

February 1, 2022

**APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE WEBLINK**

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 JUN -8 PM 2:10

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89842231825?pwd=TTRmZG1QMW4vaU9nbFVOTjJiV1Ntdz09>

CALL IN NUMBER: 1 929 205 6099 US (NY)
MEETING ID: 898 4223 1825 PASSCODE: 020122
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 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, 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 (7:32 PM)**

None

F.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- Last week an organizational meeting consisting of residents, friends and supporters of the new Dog Park was held to discuss the start of a "Friends of the Dog Park" committee and how to move forward. Thank you to all, including those Town Council members, involved.
- The Vernon Town Clerk's Office – the Land Record Index is online, streamlining title searching and making it more accessible. Thank you to Town Clerk, Karen Daigle, for leading this effort along with her team.
- Our "Buy Local" efforts are ramping up, featuring this program in the next Magazine due out in April.
- The recent snow storm – the Town of Vernon was well prepared for the recent Nor'easter. Special thank you to the entire team for their dedication.

E.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

G.) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 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 January 20, 2022.**
(See memorandum dated January 20, 2022 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TEN (10) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$4,605.21 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JANUARY 20, 2022.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Sean Hadden, (R), 30 Nye Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority, said term to commence March 1, 2022 and expires February 28, 2027.** (A copy of Mr. Hadden's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF SEAN HADDEN, (R), 30 NYE STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2027.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Officer Allison Lawrence, Liaison from the Vernon Police Department, 725 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as a member of the Vernon Youth Services Bureau, said term to commence February 2, 2022 and expires on December 31, 2023.** (Officer Lawrence is a Town of Vernon employee and therefore no resume is attached. Officer Lawrence is completing the term of Officer Gregory St.Pierre.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3; TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 08.24.1976 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 03.01.1994, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER ALLISON LAWRENCE, LIAISON FROM THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT, 725 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A MEMBER OF THE YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 2, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2023.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Daniel Wasilewski, Fire Marshal, 55 West Main Street, Vernon as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2022 and expires February 20, 2025.** (Fire Marshal Wasilewski is a Town of Vernon employee and therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF DANIEL WASILEWSKI, FIRE MARSHAL, 55 WEST MAIN STREET VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2022 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 20, 2025.

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I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**

None

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council clarify the funding sources for three previous actions of the Town Council.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated January 26, 2022 to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PROJECTS REFERENCED IN THIS MEMORANDUM, DATED JANUARY 26, 2022, FROM THE TOWN'S ALLOCATION OF FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the appropriation of funds for projects from the Town's allocation of funds provided by the American Rescue Plan Act. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

2. **Request the Town Council appoint the auditors.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated January 25, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPOINTS THE FIRM OF MAHONEY SABOL & COMPANY OF 180 GLASTONBURY BOULEVARD, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT AS AUDITORS TO AUDIT THE BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT #2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$81,800.00 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 AUDIT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to appoint the firm of Mahoney Sabot & Company as auditors to audit the books and accounts of the Town of Vernon for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute contract #2007 in the amount of \$81,800 for the fiscal year 2022 audit. Mayor Champagne and Finance Officer, Jeffrey O'Neill, spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the Town Council meeting schedule for FY 2022-2023 budget meetings.** (See memorandum from Diane Wheelock, Executive Assistant dated January 28, 2022 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

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PROPOSED MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022; THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022; MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022; THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 AND MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 WITH A START TIME OF 7:00 P.M., AND SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 WITH A START TIME OF 9:00 AM. PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 WITH A START TIME OF 9:05 AM AND THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022 WITH A START TIME OF 7:05 PM, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2022-2023 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. ALL BUDGET MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC SAID MEETINGS MAY BE CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule budget meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget deliberations as stated above. All budget meetings and public hearings will be held in the Town Council Chambers, third floor, Town Hall, 14 Park Place. Due to the Covid pandemic, said meetings may be conducted via Zoom. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PROPOSED MOTION #2

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER IV "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE FY 2022-2023 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 26, 2022 PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM. DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC SAID MEETING MAY BE CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule the Annual Town Meeting and final Public Hearing to hear comment and answer questions relative to the FY 2022-2023 Town of Vernon budget on April 26, 2022 at Rockville High School Auditorium, Loveland Hill Road commencing at 7:00 PM. Due to the Covid pandemic, said meeting may be conducted via Zoom. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS
None

N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
None

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O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **JANUARY 18, 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 January 18, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:47 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into 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.

Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

8:08 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #1:

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE DEMOLITION OF TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY LOCATED AT **19 PARK STREET, VERNON, CT PARCEL ID #40-0107-00007** BY **BESTECH, 25 PINNEY STREET, ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT**, PENDING A POSITIVE 8-24 REVIEW FROM THE VERNON PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION ON FEBRUARY 3, 2022. THE TOWN COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZES SAID DEMOLITION TO BE FUNDED THROUGH EXISTING FUNDING IN THE **BLIGHT REDUCTION FUND** IN AN AMOUNT **NOT TO EXCEED \$78,000.00**, AND AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO SAME.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

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

1. Monthly Report for December, 2021 for the Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

Adjourn (8:10 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Received: February 7, 2022

Approved: February 15, 2022


Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary