

August 16, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, August 16, 2022- 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 NOV 17 PM 12:31

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: None

Entered During Meeting: None

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

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

None

D.) **CITIZENS FORUM (7:30 PM)**

7:30- 7:35 PM Dr. Ellen Marmer, 276 Merline Rd, spoke in regards to the Horowitz pool.

7:40 – 7:45 PM Genaro Gonzales, 133 West Main St, spoke on various topics.

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)**

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "**ORDINANCE NO. , AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING NON-CONFORMING STATIC BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 51 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY"**". (A COPY OF SAID ORDINANCE IS INCLUDED FOR COUNCIL REVIEW. A NUMBER WILL BE ASSIGNED ONCE THE ORDINANCE IS APPROVED.)

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the public hearing to order.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus made the following motion:

MOTION:

TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE FULL, PROPOSED ORDINANCE AS STATED IN THE LEGAL NOTICE.

The motion carried unanimously.

Recording Secretary read the Public Hearing Legal Notice into the record.

Mayor Champagne and Town Council opened for public comment.

7:38 PM ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

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NOTE: Action to be considered in "Section M – Action on Ordinance (s) Previously Presented."

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION 7:45 PM

Regional Partnership with the Community Voice Channel presentation by David Owens, Communications Specialist. Mike Purcaro spoke. Discussion ensued amongst council members.

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

1. The Social Service Department has ***Farmers' Market Vouchers*** available for Income-eligible residents 60 and older. The vouchers can be used at area farmers' markets, including those in Ellington, South Windsor, Stafford, Tolland and Manchester. For more information about this program call the Social Service Department at 860-870-3661.
2. ***Mayor Champagne's Concert Services*** – The final concert of Summer 2022 features "Nightshift" and is this Thursday, August 18th beginning at 6:30 PM in Henry Park on McCoy Field. In the event of rain the concert will be held on Tuesday, August 23rd, same time same place.
3. ***North Central District Health Department (NCDHD)*** is sponsoring COVID booster clinics with Griffin Hospital at Center 375, Room 120, on August 18th from 2PM-6PM and August 24th from 2PM – 6PM. The clinic is open to everyone and all three vaccines are available. No appointment is needed. Enter through the NCDHD entrance at the rear of the building.
4. ***Items of Note On the Table*** - A copy of Steve Wakefield's resume; an additional agenda item, the ***GAR Quarterly Newsletter*** and the ***Vernon ROCKS Coalition Annual Report*** for your review.
5. ***The Vernon Rocks Coalition*** held their annual meeting on July 28th to acknowledge this year's achievements and to celebrate the importance of community partnerships in working towards the coalition's mission of providing resources and outreach for community knowledge and success to prevent youth substance abuse.

One example of the impact Vernon ROCKS has had a steady increase of unused prescription medication collected and safely disposed of from both the National Drug Take back events, organized locally by the Coalition, Vernon Police Department, Walgreen Pharmacy and the Medication Drop Box at the Vernon Police Department. Since 2016 this amount has more than doubled going from 492 pounds collected to 1172 pounds collected in 2021. Together the Vernon ROCKS Coalition has created awareness around the importance of disposing of medications safely and reducing access and misuse.

6. ***International Overdoses Awareness Day is August 31, 2022 outside on the Town Green.*** The Vernon ROCKS Coalition is coordinating an event to spread awareness of the impact overdose has on families and communities, and to share prevention information resources. The Coalition plans to highlight local data, resources and available providers for those seeking help. All are welcome!
7. ***Annual Kids Safe Car Show*** is being held this Saturday, August 20th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue, just over the line in Tolland. The event supports The Village and Kids Safe Programs.
8. ***2nd Annual Rally On The Green*** – sponsored by the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce is being held this Saturday, August 20th from 2:00 PM – 10:00 PM at 95 95 Hartford Turnpike (old

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Golf Land) this event includes food trucks and brewfest and more. More information is available on the Tolland County Chamber website.

9. Introduction of new *Cemetery Superintendent* – Kevin Bowman

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion 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 August 8, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES NINE (9) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$14,756.90 AND THIRTY-FOUR (34) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$11,515.40 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED AUGUST 8, 2022.

- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of John R. Morissette, (U), 10 Susan Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on August 31, 2022 and ends August 30, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Morissette's resume is included for Council review.)

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 REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN R. MORISSETTE, (U), 10 SUSAN ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 31, 2022 AND ENDS AUGUST 30, 2025.

- C 3.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Larry Rodriguez, (R), 2 Valerie Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on August 31, 2022 and ends on August 30, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Rodriguez's resume is included for Council review.)

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 REAPPOINTMENT OF LARRY RODRIGUEZ, (R), 2 VALERIE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 31, 2022 AND ENDS ON AUGUST 30, 2025.

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- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Donald S. Schubert, (R), 22 Wildwood Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on August 31, 2022 and expires on August 30, 2025.** (A copy of Mr. Schubert's resume is included for Council review.)

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 REAPPOINTMENT OF DONALD S. SCHUBERT, (R), 22 WILDWOOD ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 31, 2022 AND ENDS AUGUST 30, 2025.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Town Council Member Julie Clay, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Capital Improvements Committee, said term to commence on August 31, 2022 and expires on August 30, 2025.** (No resume is included as Ms. Clay is a Town Council member.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER JULIE CLAY, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 31, 2022 AND EXPIRES AUGUST 30, 2025.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Ann Kuntz, (U), 136 Rainbow Trail, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Arts Commission, said term to commence on August 17, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2025.** (A copy of Ms. Kuntz resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 09-21-76 AMENDED ON 09-21-1982 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ANN KUNTZ, (U), 136 RAINBOW TRAIL, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON ARTS COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 17, 2022 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Claire Crane, (D), 62 Zoey Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, said term to commence on August 17, 2022 and expires June 30, 2025.** (A copy of Ms. Crane's resume is included for Council review. It should be noted that she is completing an expired term.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. § 7-105 AND CHARTER CHAPTER IX, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CLAIRE CRANE, (D), 62 ZOEY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON AUGUST 17, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 8.** **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Steve Wakefield, (R), 152 Brookview Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority, said term to commence on August 17, 2022 and expires on February 28, 2024.** (A copy of Mr. Wakefield's resume will be on the table when you arrive at the meeting. Mr. Wakefield is filling a vacant term.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF STEVE WAKEFIELD, (R), 152 BROOKVIEW DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO BEGIN AUGUST 17, 2022 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2024.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS 7:59

1. Town Council to have discussion and update relative to the Horowitz Pool.

MOTION UNDER CONSIDERATION

Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued.

K.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council approve the Vernon Democratic Town Committee nomination of Karen Colt, to fill the vacant seat on the Vernon Board of Education created by the resignation of Jennifer Buckler.** (See letter dated August 2, 2022 from Chairwoman Nicole Bornhorst to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne confirming the party's endorsement of Ms. Colt. It should be noted that a copy of Ms. Colt's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ENDORSES THE NOMINATION OF KAREN COLT, (D), 175 UNION STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO REPLACE JENNIFER BUCKLER ON THE VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 17, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 13, 2023.

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to endorse the nomination of Karen Colt to replace Jennifer Buckler on the Vernon Board of Education, said term to commence on August 17, 2022 and expire on November 13, 2023. Motion carried unanimously

8:03 PM Mayor Champagne called for a break to meet Karen Colt.

8:14 PM Meeting reconvened

- 2. Request the Town Council approve a change in the scope of work offered by WMC Consulting Engineers, with a cost of \$155,191.15 related to the Walkers Reservoir Dam Project.** (See memorandum dated August 5, 2022 from Shaun Gately, Director of Development Services to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE CHANGE IN THE SCOPE OF WORK OFFERED BY *WMC CONSULTING ENGINEERING* AS PRESENTED, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$156,000.00, 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 Tedford, made a motion to authorize the change in the scope of work offered by WMC Consulting Engineering as presented, in an amount not to exceed \$156,000.00, and further authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and all documents for same. Dave Smith, engineer on the project, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Request the Town Council approve a Bid Waiver for the purchase of a vault for the new Probate Court located in the Citizens Block.** (See memorandum from Robert Kleinhaus, Project Coordinator dated August 11, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVE, THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, HEREBY WAIVES THE BID PROCEDURE FOR COSTS INVOLVING THE PURCHASE OF THE FIREBLOCK VAULT FOR THE NEW PROBATE COURT AT THE CITIZEN'S BLOCK FROM *FIRELOCK DATA PROTECTION SYSTEMS, FLEETWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA* IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$119,000.00 FROM CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, proposed a resolution to waive the bid procedure for costs involving the purchase of the fireblock vault for the new probate court at the citizen's block from Firelock Data Protection Systems, Fleetwood, Pennsylvania in an amount not to exceed \$119,000.00 from capital improvements, and further authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute on behalf of the town of Vernon any and all documents for same. Mike Purcaro spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously

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L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE (S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

1. Proposed Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 51 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display". (See Ordinance attached for Council review. A number will be assigned once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.)

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. ___, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING NON-CONFORMING STATIC BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 51 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY."**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the ordinance entitled "ORDINANCE NO. ___, AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING NON-CONFORMING STATIC BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 51 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY." Motion carried unanimously.

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 ON **JULY 19, 2022** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 regular town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Q.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, Petitions, communications, correspondence, reports, etc. not requiring action

None

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:47 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1:

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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 Bush, 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 (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.

9:32 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

9:32 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, 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.

9:58 PM Council Member Levesque, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to extend the meeting until the end of business.

Motion carried unanimously.

10:52 Council Member Rogers exited.

10:53 Council Member Rogers return.

10:55 PM Executive Session #3 ended.

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

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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 CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 17, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, 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 RECEPTIONIST, HR ASSISTANT, HR SPECIALIST, ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK, TOWN CLERK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND PART TIME FACILITIES ASSISTANT.

Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN (10:59 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to adjourn.

Motion carried unanimously.

Received: August 24, 2022
Approved: September 20, 2022


Jennifer Walker
Recording Secretary