

September 20, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, September 20, 2022- 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 NOV 17 PM 12:31

Mayor Daniel A. 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: None

Entered During Meeting: None

Also Present: Town Administrator Michel Purcaro, Recording Secretary Jennifer Walker

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

None

D.) **CITIZENS FORUM (7:31 PM)**

Genaro Gonzales, 133 West Main St, spoke on various topics.

Council Member Nieves-Matias spoke on the pool at Henry Park.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:38 PM

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne proclaimed September 17-23rd to be Constitution Week in the Town of Vernon. Daughters of the American Revolution member Ada Thompson received the Proclamation on behalf of the DAR.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne proclaimed September to be National Senior Center Month in the Town of Vernon. Members of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee and Senior Center Staff received the Proclamation. Maureen Gabriele, director of the Vernon Senior Center, expressed her thanks.

Rob Grasis presented an update on the Water Pollution Control Facility Upgrade and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

8:01 PM Council Member Wendus exited the meeting, returned at 8:02 PM.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne updated the Town Council on various topics.

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1. **Vernon Public Schools is holding a Job Fair this Thursday, September 22, 2022 from 5-7 PM, Library/Media Center at Rockville High School, Loveland Hill, Vernon.** Available positions: *Para educators, 12-month Secretary, Director of Adult Education, Transportation and Logistics Coordinator, Special Education Teacher and Tutors, Spanish teacher, Substitutes, Speech and Language Pathologist, Bus Drivers and MORE!*
2. The New England Civil War Museum, 14 Park Place, Vernon is inviting you to their ***Living History Day - October 1, 2022.*** The event will include Living Historian Encampment, Interactive Demonstrations, Photo Station and Museum Tours. All are welcome. The event begins at 10:00 AM and ends at 3:00 PM.
3. Sunday, September 25th at 1:00 PM the Friends of Valley Falls Annual Meeting will include a lecture by guest speaker Jean Luddy, Museum Director, for the Vernon Historical Society entitled ***"Valley Falls – Home to Vernon’s Oldest and Newest Cemeteries"***. Attendees should park in the Valley Falls parking lot and take the trail up to the red barn.
4. The Town of Vernon, staff from the Vernon Public Schools, Town Administration and the Finance Department were presented with a premium rebate check in the amount of ***\$33,736.00 from CIRMA the Town’s insurance carrier for outstanding Risk Management.***
5. The Town of Vernon ***Halloween Trunk or Treat*** is in the planning stages. This year the drive-thru event will be held on October 27, 2022, 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM, at Henry Park. More information to follow.
6. **Town Council Meeting FOIA Date:** Reminder of the date change from October 4th to October 3rd.
7. **National Senior Center Month** – Promoting Senior Center Membership flyer on the table. We will also be presenting a proclamation proclaiming Senior Center Month this evening.
8. Introduction of ***Kevin Bowman, NEW Superintendent of Cemeteries.*** Kevin is a Vernon resident and brings extensive experience in landscaping and grounds maintenance, primarily working with a local funeral home for the past 25 years. Kevin and his family have a long and proud history of community service with the Vernon Volunteer Fire Department. Please join me in welcoming Kevin Bowman.

8:08 PM Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called for a recess to meet Mr. Bowman.

8:15 PM Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting back to order.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member Motola pulled Consent item #2. Motion to move Consent Agenda items #1, 3, 4, 5 carried unanimously.

- C 1.** Request the Town Council approve the tax refunds for prior and current year taxes as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue. (See memorandum dated September 2, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHT (8) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$1,880.77 AND FIFTY-SEVEN (57) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$52,026.16 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 2022.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve FY 22 budget amendment requests #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #33 and #34 as submitted by Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated September 14, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #33 AND #34 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AS PROVIDED ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM SUBMITTED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to approve budget amendment request #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #33, and #34 for fiscal year 2021-2022 as provided on the budget amendment form submitted by finance officer and treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne appointment of John Leary, (R), 26 Hany Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as the Town of Vernon Citation Hearing Officer, said term to commence on September 21, 2022 and expires September 20, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Leary's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #215, TOWN CODE 2-5, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 218 TO ENFORCE ORDINANCES 214 AND 216 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JOHN LEARY, (R), 26 HANY LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS THE TOWN OF VERNON CITATION HEARING OFFICER, SAID NEW TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 AND EXPIRES SEPTEMBER 20, 2024.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Thomasina C. Russell, (D), 21 Chamberlain Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on August 21, 2022 and expires August 30, 2025.** (A copy of Ms. Russell's resume is included for Council review.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF THOMASINA C. RUSSELL, (D), 21 CHAMBERLAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 AND EXPIRES AUGUST 30, 2025.

- C 5.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Nancy Sirois, (U), 155 Daryl Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, said term to commence on September 21, 2022 and ends June 30, 2025. (A copy of Ms. Sirois' resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAP. XV, SEC. 3; EST. 03-02-1982, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF NANCY SIROIS (U), 155 DARYL DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 21, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council approve the disposal of items for the Data Processing and Administration Departments. (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Finance Officer & Treasurer dated September 1, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FORMS FOR THE DATA PROCESSING AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENTS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed assets forms for the data processing and administration departments. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council approve the disposal of items for the Vernon Public Schools as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed assets forms. (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated September 15, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

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

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed assets forms for the Vernon Public schools. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council accept with great appreciation the donation by the Berger Family in the amount of \$9,688.00 to purchase a new softball field scoreboard for Henry Park.** (See memorandum from Marty Sitler, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated September 7, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ACCEPTS WITH GREAT APPRECIATION THE GIFT OF \$9,688.00 FROM THE BERGER FAMILY IN HONOR OF DON BERGER FORMER DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION. THE DONATION IS MADE TO PURCHASE A NEW SCOREBOARD FOR THE SOFTBALL FIELD AT HENRY PARK.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to accept the gift of \$9,688.00 from the Berger Family in honor of Don Berger to purchase a new scoreboard for the softball field at Henry Park. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the request from Development Services Director Shaun Gately to fund Consultant Support Services with ARPA funding in the amount not to exceed \$400,000.00.** (See memorandum from Director Shaun Gately to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated August 24, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REQUEST FOR CONSULTANT SUPPORT SERVICES FUNDED THROUGH ARPA FUNDING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$400,000.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the request for consultant support services funded through ARPA funding in an amount not to exceed \$400,000.00. Development Services Director Shaun Gately and engineer Dave Smith answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE (S) 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 ON **August 16, 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 August 16, 2022 regular town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:52 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1:

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.

9:23 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

9:23 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2:

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.

9:53 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

9:53 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to extend curfew until the end of business. Motion carried Unanimously

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9:53 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #3:

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3

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 AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

10:32 PM Council Member Rogers exited the session, returned at 10:33PM

10:33 PM Council Member Wendus exited the session, returned at 10:35 PM

10: 48 PM Executive Session #3 ended.

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND OUTFRONT MEDIA LLC FOR THE CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING NON-CONFORMING STATIC BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 51 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WITH THE MIRACLE LEAGUE FIELD AND CAL RIPKEN, SR., FOUNDATION.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made the following motion to Executive Session #3:

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 ADULT SERVICES AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN AND CHILDRENS SERVICES AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN AS PRESENTED.

Motion carried unanimously.

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #3:

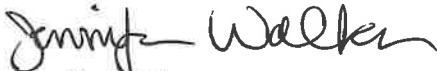
THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 5.0 COMPENSATION SYSTEM, HEREBY ADOPTS THE NEW PAY SCALE FOR THE POSITIONS OF FULL TIME LIBRARIANS, ADULT SERVICES AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN, CHILDRENS SERVICES AND OUTREACH LIBRARIAN, PART TIME LIBRARY ASSISTANTS, PART TIME LIBRARY TECHNICIANS, FULL TIME HEAD OF CIRCULATION, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, DIRECTOR OF WATER POLLUTION CONTROL, REVENUE CLERK AND ASSESSMENT TECHNICIAN AND BUILDING SPECIALIST AS PRESENTED.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN (10:52 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Nievas-Matias, made a motion to adjourn.
Motion carried unanimously.

Received: September 22, 2022
Approved: October 3, 2022


Jennifer Walker
Recording Secretary