

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2022 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 MAY 10 PM 12:19

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, John O'Connell, Teri-Lynn Rogers, Jim Tedford and Michael Wendus

Absent: Ariana Nieves-Matias

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS

None

D.) CITIZEN'S FORUM (7:31 PM)

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, spoke about the dog park and diversity.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:34 PM

F.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented a Proclamation for International Town Clerk's Week to Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk, and her staff.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- The Memorial Day Parade – May 30, 2022. The parade will stage at Northeast School with step off between 10:00 – 10:30 AM, continuing to Grove Hill Cemetery for a brief ceremony, continuing to Grove Street and arriving at the intersection of Amerbelle/Route 74 and East Main Street at 11:00. The Shriners Motor Patrol will perform in front of the Ladd and Hall parking lot.
- July in the Sky - July 12, 2022. In the planning stages; anyone interested in participating should contact Parks and Recreation at 860-870-3520, as they will be coordinating all efforts. Activities, games, music and food are planned for the evening, culminating with the fireworks show beginning at dark.
- Mother's Day Dash – May 8, 2022. Starting at Henry Park. Anyone interested should call Parks and Recreation at 860-870-3520.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member Levesque pulled Consent item #3. Motion to approve

Consent items #1 and #2 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 22, 2022.** (See memorandum dated April 22, 2022 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SEVEN (7) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$3647.64 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 22, 2022.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approves the abatement of taxes for 19 Park Street and 98 East Main Street, Vernon, Connecticut.** (See memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated April 19, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE THE TAXES FOR 19 PARK STREET UNIQUE ID #40-0107-00007 AND 98 EAST MAIN STREET UNIQUE ID#40-0117-00005 AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 19, 2022.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve the placement of properties in Vernon on the Suspense Tax Ledger Report.** (See memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated April 19, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE SECTION 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING \$196,187.08 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED MAY, 2022.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the placement of properties totaling \$196,187.08 contained on the Suspense Tax Ledger Report dated May, 2022. Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

J.) PENDING BUSINESS
None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council approve the job descriptions of Animal Control Officer, Assistant Animal Control Officer and Part-time Kitchen Services Coordinator.** (See job descriptions attached for Council review. Also included is the section of the Personnel Rules 4.1 (B) referenced.)

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 DESCRIPTIONS OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER, ASSISTANT ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER AND PART-TIME KITCHEN SERVICES COORDINATOR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to adopt the job descriptions of Animal Control Officer, Assistant Animal Control Officer and Part-time Kitchen Services Coordinator. John Kelley, Police Chief, answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the application by the Youth Services Bureau for the 2022 School Readiness Grant.** (See memorandum from Michelle Hill, YSB Director to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE ***SCHOOL READINESS AND SCHOOL READINESS ENHANCEMENT FUNDS*** IN THE AMOUNT OF \$323,745.00 \$319,864.00 FOR THE 2022-2023 FISCAL YEAR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion authorizing Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary paperwork to make application for and receive School Readiness and School Readiness Enhancement Funds in the amount of \$319,864.00, as corrected from the agenda, for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. Mayor Champagne explained the correct dollar amount. Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council pass a resolution for the Small Cities Grant up to \$2,000,000 in partnership with the Vernon Housing Authority.** (See resolution included in the Council packet for review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE CERTIFIED RESOLUTION ENTITLED "CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF APPLICANT – SMALL CITIES PROGRAM" AS PRESENTED, IDENTIFIED AS EXHIBIT 000.2 GALR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, proposed a resolution to approve the certified resolution entitled "Certified Resolution of Applicant – Small Cities Program" as presented, identified as Exhibit 000.2 GALR. Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator, spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
None

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

N.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

None

O.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

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 Levesque, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 5, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Motion to approve said minutes, as amended in distributed Draft #2, carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **APRIL 19, 2022** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 19, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:53 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, 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 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND STEVE EPPLER, FIRE CHIEF TO ATTEND.

8:21 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

8:21 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

8:41 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

8:41 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made the following motion to Executive Session #1:

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 FULL-TIME EMT AS PRESENTED.

Motion carried unanimously.

8:42 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #2:

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 ACCREDITATION MANAGER AS PRESENTED.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

R.) Adjourn (8:43 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary