

March 15, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2022 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 JUN -9 PM 1:17

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**

None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- On March 6th, the long-awaited **Eagle Scout Court of Honor** delayed due to COVID restrictions was held and the Eagle Scout was awarded to **Samuel Yencho**. Samuel, along with his fellow Scouts, worked with the YMCA and the Department of Public Works to beautify, repair and install new playground equipment at the front play area. Congratulations to Eagle Scout Samuel Yencho.
- Recently, Maple Street School Principal Josh Egan wanted to raise some money for the student activities account and reached out to an old friend who works for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. His friend shocked him by sending him footballs autographed by Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski. The footballs are now up for auction. You can find a link on the Town of Vernon webpage, www.vernon-ct.gov, and thus far the raffle has raised more than \$9,000. Only 1,500 tickets are for sale until April 7 with the drawing on April 8.
- The budget books for the Board of Education, Human Services Agencies and the General Government were at the council members' seats, along with a folder listing all the upcoming budget agendas and the order of review. The first meeting is Saturday, March 19th, beginning at 9:00 AM in the Chambers.
- This evening's Agenda requests to change one of the Public Hearing dates from March 19th to March 24th.
- Upcoming programs and activities to add to your calendars:
 - Egg Hunt – Thursday, April 14th 5:00 PM – 6:30PM @ Henry Park
 - Dog Park Meeting - Thursday, April 21st 6:00 PM @ Dog Park
 - Vernon-Rockville Little League Opening Day – Saturday, April 23rd 10:00 AM this year the event is planned for Legion Field
 - Fishing Derby – Saturday, April 30th 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM @ Valley Falls Park

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Mother's Day Dash – Sunday, May 8th 9:00 AM start @ Henry Park

F.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE 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 NUMBER WILL BE ASSIGNED ONCE THE ORDINANCE IS APPROVED.)

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

Town Attorney, Lou Spadaccini, spoke on the ordinance, that §C of the Ordinance was being amended.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council Member, Maryann Levesque, supports the Ordinance, hoping to help workers and residents.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:37 PM

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)

Presentation of the **Comprehensive Emergency Medical Services Staffing Plan** by Town Administrator and Emergency and Risk Management Director Michael J. Purcaro, Fire Chief Steve Eppler and Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill. Discussion ensued. Mayor Champagne spoke and answered questions.

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

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**"

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE 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**".

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the 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". Motion carried unanimously.

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G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)

Presentation of *Eversource Electricity Load Shedding* by Emergency and Risk Management Director Michael J. Purcaro. Discussion ensued.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Champagne pulled Consent item #4 from the agenda.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda, less item #4. Motion carried unanimously.

- C** 1. Request the Town Council approve tax refunds for prior and current year taxes as presented in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated March 4, 2022. (See memorandum dated March 4, 2022 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$2295.37 AND ELEVEN (11) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$1690.71 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 4, 2022.

- C** 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of William J. Nicholson, (R), 86 Huntington Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on April 4, 2022 and expires on April 3, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Nicholson'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 REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. NICHOLSON, (R), 86 HUNTINGTON DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 4, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 3, 2025.

- C** 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Donald W. Sierakowski, (D), 56 Warren Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on April 4, 2022 and expires on April 3, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Sierakowski'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 REAPPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. SIERAKOWSKI, (D), 56 WARREN AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 4, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 3, 2025.

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- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Town Engineer Dave Smith, 55 West Main Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence March 16, 2022 and expires on March 15, 2025.** (Mr. Smith is a Town of Vernon employee and therefore no resume is required.)

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 APPOINTMENT OF DAVID SMITH, TOWN ENGINEER, 55 WEST MAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 16, 2022 AND EXPIRES MARCH 15, 2025.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council authorize the Rockville Public Library to apply for and receive the Survey and Planning Grant through the State Historic Preservation Office.** (See memorandum dated March 4, 2022 from Jennifer Johnson-Marius, Director relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A SURVEY AND PLANNING GRANT THROUGH THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 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 authorizing the Rockville Public Library to apply for a Survey and Planning Grant through the State Historic Preservation Office in the amount of \$20,000. Library Director, Jennifer Johnston-Marius answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council amend the public hearing schedule as follows: removing Saturday, March 19, 2022 at 9:05 AM and adding a public hearing to the Thursday, March 24, 2022 agenda to begin at 7:05 PM.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE 2022 PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE BY REMOVING THE PUBLIC HEARING PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 AT 9:05 AM AND REPLACING IT WITH A PUBLIC HEARING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022 AT 7:05 PM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to amend the public hearing from Saturday, March 19, 2022 to Thursday March 24, 2022 at 7:05 PM. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously.

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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 **MARCH 1, 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 March 1, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Discussion ensued. Motion to approve said minutes, as corrected, carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:40 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, 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.

9:07 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

9:07 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, 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.

9:21 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

9:21 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Nieves-Matias, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #3:

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.

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9:57 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to extend curfew until the end of business. Motion carried unanimously.

10:11 PM Executive Session #3 ended.

10:11 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #4:

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE TOWN OF VERNON TO APPLY FOR THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING MODERNIZATION OFFERED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO SAME.

10:37 PM Executive Session #4 ended.

10:37 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #1:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AGREEMENT WITH THE ACADEMY OF ARTS AND LEARNING AS PRESENTED AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO SAME.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE ROCKVILLE DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION FOR THE JULY IN THE SKY DOWNTOWN EVENT AS PRESENTED AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO SAME.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made the following motion to Executive Session #4:

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE TOWN OF VERNON TO APPLY FOR THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR PUBLIC HOUSING MODERNIZATION OFFERED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO SAME.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

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R.) Adjourn (10:39 PM)

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

1. Received: March 22, 2022
2. Approved: April 5, 2022



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary