

November 16, 2021

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021 – 7:30 PM**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
21 DEC 16 PM 2:19

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, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Ariana Nieves-Matias, John O'Connell, Teri-Lynn Rogers, Jim Tedford and Michael Wendus

**Absent:**

**Entered During Meeting:**

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

**ADOPTION OF TOWN COUNCIL RULES**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER V, SECTION 4, ENTITLED "PROCEDURES", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ADOPTION OF THE 2021-2023 TOWN COUNCIL RULES AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to adopt the the 2021-2023 Town Council Rules as presented. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEMPORE**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER V, SECTION 2, ENTITLED "PRESIDING OFFICER", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF \_\_\_\_\_, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE FOR THE 2021-2023 SESSION OF THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL.

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Campbell, nominated Brian Motola as Mayor Pro Tempore for the 2021-2023 session of the Vernon Town Council. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADOPTION OF TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE 2022 AS REQUIRED BY FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE FOIA 2022 TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL DATED NOVEMBER 10, 2021.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the FOIA 2022 Town Council Schedule. Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to amend and change the October 3, 2022 date to October 4, 2022.

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Motion to amend the date change carried unanimously. Main motion carried unanimously, as amended.

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM (7:36 PM)**

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, with Sylvia Rivera, 170 Sisson Avenue, Hartford present, spoke about the Covid-19 vaccine.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:42 PM

**F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Robert Grasis, Director Water Pollution Control provided an update on the Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade and answered questions.

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

- Welcome to the new town council members
- Arctic Splash is December 4, 2021 with a 12:30 PM arrival and 1:00 PM Splash.
- Winterfest is December 3, 2021 with a 5:30 PM arrival and parade starting at 6:15 PM.
- Individuals hearing of the passing of Thor, one of the Police Department's K-9s, came forward and a fundraising effort has been started. Anyone interested in donating or assisting may contact Lisa Moody at [mlisamoody@aol.com](mailto:mlisamoody@aol.com)
- The Thanksgiving Day football game between Rockville and Ellington is Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at Rockville High School Stadium, game time 6:30 PM.
- At the end of October, the Mayor, Council members and others joined together to break ground on the next phase of the Citizen Block Redevelopment.
- Police officer, Allison Lawrence, is the first female Resource Officer assigned to Rockville High School. Congratulations Officer Lawrence.
- The Town of Vernon Police Department promoted a new sergeant, Greg St. Pierre, who has been with the Department nine years. Congratulations Sergeant St. Pierre.
- Rockville General Hospital celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary on November 1<sup>st</sup>. A ceremony was held on the Kellogg lawn in front of the Maxwell mansion.
- The Thadeuz Kosciusko Benefit Society (TKB Club) celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Many current and former members enjoyed hearing the history of the organization.
- Vernon Public Schools hosted a Job Fair, with fifty people attending and several strong candidates identified.
- Rockville Public Library is expanding their hours as follows: Monday through Wednesday, 9 AM to 6 PM; Thursday 9 AM to 8 PM; Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM and Saturday 9 AM to 2 PM.
- Trunk or Treat was a huge success again this year.
- The Vernon Historical Society produced a video featuring letters home from Rockville residents serving in World War II, with Rockville High School drama members joining the Society in reading the letters. Those letters highlight lives of Rockville residents who served in the Army, Navy and Marine Corps during World War II, and collectively produced a video for all to see. Check out the **youtube** link on the Town of Vernon website: [www.vernon-ct.gov](http://www.vernon-ct.gov)
- The Town of Vernon was honored by the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce with their "Corporate Citizen" Award for our nationally-recognized vaccination program. Chamber member Chris Wardrop nominated the Town and described the evolution of the program, from small-scale clinics in church to large clinics at the Vernon Senior Center

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and mobile clinics that went into the community to reach those who had a difficult time accessing COVID-19 vaccine. Congratulations and thank you to everyone who made this Vaccination Program possible and so successful.

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member Clay pulled Consent #1 and #2. Council Member Letendre pulled Consent #4. Motion to approve Consent items #3 and #5 carried unanimously.

**C 3. 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 October 26, 2021 is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIX (6) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$1,659.14 AND FIFTY-THREE (53) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$16,794.04 AS REFERENCED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED OCTOBER 26, 2021.

**C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Patricia Martens, (R), 1 Lantern Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, said term to commence on November 17, 2021 and expires on June 30, 2024.** (A copy of Ms. Martens' resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. § 7-105 AND CHARTER CHAPTER IX, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA MARTENS, (R), 1 LANTERN LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON NOVEMBER 17, 2021 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024.

**H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

**C 1. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment requests #29 and #30 for fiscal year 2020-2021 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See the budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #29 and #30, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, JEFFREY A. O'NEILL.

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to approve Consent #1. Finance Director and Treasurer, Jeffrey O'Neill, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

**C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment request #5 for fiscal year 2021-2022 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment form attached.** (See the budget amendment form with explanation attached to this agenda.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #5 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, JEFFREY A. O'NEILL.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to approve Consent #2. Lieutenant Luke Gallant spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

**C 4. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Mayor Daniel A. Champagne as a Director for the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence November 9, 2021 and expires on November 13, 2023.** (Mayor Champagne's appointment runs with his term as Mayor.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 242 THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE, MAYOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR A TERM BEGINNING NOVEMBER 9, 2021 AND EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 13, 2023.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve Consent #4. Mayor Champagne spoke on the subject. Motion carried unanimously.

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**J.) NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Request the Town Council reaffirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Attorney Louis A. Spadaccini as Town Attorney.** (See Attorney Spadaccini's resume attached.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHARTER CHAPTER XI, SECTION 5, ENTITLED "OTHER OFFICERS", HEREBY AFFIRMS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS A. SPADACCINI, ESQ., AS TOWN ATTORNEY.

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to approve the appointment of Louis A. Spadaccini, Esq., as Town Attorney. Motion carried with 9 in favor and 3 abstentions, Council Members Levesque, Letendre and Nieves-Matias.

- 2. Request the Town Council authorize the transfer of FY 2020-2021 funds from the Board of Education Operating Budget to the Capital and Non-Recurring Account in the amount of \$37,226.07.** (See letter from Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne dated November 2, 2021 relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TRANSFER OF \$37,226.07 FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OPERATING BUDGET FY 2020-2021 TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION RESERVE FUND FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve the transfer of \$37,226.07 from the Board of Education operating budget FY 2020-2021 to the Board of Education reserve fund for capital and non-recurring expenditures. Dr. Macary, Superintendent of Schools, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute all necessary documentation relative to the FFY 2021 Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant Program.** (This is an annual grant for the Town of Vernon. We will send an email with the memorandum and grant proposal on Monday. The documents will also be on the table for you at your meeting.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY RELATIVE TO THE FFY2021 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AND FURTHER AGREES TO BE THE CUSTODIAL OWNER OF REGIONAL ASSETS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel Champagne to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security relative to the FFY2021 State Homeland Security Grant Program and further agrees to be the custodial owner of regional assets. Town Administrator, Michael Purcaro, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary paperwork to receive the FFY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).** (This is an annual grant application for the Town of Vernon. A memorandum and the grant will be sent via email for your review on Monday. The documents will also be on the table at the meeting.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE FFY 2021 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) FUNDING OFFERED BY

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THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES  
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,348.08.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to authorize Mayor Champagne to make application for and receive FFY 2021 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) funding offered by the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the amount of \$15,348.08. Town Administrator, Michael Purcaro, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

**K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

None

**L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

None

**M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Champagne spoke on this and asked for a vote to add an additional agenda item. Motion carried unanimously.

**N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Request the Town Council approve the request dated November 15, 2021 from Rockville Public Library Director, Jennifer Johnston-Marius, to apply for and receive a survey and planning grant through the State Historic Preservation Office in the amount of \$20,000. (See letter from Rockville Public Library Director, Jennifer Johnston-Marius dated November 15, 2021 relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A SURVEY AND PLANNING GRANT THROUGH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00. FURTHER, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, moved to authorize the Rockville Public Library to apply for and receive a Survey and Planning Grant through the State Historic Preservation Office in the amount of \$20,000. Rockville Public Library Director, Jennifer Johnston-Marius, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

**O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **OCTOBER 19, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

8:37 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, 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 GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND SHAUN GATELY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR TO ATTEND.

8:56 PM Executive Session #1 ended. No action taken.

8:56 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, 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, (2) HEREBY GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

9:19 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

9:19 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #3. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200, (2) HEREBY GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

9:25 PM Council Member Wendus left Executive Session and returned at 9:27 PM.

9:45 PM Executive Session #3 ended.

9:45 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #4: Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200 (6) (D), HEREBY GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

9:55 PM Executive Session #4 ended.

9:55 PM Council Member Bush, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to extend curfew until the end of business. Motion carried unanimously.

9:55 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #5: Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200 (6) (D), HEREBY GOES INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO,  
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

10:00 PM Executive Session #5 ended. No action taken.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made the following motion to Executive Session #2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ADDING AN ADDITIONAL SENIOR SYSTEMS ENGINEER TO THE DATA PROCESSING DEPARTMENT, AND APPROVE APPROPRIATION OF \$65,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DATA PROCESSING INTERNAL SERVICE FUND.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Letendre, made the following motion to Executive Session #3:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1(B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF ZEO/PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTOR AND PLANNING & ZONING SPECIALIST, AND APPROVES APPROPRIATION OF AN ADDITIONAL \$5,856 TO FUND THE POSITION OF PLANNING & ZONING SPECIALIST.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #4:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OPPORTUNITY WORKS CT TO SUPPORT THEIR PURCHASE OF THERAP, LLC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE, CHROMEBOOKS, TRAINING AND OTHER SUPPORT ITEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,013.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Adjourn (10:14 PM)**

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

Received: November 23, 2021

Approved: December 7, 2021



Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary