

October 19, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
21 DEC -2 AM 11:11

Mayor Daniel 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, Jim Tedford, Steve Wakefield and Michael Wendus

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

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

F.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented the inductees for the ***Volunteer Wall of Honor***
 - Carl Schaefer
 - Ray Weaver
 - Gary Ruchin
 - Ed Slattery
 - Carole Slattery
- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne introduced the two newest promoted lieutenants in the Vernon Police Department, Lt. Rob Marra and Lt. Chris Pryputniewicz.
- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented Thank You Proclamations to Deputy Mayor Steve Wakefield and Council Members Polly Schaefer and Thomas Didio for their service on the Town Council.

8:00 PM Recess; 8:17 PM Reconvened

C.) **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, spoke about the Covid-19 vaccine.

Ariana Nieves-Matias, 26 Zoey Drive, spoke regarding the community and privacy to speak.

Maryann Levesque, 183 Bolton Road, thanked the citizens of Vernon and all volunteers for a job well done over the last year.

Citizen's Forum ended at 8:28 PM

F.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne made a presentation to the Town Council on various topics.

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- DATES TO REMEMBER:
 - TKB Club 100th Anniversary – November 1, 2021, with more information to follow.
 - Trunk or Treat – October 28, 2021 from 4:30 – 6:30 pm at Henry Park.
 - Rockville Library Concert Series – Final two concerts October 21st and November 4th at 6:00 pm. In the event of rain, the concerts will move inside the library.
 - Arctic Splash – December 4, 2021 at Valley Falls Park, 1:00 pm. Additional information available at the Parks and Recreation office, 860-870-3520.
 - Rockville Hospital 100th Anniversary Celebration – November 1, 2021 at 10:00 am on the lawn of the Maxwell Mansion (facing Union Street)
 - Socktober – Rockville High School student, Tommy Glinski, is collecting socks through November 15th, a program he initiated in Middle School. Collection boxes will be located at the Police Department, all the schools and Town Hall. Call the Administration Department to obtain a collection box for your organization.
- Winterfest is set for December 3, 2021 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm, with lighting of the tree in Central Park and the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Claus. More information is forthcoming.
- Groundbreaking ceremony occurred October 19th for Citizens Block. We are looking forward to tracking the progress at the site.
- The Town of Vernon held a Community Flu Clinic in the St. Bernard's parking lot on October 14th. Over 145 individuals received vaccinations.
- The New England Civil War Museum held their Grand Reopening Celebration with over 300 visitors touring the museum and activities in Central Park. Congratulations to a job well done by the GAR membership.
- The Town of Vernon was honored by the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce with their "Corporate Citizen" Award for our nationally-recognized vaccination program. This was a true team effort and want to thank everyone involved in making our small and large-scale clinics such a success.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- C** 1. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Carole Guttman, (U), 6 Lantern Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said term to commence on October 20, 2021 and expires on June 30, 2024. (A copy of Ms. Guttman's resume is included in the Council packet for review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 7, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CAROLE GUTTMAN, (U), 6 LANTERN LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE SAID TERM TO BEGIN OCTOBER 20, 2021 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2024.

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- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Sean Hadden, (R), 30 Nye Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority, said term to commence on October 20, 2021 and expires February 28, 2022.** (A copy of Mr. Hadden's resume is included for Council review. It should be noted that Mr. Hadden is completing the unexpired term of Ellen Eybel.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF SEAN HADDEN (R), 30 NYE STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO BEGIN OCTOBER 20, 2021 AND FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS
None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS
None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal for the Rockville Public Library.** (See memorandum dated October 13, 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 Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Rockville Public Library. Library director, Jennifer Johnston, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute any and all documents to make application for and receive State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) grant funds for the Recreational Trails Program.** (See memorandum from Marty Sitler, Director of Parks and Recreation to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated October 13, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT THROUGH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$202,000.00. FURTHER, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion authorizing the Parks and Recreation Department to apply for and receive the Recreational Trails Grant through the State of Connecticut, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection program in the amount of \$202,000.00, and further authorizing Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and all documents for same. Parks and Recreation director, Marty Sitler, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council authorize the purchase of an Automated Side Loader Refuse/Recycle Truck for the Department of Public Works.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer & Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated October 14, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES AND AUTHORIZES THE PURCHASE OF AN AUTOMATED SIDE LOADER REFUSE/RECYCLE TRUCK FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Mayor Champagne pulled New Business #3, as the proposed truck had been sold to another party, thus unavailable.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES 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 OF **October 5, 2021** 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 October 5, 2021 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:49 PM Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. Motion carried unanimously.

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 TO ATTEND.

8:58 PM Executive Session #1 ended. No action taken.

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8:58 PM Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, JOHN KELLEY, POLICE CHIEF AND DWIGHT RYNIWICZ, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ATTEND.

9:23 PM Executive Session #2 ended. No action taken.

9:24 PM Council Member DiDio thanked the Town Council and the Town of Vernon for allowing him to serve.

Council Member Schaefer enjoyed her time and experience serving the Town of Vernon, it was a learning experience, but will be focusing her attention on the veterans living in town.

Council Member Wakefield said his experience serving the Town of Vernon has been a joy, working with great groups on both sides; hats off to Mayor Champagne.

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

None


Adjourn (9:28 PM)

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

Received: October 25, 2021

Approved: November 16, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary