

December 7, 2021

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

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

C.) **CITIZEN'S FORUM (7:31 PM)**

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, praised the Vernon Police Department and spoke on several topics.

Pauline Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, spoke about Wreaths Across America on December 18, 2021 at 12:00 noon. Mayor Champagne thanked Polly and husband, Carl, for their work with Wreaths Across America.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:39 PM

F.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne announced that Michelle Hill's presentation relative to a Health Impact Study would not take place, and Executive Sessions #1 and #3 were being pulled.

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

- Winterfest was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with the parade consisting of lighted fire trucks and Santa Claus. Thank you to the Rockville High School Band, the Fire Department, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and Administration staff for putting on such a wonderful event. Lights are on at Henry Park, with no admission charge.
- Arctic Splash was held on December 4<sup>th</sup> with 67 people entering the frigid water and raising approximately \$2,500 for the summer camp scholarship fund. Thanks to the Parks and Recreation department and Will Nicholson for continued fundraising support.
- A long-awaited Girl Scout Gold, Silver and Bronze Award Ceremony was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations to the sixteen Girl Scouts receiving their awards for projects they completed in the community.
- The annual Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at Grove Hill Cemetery at Lugg Memorial Field beginning at noon on December 18<sup>th</sup>, with arrival at 11:30 AM. All are invited.
- The Rockville High School Football team is working their way to the State Finals, beating Torrington in the semifinal game and playing Killingly on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Game time is 3:00 PM at Veterans Stadium in New Britain. This is the first State Finals since 1995. Go RAMS!
- The Plan of Conservation and Development has been adopted by the Planning and Zoning Commission, after months of hard work by the Town Planner, the Commission,

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Building department, and local business and residents adding valuable input. The document is printed and will be available on the Town's website for review.

- Finishing touches are being completed to re-open the Talcottville Bridge. A ribbon cutting ceremony is forthcoming.
- The Winter edition of the Vernon Voice will reach homes sometime in early to mid-January, 2022.
- Assistant Director of our Parks and Recreation department, Amy Watt, has been recognized by the CT Recreation and Park Association with the 2021 "Hidden Hero" award, recognizing her work in last year's successful Winterfest and her work on our vaccination clinics. She led the town's efforts to implement a best practice specialized vaccination program for people living with development disabilities. Congratulations on her well-deserved recognition.
- Director of our Social Services department, Matt Hellman, and his entire team has been recognized as a Focal Point for the North Central Area Agency on Aging, now serving as a resource for older residents seeking services available to them. The Vernon Senior Center is an existing Focal Point for the agency.

The Vernon Housing Authority, represented by Debra Hedger, Wendy Ng, Suhail Rosa, Karen Howat, and Commissioners Schaefer and Hadden, presented their annual PILOT check to the Town of Vernon in the amount of \$93,158.71.

**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. Motion to approve Consent items #1 through #9 carried unanimously.

- C** 1. Request the Town Council approve tax refunds for current and prior years taxes as presented in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated November 22, 2021. (See memorandum dated November 22, 2021 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIX (6) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$484.38 AND CURRENT YEAR THIRTY-EIGHT (38) REFUNDS TOTALING \$11,921.76 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED NOVEMBER 22, 2021.

- C** 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Stephen H. Ransom, Jr., (R), 23 Olive Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission, said term to commence January 1, 2022 and expires December 31, 2024. (A copy of Mr. Ransom's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #268, TOWN CODE SEC. 10-105 - 10-108 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN H. RANSOM, JR., (R), 23 OLIVE LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2024.

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- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Jeffrey Pescosolido, (U), 96 Brent Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of Inland Wetland Regulatory Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Pescosolido's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY PESCOSOLIDO, (U), 96 BRENT DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2024.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Diane Wheelock, (R), 132 Tallwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a member of the North Central District Health Department Board of Directors, said term to commence on January 1, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2024.** (A copy of Ms. Wheelock's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19a-241; CHARTER CHAPTER XI, SECTIONS 1,5, & 14, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF DIANE WHEELOCK, 132 TALLWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2024.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Kenneth J. Boynton, (U), 100-25 Dobson Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on January 1, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Boynton's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 3; AND CHARTER CHAPTER XII, SEC. 4, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KENNETH J. BOYNTON, (U), 100-25 DOBSON ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2024.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Everett Ray Weaver, (U), 14 Deepwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on January 1, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Weaver's resume is included for Council review.)

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**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 3; AND CHARTER CHAPTER XII, SEC. 4, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF EVERETT RAY WEAVER, (U), 144 DEEPWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2024.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approved Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Roland Klee, (D), 132 Hany Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2024. (A copy of Mr. Klee's resume is included for Council review.)**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1,6 & 11 DATED JANUARY 1, 1985; C.G.S. §8-4A&B, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ROLAND KLEE, (U), 132 HANY LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2024.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Yu (Iris) Mullan, (R), 51 Blue Ridge Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2024. (A copy of Ms. Mullan's resume is included for Council review.)**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1,6 & 11 DATED JANUARY 1, 1985; C.G.S. §8-4A&B, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF YU (IRIS) MULLAN, 51 BLUE RIDGE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2024.

- C 9. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Jennifer Holt, (D), 30 King Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of Design Review Advisory Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2024. ( A copy of Ms. Holt's resume is included for Council review.)**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #268, TOWN CODE SEC. 10-105 - 10-108 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JENNIFER HOLT, (D), 30 KING STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE JANUARY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2024.

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

None

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**

None

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Teen Co-Poet Laureate Cali Miville for a term of one school year 2021-2022.**  
(Included in the Council packet is a statement from Ms. Miville and three of her most recent poems. No resume is included at this time.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED APRIL 16, 2019, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CALI MIVILLE, STUDENT AT ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOR A TERM OF ONE SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022, AND CONGRATULATES CALI MIVILLE ON HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to approve the appointment of Cali Miville, Rockville High School student, as Teen Co-Poet Laureate for a term of one school year 2021-2022. Ms. Miville read a poem she wrote. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Teen Co-Poet Laureate Kaylin Maher for a term of one school year 2021-2022.**  
(Included in the Council packet is a statement from Ms. Maher and three of her most recent poems. No resume is included at this time.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED APRIL 16, 2019, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF TEEN CO-POET LAUREATE KAYLIN MAHER FOR A TERM OF ONE SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022, AND CONGRATULATES KAYLIN MAHER ON HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to approve the appointment of Kaylin Maher, Rockville High School student, as Teen Co-Poet Laureate for a term of one school year 2021-2022. Ms. Maher read a poem she wrote. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute any and all documents to make application for and receive the grant offered by the Connecticut Fair Plan Anti-Arson Committee in the amount of \$500.00.** (See the grant application attached for same.)

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**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE TOWN OF VERNON FIRE MARSHAL TO APPLY FOR THE CONNECTICUT FAIR PLAN ANTI-ARSON COMMITTEE GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize the Town of Vernon Fire Marshal to apply for the Connecticut Fair Plan Anti-Arson Committee Grant in the amount of \$500. Fire Marshal, Daniel Wasilewski, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the job description for the position of Adult Services and Outreach Librarian.** (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 ADULT SERVICES AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adopt the job description of Adult Services and Outreach Librarian. Jennifer Johnston-Marius, Rockville Library Director, and Dawn Maselek, Human Resource Director, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Presentation and update on the proposed upgrades for the Animal Control Facility funded through a generous donation received from the Bostrom family and designated for this purpose.**

Police Chief, John Kelly, spoke and answered questions about the donation received from the Bostrom family specifically for upgrades to the Animal Control Facility. Mayor Champagne spoke on the project.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS THE GIFT FROM THE ESTATE OF JEAN A. BOSTROM AND THE BOSTROM FAMILY IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$313,939.29 FOR THE UPDATING OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL FACILITY.

Motion carried unanimously.

K.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**  
None

L.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**  
None

M.) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**  
None

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**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 **NOVEMBER 16, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

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.

Mayor Champagne reiterated that Executive Session #1 had been pulled.

8:29 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, 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 MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATIVE TO PERSONNEL, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

8:51 PM Executive Session #2 ended. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3

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, TO ATTEND.

Mayor Champagne previously reiterated that Executive Session #3 had been pulled.

8:51 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #4. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (2) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION RELATIVE TO PERSONNEL AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN

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ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND FIRE CHIEF STEVE EPPLER, TO ATTEND.

9:31 PM Executive Session #4 ended.

9:31 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #5. 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 RELATIVE TO CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

9:50 PM Executive Session #5 ended.

9:50 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #4:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING ACCOUNT TO SUPPORT THE TRAINING OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,675.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #5:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE THE PURCHASE OF A GARBAGE TRUCK.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**Adjourn (9:51 PM)**

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

Received: December 14, 2021

Approved: December 21, 2021



Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary