

December 20, 2022

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VERNON TOWN CLERK

23 FEB -1 AM 10:40

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 – 7:30 PM**

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

**Absent:** Michael Wendus

**Entered During Meeting:**

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

**D) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Genaro Gonzalez, 133 ½ West Main Street, spoke about the police and various other topics.

Cynthia Soto, 4 Charter Road, Ellington, spoke about property tax abatement for family childcare.

**F) PUBLIC HEARING (7:37PM)**

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION REGARDING "BE IT REORDAINED THAT THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORDINANCES CODIFIED IN ARTICLE VIII, SECTIONS 10-105 THROUGH 10-108 IN THE VERNON CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ORIGINALLY ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE #191, #193, #219 AND #268 ARE HEREBY REPEALED IN THEIR ENTIRETY"**

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

Nancy Steffens, 224 South Street, Vernon, spoke against the dissolution of the Design Review Advisory Committee.

Ann Letendre, 29 Gottier Drive, spoke against the dissolution of the Design Review Advisory Committee.

Shaun Gately, Director of Development, spoke on the Design Review Advisory Committee and the Planning & Zoning Commission, and answered questions from Council Members. Mayor Champagne spoke on the subject.

8:27 PM MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING

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

Citizen's Forum ended at 8:28 PM

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**G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- The Dart Hill bridge is finally open to the public.
- Winter Weekend was a success, with Santa making his entrance and over 100 children visiting him. Fire truck Tower 541 won the town trophy with South Windsor winning the out of town trophy.
- Over 40 people participated in the blustery Arctic Splash on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, raising over \$1,500 for the "Send a Kid to Camp" fund. Thank you to all who braved the chilly dip in Valley Falls and to all those who donated.
- This year marked the 69<sup>th</sup> year the Vernon Fire Department "Toys for Tikes" drive provided toys to children of Vernon. Thanks to all who donated and the volunteers who delivered toys.
- Thank you to all our firefighters, fire police and police department for their expertise fighting the fire on Brooklyn Street and keeping everyone safe. Thank you to all the mutual aid towns who responded.
- Vernon Public Schools Rank No. 1 Among Alliance District in the latest Generation Accountability Results. We also have three Elementary Schools designated "Schools of Distinction". We are all very proud of our students for their hard work and thankful for our very talented teachers and staff.

**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 current year taxes as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue.** (See memorandum dated December 8, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIX (6) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$1876.18 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED DECEMBER 8, 2022.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Jon-Paul Roden, (R), 105-35 Maple Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence January 1, 2023 and expires December 30, 2025.** (Mr. Roden's resume is included for Council review.)

**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 REAPPOINTMENT OF JON-PAUL RODEN, (R), 105-35 MAPLE AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2023 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 30, 2025.

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- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Victor Antico, (R), 189 Great Pond Road, South Glastonbury, Connecticut as a regular member of the Central Regional Tourism District – River Valley Great Hartford Board for a term to commence on January 1, 2023 and expires December 31, 2025.** (A copy of Mr. Antico's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF VICTOR ANTICO (R), 189 GREAT POND ROAD, SOUTH GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT TO THE CENTRAL REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT – RIVER VALLEY GREATER HARTFORD TO A TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2023 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2025.

**C.) CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

None

**I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

None

**J.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**N.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to add an additional agenda item, New Business #5. Motion carried unanimously.

**O.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

See New Business #5 below.

**K.) NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council approve the job description for the position of Part-time Kitchen Services Assistant for the Vernon Senior Center.** (A copy of the job description is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

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 PART-TIME KITCHEN SERVICES ASSISTANT FOR THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adopt the job description of part-time kitchen services assistant for the Vernon Senior Center. Maureen Gabriele, Senior Center Director, answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal for the Vernon Public Schools.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated December 15, 2022 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

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**PROPOSED MOTION**

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

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gessay, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve an additional appropriation for the purchase of a used Automated Side Loader (ASL) trash vehicle.** (See memorandum from Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works dated December 15, 2022 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #6 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 AS PROVIDED ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM ATTACHED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A USED AUTOMATED SIDE LOADER TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,870.78.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, proposed a resolution to approve budget amendment request #6 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for the purchase of a used automated side loader truck in the amount of \$50,870.78. Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works, and Jeffrey O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve an additional appropriation in the amount of \$11,701.00 to the Fire Fighting & Administration Budget.** (Memorandum from Fire Administrator Daniel Wasilewski to Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro dated December 15, 2022 relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #7 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 AS PROVIDED ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM ATTACHED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL FOR THE PURCHASE OF A TURNOUT GEAR EXTRACTOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,701.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, proposed a resolution to approve budget amendment request #7 for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 for the purchase of a turnout gear extractor in the amount of \$11,701.00. Mayor Champagne spoke. Dan Wasilewski, Fire Marshal and Fire Administrator, and Steve Eppler, Fire Chief, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request the Town Council gratefully accept the generous donation from Robert Lovett and family in memory of Ben Lovett in the amount of \$3000.00 for the purchase of safety equipment for the Vernon Police K-9 and K-9 Officer, and \$500.00 for the Police Explorers.**

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**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS THE GENEROUS DONATION FROM ROBERT LOVETT AND FAMILY IN MEMORY OF BEN LOVETT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 AND K-9 OFFICER, AND \$500.00 FOR THE POLICE EXPLORERS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to gratefully accept the generous donation from Robert Lovett and Family in memory of Ben Lovett in the amount of \$3,000 for the purchase of safety equipment for the Vernon Police Department K-9 and K-9 officer, and \$500 for the Police Explorers. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**  
None

M.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

**Action on proposed repeal of the Design Review Advisory Committee presented during the Public Hearing earlier in the meeting.**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTION 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES THE FOLLOWING: ***"BE IT ORDAINED THAT THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE ORDINANCES CODIFIED IN ARTICLE VIII, SECTIONS 10-105 THROUGH 10-108 IN THE VERNON CODE OF ORDINANCES AND ORIGINALLY ADOPTED AS ORDINANCES #191, #193, #219 AND #268 ARE HEREBY REPEALED IN THEIR ENTIRETY"***.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to repeal the Design Review Advisory Committee Ordinances codified in Article VIII, Sections 10-105 through 10-108 in the Vernon Code of Ordinances and originally adopted as Ordinances #191, #193, #219 and #268 in their entirety. Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Nieves-Matias made a motion to table this action. Discussion ensued. Motion to table failed with 4 in favor and 7 opposed, Council Members Bush, Campbell, Clay, Gessay, Motola, O'Connell and Tedford. Original motion carried with 7 in favor and 4 opposed, Council Members Letendre, Nieves-Matias, Levesque and Rogers.

P.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **DECEMBER 6, 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 December 6, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

E.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (Taken out of order)

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne pulled Executive Session #1.

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8:06 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) (C), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SECURITY AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, CAPTAIN LUKE GALLANT AND CHIEF KELLEY TO ATTEND.

8:50 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

8:50 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 (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.

9:50 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to extend curfew until the end of business. Motion carried unanimously.

9:58 PM Executive Session #3 ended.

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

**MOTION #1**

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE CONTRACT WITH AXON ENTERPRISES, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF DASH AND BODY CAMERAS FOR THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

**MOTION #2**

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE FUNDING FOR THE AXON ENTERPRISES LLC CONTRACT TO BE FUNDED FOR TWO YEARS BY AN ARPA GRANT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$285,000.00 AND THE REMAINING THREE YEARS TO BE FUNDED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

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**EXECUTIVE SESSION #3**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE CONSULTING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND DAVID WHEELER OF ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 3, 2023 AND EXPIRES ON MARCH 9, 2023. THE TOWN COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report for the Town Clerk - November, 2022 as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

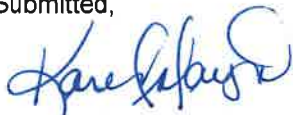
**Adjourn (10:00 PM)**

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

Received: December 27, 2022

Approved: January 17, 2023

Submitted,



Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary