

November 15, 2022

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

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 DEC 15 PM 5:25

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-Lyn Rogers, Jim Tedford and Michael Wendus

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael Purcaro, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

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 November 7, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES FOUR (4) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$382.21 AND TWENTY-EIGHT (28) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$5566.38 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED NOVEMBER 7, 2022.

- C 2.** **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Alan Lubin, (I), 55 Elizabeth Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Greater Hartford Transit District Board, said term to commence on November 16, 2022 and expires on November 15, 2026.** (A copy of Mr. Lubin's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 103a, SECTION 7-273c OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ALAN LUBIN, (I), 55 ELIZABETH LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE GREATER HARTFORD TRANSIT DISTRICT BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON NOVEMBER 16, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 15, 2026.

- C 3.** **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Teen Poet Laureate Caitlin Chatterton for a term commencing November 16, 2022 and expiring November 30, 2023.** (No resume is included at this time.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED APRIL 16, 2019, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CAITLIN CHATTERTON, STUDENT AT ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOR A TERM COMMENCING NOVEMBER 16, 2022 AND EXPIRING NOVEMBER 30, 2023, AND CONGRATULATES CAITLIN CHATTERTON ON HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented the newly appointed Poet Laureate, Caitlin Chatterton, who recited a poem she wrote.

F.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:35PM)

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 57 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY", REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE #319 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 Bush made the following motion:

MOTION:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments

7:40 PM MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING

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

D.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Genaro Gonzalez, 133 ½ West Main Street, spoke about the US Code and other topics.

Teri Rogers, 26 White Street, spoke about volunteers in town.

Citizen's Forum ended at 8:50 PM

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C.) CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented Diane and Al Sheridan, founders of Vernon's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), with a Proclamation for their continuous service for over a decade.

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)

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

- Superintendent Dr. Joseph A. Macary is speaking at the **Connecticut Association of Boards of Education and Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents Convention (CABE/CAPSS)** on "*Ensuring Superintendents Are Ready to Meet Today's Challenges*". Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator; Brian Foley, new Town Manager for the Town of Tolland and William Meier, Vernon Public Schools will be conducting a workshop at this event entitled, "*The Latest Trends in School Safety and Security*".
- **Wreaths Across America** will be **December 17, 2022** on Lugg Field in Grove Hill Cemetery. The ceremony begins promptly at 12:00 Noon. It is recommended that everyone arrive at 11:30 AM.
- Winterfest is **December 2, 2022 from 5:30-7:30PM in Central Park**. The Light Parade will begin at 6:15PM from the Amerbelle property to Central Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in the parade and visiting with everyone in the Santa house in Central Park. All are welcome to this free event.
- **December 2nd from 4:30 – 7:00 the Rockville Public Library** will present the **6th Annual Community Tree Festival**. Those interested in donating a tree for the festival should contact Director Jennifer Johnston at 860-875-5892 for more information.
- **Arctic Splash – December 3, 2022- 9:00 AM** at Valley Falls Park. Anyone interested can sign up with the Parks and Recreation Office. All proceeds fund the "Send a Kid to Camp" program.
- The **Lights at Henry Park** will again be displayed beginning the **Friday** after Thanksgiving, **November 25, 2022**. Come enjoy the display.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools, Department of Public Works and Executive Administration. (See documentation from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and Mayor Daniel A. Champagne 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, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools, Department of Public Works and Executive

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Administration, as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed assets forms. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council consider the request of Betsy R. Soto, Executive Director of the Vernon Housing Authority to waive the building permit fees for the Franklin Park East Roof Replacement Project. (See the letter to the Town of Vernon dated October 17, 2022 from Ms. Soto to the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE BUILDING PERMIT FEES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,001.20 FOR THE FRANKLIN PARK EAST ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to waive the building permit fees in the amount of \$2,001.20 for the Franklin Park East roof replacement project. Vernon Housing Authority Executive Director, Betsy Soto, answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute all necessary documentation relative to the FFY 2022 Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant Program. (This is an annual grant for the Town of Vernon.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE FFY 2022 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT (EMPG) FUNDING OFFERED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$32,294.90.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, proposed a resolution authorizing Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute all necessary paperwork to make application for and receive FY2022 Emergency Management Performance Grant funding offered by the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection in the amount of \$32,294.90. Town Administrator and Emergency Operations Director, Michael Purcaro, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Request the Town Council approve the Town Council Meeting dates for 2023 as required by Freedom of Information. (See memorandum dated November 1, 2022 to the Vernon Town Council from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE 2023 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL DATED NOVEMBER 1, 2022.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to approve the 2023 Town Council meeting schedule. Motion carried unanimously.

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L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
None

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

Proposed Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 57 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display". Repealing and Replacing Ordinance #319 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 57 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY." REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE #319 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 Tedford, made a motion to approve the Ordinance entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 57 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display, repealing and replacing Ordinance #319 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 OF **OCTOBER 18, 2022** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:14 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

8:54 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

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8:54 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2. Motion carried unanimously.

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.

8:56 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

8:56 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #3. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (X), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR MAUREEN GABRIELE TO ATTEND.

9:21 PM Executive Session #3 ended.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES USING ARPA FUNDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING A SEASONAL ICE RINK FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,010.00. FURTHER, THE TOWN COUNCIL 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 Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #2:

EXECUTIVE SESSION #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDED INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (APPROVED BY THE TOWN OF TOLLAND ON OCTOBER 27, 2022) BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE TOWN OF TOLLAND AS PRESENTED. FURTHER, THE TOWN COUNCIL 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 #3:

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS",

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HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF FULL TIME RECEPTIONIST AT THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER AS PRESENTED.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report - Town Clerk for September, 2022 as submitted by the Town Clerk's Karen Daigle.
2. Monthly Report - Town Clerk for October, 2022 as submitted by the Town Clerk's Karen Daigle.

Adjourn (9:22 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Submitted,



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary