changes will be updated via social media.
- The paving project is still on schedule despite the recent rain with the parking lots of Northeast School, Center Road School and Maple Street Schools being done now and the remaining locations will be completed next.
- The solar canopy install projects at Center Road, Lake Street and Northeast schools have been completed.
- The Windermere Fields project has slowed due to rain, however, it is moving along with many requirements completed.
- The DPW wash bay project is progressing and has been delayed due to public safety projects taking precedence. A fire wall will be installed between the wash bay and building to meet fire codes.
- In addition to the public safety priorities, the cost of building supplies has also created a delay for other projects ie: Citizens Block, etc. as well.
- National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday, August 3, 2021 from 5:00pm-8:00pm in the Courthouse Plaza parking lot. Council Member Didio spoke regarding the event.
- The 2021 Plan of Conservation and Development draft has been released. The Planning and Zoning Commission has scheduled a Public Hearing scheduled for September 14, 2021 at 7pm.
- Police Chief John Kelley assumed command on July 9, 2021.
- July in the Sky was successful considering the weather forecast.
- A \$2,000,000.00 state grant was received to clean up Daniel's Mill advancing plans for redevelopment Gateway to the Historic Downtown District.
- The Senior Center is moving forward with re-opening plans adding more in-house programs and increased capacity. The pavilion is open and Town of Vernon Sgt Chris Pryputniewicz is leading a new Pickle Ball Training Program.
- The Talcottville Main Street bridge project is on schedule to be completed in November 2021.
- Pegi Dietz has ended her appointment as the Town of Vernon's first Poet Laureate. The new Poet Laureate will be selected from students at Rockville High School in September.
- Reimbursement from the FEMA and Coronavirus Relief Fund will be used to reimburse the ambulance medical services fund.
- Shakespere in the Park summer performance is scheduled for Saturday August 7, 2021 at 7:00pm and Sunday, August 8, 2021 at 2:00pm in the upper parking lot of the Rockville Public Library, a free event being held rain or shine.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, motioned to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- 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 July 8, 2021 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (10) TEN PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$873.56 AND (7) SEVEN CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$698.08 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JULY 8, 2021

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal for the Rockville Public Library. (See memorandum dated July 15, 2021 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSET FORMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Rockville Public Library. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council approve the job description for the position of Police Captain. (A copy of the job description is included for Council review.

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 CAPTAIN** AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to adopt the job description of Police Captain as presented. Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator and John Kelley, Police Chief spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Request the Town Council approve the allocation of funds received from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. (See memorandum dated July 14, 2021 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDS RECEIVED FROM THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$344,225. 00 TO REIMBURSE ALLOWABLE COSTS CHARGED TO THE AMBULANCE MEDICAL SERVICES SPECIAL REVENUE FUND.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the allocation of funds received from the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the amount of \$344,225.00 to reimburse allowable costs charged to the ambulance medical services special revenue fund. Jeffrey A. O'Neil, Finance Officer and Treasurer spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Request the Town Council authorize the application for supplemental administrative funds in the amount of \$4,569.00 provided by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood.(See memorandum dated July 12, 2021 from Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE APPLICATION FOR SUPPLEMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,569.00 PROVIDED BY THE

CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to authorize the application for supplemental administrative funds in the amount of \$4,569.00 provided by the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood, and further authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and all documents. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

The Town Council is hereby requested to schedule two public hearings as indicated below. The public hearings will be scheduled for the same night August 17, 2021, the first at 7:35 PM and the second directly following the conclusion of the first.

(Note: The two public hearings will be published together in one legal notice for clarity. Ordinance numbers will be assigned once the Ordinances are approved.)

1. **Proposed Ordinance entitled “Ordinance No. , An Ordinance Entitled “Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor and Cannabis Prohibited in Town-Owned or Town-Leased Property; Smoking and Vaping Prohibited in Town-Owned or Town-Leased Property.” Repealing Ordinance #74 Entitled “Possession, Consumption, Distribution or Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on School Grounds, in School Buildings Prohibited”, and Ordinance #295 Entitled “Possession or Consumption of Alcoholic Liquors in Town Parks and Recreation Areas Prohibited.”** (See a copy of said Ordinance included in the Council packet for review.)

PROPOSED PUBLIC HEARING #1 (7:35 PM)

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS FIVE AND SIX OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED “PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES”, HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING **“Ordinance No. , An Ordinance Entitled “Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor and Cannabis Prohibited in Town-Owned or Town-Leased Property; Smoking and Vaping Prohibited in Town-Owned or Town-Leased Property.” Repealing Ordinance #74 Entitled “Possession, Consumption, Distribution or Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on School Grounds, in School Buildings Prohibited”, and Ordinance #295 Entitled “Possession or Consumption of Alcoholic Liquors in Town Parks and Recreation Areas Prohibited.”** AUGUST 17, 2021 AT 7:35 P.M. LOCATED AT TOWN HALL, MEMORIAL BUILDING, TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on August 17, 2021 at 7:35 PM at Town Hall, Memorial Building, Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon CT to hear comments and take necessary action regarding ordinance no.____, an ordinance entitled “Possession and Consumption of Alcoholic Liquor and Cannabis Prohibited in Town-Owned or Town-Leased Property; Smoking and Vaping Prohibited in Town-Owned or Town-Leased Property.” repealing ordinance #74 entitled “Possession, Consumption, Distribution or Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on School Grounds, in School Buildings Prohibited”, and ordinance #295 entitled “Possession or Consumption of Alcoholic Liquors in Town Parks and Recreation Areas Prohibited.” Town Attorney, Louis Spadaccini, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Proposed Ordinance Entitled “Ordinance No., An Ordinance Entitled “Possession of Alcoholic Liquor and Cannabis in Public Areas, Highways and Parking Areas”, Repealing Ordinance #195 Entitled “Possession of Alcoholic Liquor in Public Areas, Highways and Parking Areas”.** (See a copy of said Ordinance included in the Council packet for review.)

PROPOSED PUBLIC HEARING #2 (Directly following PH #1)

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS FIVE AND SIX OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES", HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING "Ordinance Entitled "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance Entitled "Possession of Alcoholic Liquor and Cannabis in Public Areas, Highways and Parking Areas", Repealing Ordinance #195 Entitled "Possession of Alcoholic Liquor in Public Areas, Highways and Parking Areas", AUGUST 17, 2021, DIRECTLY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING #1, LOCATED AT TOWN HALL, MEMORIAL BUILDING, TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on August 17, 2021, directly following Public Hearing #1 at Town Hall, Memorial Building, Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon CT to hear comments and take necessary action regarding "Ordinance Entitled "Ordinance No.____, an ordinance entitled "Possession of Alcoholic Liquor and Cannabis in Public Areas, Highways and Parking Areas", repealing ordinance #195 entitled "Possession of Alcoholic Liquor in Public Areas, Highways and Parking Areas". Town Attorney, Louis Spadaccini, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 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 **JUNE 15, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, motioned to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council meeting held June 15, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **JULY 6, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, motioned to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting held July 6, 2021. Motion carried unanimously.

- P.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION**
None

Q.) ADJOURN (9:14PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:
Approved:

Respectfully Submitted.

Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary