

March 1, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 JUN -8 PM 3:26

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 CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

None

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

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, spoke about traveling and taxes.

Anne Kuntz, 136 Rainbow Trail, as a member of the Vernon Arts Commission, spoke on the value of the Commission to the Town of Vernon.

Maryann Levesque, 183 Bolton Road, spoke on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds given to Vernon.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:42 PM

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- The Town of Vernon Fire Department honored its own at its award ceremony on February 28th at Rockville High School. Firefighters Stan Landry and Blake St. John received the Medal of Honor for the Union Street fire, Kelly Tischbein was selected Firefighter of the Year, Lt. Nick Bartos as Fire Officer of the Year, Heather Graveline as EMT of the Year and Ryan McKinney as Junior Firefighter of the Year. A resident, Zaida Rodriguez Adorno received a Citizen's Life Saving Award for saving the life of a toddler. It was a great night and highlighted the incredible work of our firefighters and EMTs. Thank you to all our volunteers and congratulations to all the award winners.
- The Town of Vernon is working with North Central District Health Department to streamline the application process of new businesses and restaurants requiring health department permits.

Robert Grasis, Director of Water Pollution Control (WPC), provided an update on the WPC Facility Upgrade and answered questions.

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H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion to approve Consent item #1 carried unanimously. (See below for correction.)

- 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 February 18, 2022.** (See memorandum dated February 18, 2022 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIXTEEN (16) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING ~~\$11,203.23~~ \$11,302.23 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 18, 2022.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council approve the Firefighter Support Grant Application through the Connecticut Water Company in the amount of \$957.20.** (See memorandum from Fire Chief Stephen Eppler dated February 21, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE THE FIREFIGHTER SUPPORT GRANT FROM THE CONNECTICUT WATER COMPANY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$957.20, AND FURTHER THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to authorize Mayor Champagne to apply for the Firefighter Support Grant from the Connecticut Water Company in the amount of \$957.20. Fire Chief, Stephen Eppler, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing for the town owned land known as 36 Cubles Drive, Vernon, Connecticut.** (See memorandum from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council dated February 24, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE SALE OF THE TOWN OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AT 36 CUBLES

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DRIVE – PARCEL ID #52-140Q-00005, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 AT 7:35 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED SALE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to schedule a public hearing relative to the sale of the Town owned property known as 36 Cubles Drive – Parcel ID #52-140Q-00005, Vernon, said public hearing to be held on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 7:35 PM in the Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, Town Hall, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to hear comment and answer questions relative to the proposed sale. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

A Proposed Ordinance entitled “Ordinance No. , Ambulance Corps to provide for emergency medical services delivery system” repealing and replacing Ordinance #162 entitled, “Ambulance Corps to provide for Emergency Medical Services delivery system”. (A copy of said Ordinance is included for Council review. A number will be assigned once the Ordinance is approved.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SEC. 6, ENTITLED “PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES,” HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “**AMBULANCE CORPS TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM**” REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE #162 ENTITLED “**AMBULANCE CORPS TO PROVIDE FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DELIVERY SYSTEM.**”, AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022 TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE. THIS PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule a public hearing regarding an Ordinance entitled “Ambulance Corps to Provide for Emergency Medical Services Delivery System Repealing and Replacing Ordinance #162 Entitled Ambulance Corps to Provide for Emergency Medical Services Delivery System” at 7:35 PM on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed ordinance. Said public hearing will take place in the Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. Mayor Champagne and Town Attorney, Lou Spadaccini, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

N.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

None

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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 **FEBRUARY 15, 2022** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the February 15, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Discussion ensued. Motion to approve said minutes, as corrected, carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:27 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. Council Member Wendus excused himself from attending said Executive Session #1. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Wendus.

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, TO ATTEND.

9:02 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

9:02 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2:

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.

9:15 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

9:15 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made the following motion to Executive Session #1:

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3, AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 3, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RECOMMENDATION TO ENTER INTO A THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH FINANCE OFFICER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL AND FURTHER APPROVES THE CONTRACT TERMS AS PRESENTED.

Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Wendus.

9:16 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to Executive Session #2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE A CONTRACT WITH THE ACADEMY OF ARTS AND

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LEARNING, AND FURTHER DIRECTS THE ADMINISTRATION TO BRING SAID CONTRACT BACK TO THE MARCH 15, 2022 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

R.) Adjourn (9:17 PM)

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

Received: March 8, 2022

Approved: March 15, 2022



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary