

December 21, 2021

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 FEB -1 PM 1:18

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

Absent: Julie Clay and Michael Wendus

Entered During Meeting: Ann Letendre at 7:31 PM

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

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

Council Member Ann Letendre entered the meeting.

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, spoke about history and several other topics.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:34 PM

F.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- Wreaths Across America was December 19th at Grove Hill Cemetery. Travis Clark, Cemetery Superintendent and his staff, along with volunteer color guard and veterans, made this the largest and most well attended event to date. Special thanks go to Polly Schaefer and her group of volunteers as well as Carol Nelson for their help with this special event.
- The Rockville High School RAM football team made it to the State Finals in Class M. Unfortunately, they didn't win on the field, but the players and their Coach, Eric Knickerbocker, represented the Town of Vernon and Rockville High School with distinction. We're proud of their efforts and look forward to great things next season.
- Lucky Taco, a business with its beginnings in a food truck and now located in the old Nature's Grocer location, held its grand opening on December 11th. Welcome to Lucky Taco.
- The French Social Club held its grand opening on December 11th in the former Free Spirit location on Kelly Road. They've made extensive improvements to the property and we welcome the French Social Club to Vernon.
- Covid testing clinics will continue through the holiday season at Center 375 Hartford Turnpike on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM and RHS on Sundays from 11 AM – 2 PM. No appointments needed.
- The Town of Vernon received federal funds through the American Rescue Plan Act and is currently seeking public input for the use of these funds. A web page and form will be available on our website.
- The Town's booster shot partnership with Priority Urgent Care continues.
- For the 68th year, the Vernon Volunteer Firefighters Association, along with hundreds of area residents, donated toys to ensure 322 local children would have toys for Christmas

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and 71 teens would receive gift cards totaling \$3,670.00. Firefighters fanned out across Vernon, delivering toys and books to 169 families.

Mayor Champagne wished everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

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 item #1 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 December 9, 2021.** (See memorandum dated December 9, 2021 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$206.75 AND CURRENT YEAR SIX (6) REFUNDS TOTALING \$1,379.05 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED DECEMBER 9, 2021.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council authorize the transfer of remaining funds from the Center Road Driveway Project to the Capital and Non-Recurring Education Account.** (See letter from Dr. Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne dated December 6, 2021 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TRANSFER OF REMAINING FUNDS FROM THE CENTER ROAD DRIVEWAY PROJECT TO THE CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EDUCATION ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$37,520.30.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to transfer the remaining funds from the Center Road Driveway Project to the Capital and Non-recurring Education Account in the amount of \$37,520.30. Mayor Champagne, along with Bill Meyer, Director of Business and Finance for the Vernon Public Schools, spoke on the topic. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

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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 **DECEMBER 7, 2021** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:44 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session. 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.

8:14 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII), SECTION NINE (9), OF THE TOWN CHARTER, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COST ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING SECURITY UPGRADES PROVIDED BY **THREE-WAY COMMUNICATIONS OF WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT** IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$75,000.00, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON ANY INSTRUMENT (S) TO THAT EFFECT. SAID FUNDING FOR SAME SHALL BE TAKEN FROM THE GENERAL FUND.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

None

Adjourn (8:15 PM)

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

Received: December 28, 2021

Approved: January 18, 2022


Karen C. Daigle

Recording Secretary