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MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022 – 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, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Ariana Nieves-Matias, John O'Connell, Teri-Lynn Rogers, Jim Tedford and Michael Wendus

Absent: Council Member Julie Clay

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS

None

D.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, spoke on ARPA money being used for schools, the need for a stop sign on West Main Street, and the needs of the community.

7:36 PM Citizen's Forum Recessed

F.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:36 PM)

A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE **2022 SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, FOR PUBLIC HOUSING MODERNIZATION AT GROVE COURT AND GROVE COURT EXTENSION**. THE TOWN COUNCIL TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO SAME.

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Soto, Executive Director of the Vernon Housing Authority, spoke on the renovation project, Grove Court and Grove Court Extension. Nile Scala, Engineer for the Vernon Housing Authority, explained the funding through the Grant. Mayor Champagne also spoke on the Grant.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 8:01 PM

NOTE: Action to be considered in "**Section K – New Business #1**"

D.) CITIZEN'S FORUM (continued 8:01 PM)

Harley Garcia, 128 East Main Street, spoke on the emergency response within the Town and safety concerns.

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

- Blake Lewis, a sixth grader at VCMS, was recently recognized by The New York Times for a word he created as part of a class assignment.
- Hundreds of children came out to Henry Park for the Annual Town of Vernon Egg Hunt. There were lots of smiles and happy children, despite the rain. Thanks to the Parks and Recreation Department for another successful event.
- The Rockville Rotary Club donated an eastern redbud tree for the Saxony Dog Park.
- The Rockville Public Library had a record returned that was 44 years overdue.
- The Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 26th at Rockville High School followed by a Special Town Council Meeting to set the tax rate.
- Copies of the Federal and State Single Audits prepared by Mahoney Sabol, along with the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report prepared by Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Frank Zitkus, Controller were at the Town Council members' places at the table.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

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

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve tax refunds for current year taxes as presented in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated April 11, 2022.** (See memorandum dated April 11, 2022 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHT (8) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TAXES TOTALING \$1,746.90 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 1, 2022.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Sarah J. Olson (Iacobello), (R), 6 Tunnel Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2027.** (A copy of Ms. Olson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (TOWN CODE SEC. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF SARAH J. OLSON (IACOBELLO), (R), 6 TUNNEL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2027.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Robin Castro, (R), 150 Vernon Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory**

Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024. (A copy of Ms. Castro's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ROBIN CASTRO, (R), 150 VERNON AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Bree Maxwell, (U), 201 Regan Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024.** (A copy of Ms. Maxwell's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF BREE MAXWELL, (U), 201 REGAN ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Leslie Campolongo, (U), 9 Talcott Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024.** (A copy of Ms. Campolongo's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF LESLIE CAMPOLONGO, (U), 9 TALCOTT AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Joshua Stenger, (D), 164 Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Stenger's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF

THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Ken Kaplan Jr., (U), 7 Orchard Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Kaplan's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF KEN KAPLAN, JR., (U), 7 ORCHARD STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Liz Bologna, (D), 12 Mountain Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024.** (A copy of Ms. Bologna's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF LIZ BOLOGNA, (D), 12 MOUNTAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

- C 9. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of James Sendrak (U), 34 Snipsic Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Sendrak's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JAMES SENDRAK, (U), 34 SNIPSIC STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

- C 10. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Tammy Lynn Eldredge, (R), 64 Orchard Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2022 and expires on April 19, 2024.** (A copy of Ms. Eldredge's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF TAMMY LYNN ELDREDGE, (R), 64 ORCHARD STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2024.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **ACTION: following the Public Hearing held earlier relative to the 2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant application.**

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE APPLICATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY TO THE **2022 SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING MODERIZATION AT GROVE COURT AND GROVE COURT EXTENSION** 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 Bush, made a motion authorizing the Town of Vernon, in partnership with the Vernon Housing Authority, make application to the 2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant for Public Housing Modernization at Grove Court and Grove Court Extension and further authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and all documents for same. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal of assets by the Vernon Public Schools.** (See memorandum dated April 7, 2022 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer & Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FORM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed assets form. Mayor Champagne spoke on the matter. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal of assets by the Rockville Public Library.** (See memorandum dated April 11, 2022 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer

& Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro 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 O'Connell, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Rockville Public Library as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed asset forms. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program adopt the following documents, and further declare April, 2022 Fair Housing Month.

(See a copy of the six documents listed in the resolution below in your packet for review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING ***SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM*** DOCUMENTS:

- TOWN OF VERNON – ***AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT***
- TOWN OF VERNON – ***AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADA NOTICE***
- TOWN OF VERNON – ***AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE***
- TOWN OF VERNON – ***COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964***
- TOWN OF VERNON – ***FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT***
- TOWN OF VERNON – ***FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION***

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, proposed a resolution to adopt the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program documents: Affirmative Action Policy Statement, Americans with Disabilities Act ADA Notice, Americans with Disabilities Act Municipal Grievance Procedure, Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Fair Housing Policy Statement and Fair Housing Resolution. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL JOINS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE IN DECLARING ***APRIL, 2022 FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE TOWN OF VERNON.***

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, proposed a resolution to declare April 2022 as Fair Housing Month in the Town of Vernon. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Request the Town Council schedule a public hearing relative to the 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act, said public hearing to be scheduled for June 7, 2022 at 7:35 PM in the Town Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. (See memorandum from Matt Hellman, Social Services Director to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 25, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY, SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2022 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT SUBMISSIONS, SAID PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 7, 2022 AT 7:35 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing relative to the 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Submissions, said public hearing will be held on June 7, 2022 at 7:35 PM in the Town Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. Matt Hellman, Social Services Director, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Request the Town Council authorize the Social Service Department to apply for a Salvation Army Grant to provide rent/mortgage assistance to Vernon residents.**
(See memorandum dated March 29, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Matt Hellman, Director of the Vernon Social Services Department relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A GRANT FROM THE SALVATION ARMY TO PROVIDE RENT/MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE TO VERNON RESIDENTS, 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 Bush, proposed a resolution authorizing the Social Services Department to apply for and receive a Grant from The Salvation Army to provide rent/mortgage assistance to Vernon residents, and, further authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and all documents for same. Matt Hellman, Social Services Director, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- M.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**
None

- N.) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to add an additional agenda item. Motion carried unanimously.

- O.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$14,870.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL REMOVAL AT THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 19 PARK STREET, VERNON, 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 Levesque, proposed a resolution to approve the additional appropriation of \$14,870 for the purpose of hazardous material removal at the property known as 19 Park Street, Vernon, and further authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and all documents for same. Mayor Champagne spoke on the matter. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **APRIL 5, 2022** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Discussion ensued. The maker of said motion, along with the seconder, withdrew the motion.

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

1. Town Clerk's Monthly Report for March, 2022 submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

R.) Adjourn (8:37 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary