

March 7, 2023

**APPROVED MINUTES  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 2023 - 7:30 P.M.**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
23 MAR 27 AM 8:41

A.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited

B.) **ROLL CALL:**

- **Town Council**
- **Present:** 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, Michael Wendus
- **Absent:** None
- **Entered During Meeting:** None
- **Also Present:** Mayor Daniel Champagne, Town Administrator Michael Purcaro, Recording Secretary Meriline Sarkar

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS:** None

D.) **CITIZENS FORUM**

- Genaro Gonzalez, West Main Street, Vernon, spoke on rules and laws.
- Michael Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, Vernon, read a statement on a Fair Rent Commission.
- Citizens Forum ended at 7:39PM.

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING:** None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to update the Town Council on various topics.

- On Monday night the ***Vernon Fire Department held its annual awards ceremony to honor volunteers and town residents for lifesaving acts*** and heroism. A large team of firefighters was honored for their response to the massive mill fire on Dec. 12 on Brooklyn Street. Mayson Mendez, 8-year-old, who is now 9, who saved the life of a classmate who was choking on a piece of candy was also awarded. Department members were also honored for their decades of service to Vernon. The following annual awards were announced: ***2022 Junior Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Annalisa Girard, 2022 Firefighter of the Year went to Engineer Connor Raymond and 2022 Fire Officer of the Year went to Lieutenant Spencer Padget.*** Congratulations to all the recipients and a special thanks to all the members of the Vernon Fire Department for their service to our community.
- ***"Empower Vernon"*** is a new resource for residents to learn how to save money on their utility bills and to save energy. A new page on the town website called ***"Energy Efficiency and Money Saving Resources"*** provides the details on how you can save money. You can find it under the ***ABOUT*** tab on the website. And for people who do not have internet access, they can access the information about the program at the Rockville Public Library and the Vernon Senior Center. Staff there will get you the computer access you need to read the information and, if it is right for you, to change electricity suppliers to save money.
- The Town Clerk's Office has transitioned to a new land record system. The land record index is still available on the Town Clerk page of the website, so you can continue to check activity, but you can now sign up for ***Fraud Alert***, which will notify you by email when a document has been recorded on the land records in your name.
- The next edition of the ***Vernon Voice Magazine*** will be coming out in early April.
- ***Board of Education Budget Books*** are on the table this evening along with the agendas for all the budget meetings. March 15, 2023 you will receive the Town Budget Books with the color-coded sheets listing the departments and budget numbers.

- This past week the Vernon Public Schools held their annual **Read Across America program**. The program was well attended by Town Council and Board of Education members as well as staff and other volunteers. As Mayor I participated at Northeast School.
- The Town Council is invited to attend the **Senior Center 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, April 11, 2023 6:00 PM**. Additional information will be coming with an email invitation.
- The Town Council is also invited to **Vernon-Rockville Little League Opening Day** April 22, 2023, 11:00 AM – Legion Field. Rain Date April 23, 2023 11:00 AM. Please RSVP to Administration at your convenience

H.) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:** Council Member Motola moved the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Council Member Bush, and the 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 February 28, 2023 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 PRIOR YEAR TOTALING \$582.23 AND NINE (9) CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$18,394.65 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2023.

I.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS:** None

J.) **PENDING BUSINESS:** None

K.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Update and discussion relative to the septic system materials for the Windermere Fields property.**

**NO PROPOSED MOTION**

- Shawn Gately, Director of Development Services, answered questions relative to the septic tank for the Windermere Fields property in Ellington. Discussion ensued. No motion made.

2. **Request the Town Council authorize the hiring of two additional full time EMT positions for the Vernon Ambulance Service.**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE HIRING OF TWO ADDITIONAL FULL TIME EMT POSITIONS FOR THE VERNON AMBULANCE SERVICE.

- Council Member Motola made the motion to authorize the hiring of two additional full-time EMT positions for the Vernon Ambulance Services, seconded by Council Member Levesque. Katie McGray, Chief Medical Officer, and Dan Wasilewski, Fire Administrator, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

L.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:** None

M.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCE (S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:** None

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 **FEBRUARY 21, 2023** 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 regular Town Council meeting held on **February 21, 2023**. The motion carried unanimously.

E.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION :**

- 8:28pm, Executive Session #1 was pulled for discussion.

**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 AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

- 8:28pm Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the motion to go into Executive Session #2. Council Member Motola stepped out. The Motion carried unanimously.

**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.

- 8:47pm Council Member Motola entered session. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the motion to go into Executive Session #3. The Motion carried unanimously.

**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.

- 9:01pm Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the motion to go into Executive Session #4. The Motion carried unanimously.
- 9:01pm Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator joined session #4.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #4**

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 AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

- 9:11pm Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the motion to go into Executive Session #5. The Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #5**

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.

- 9:23pm Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the motion to go into Executive Session #6. The Motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION #6**

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (B) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

- 9:25pm Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Nieves-Matias, made the motion to go into Executive Session #7. The Motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION #7**

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.

- 9:33pm Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the motion to go into Executive Session #8. The Motion carried unanimously.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION #8**

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.

- 9:40pm Executive Session ended.
- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus made the following motion to **Executive Session #2:**

### **MOTION #1**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPROPRIATION OF ARPA FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$32,000.00 FOR THE SEPTIC SYSTEM MATERIALS FOR WINDERMERE FIELDS, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

- The motion carried unanimously.
- Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion to **Executive Session #2:**

### **MOTION #2**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPROPRIATION OF ARPA FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00 FOR THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (GAR) FOR AN HVAC SYSTEM, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

- The motion carried 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Motola.
- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus made the following motion to **Executive Session #2:**

### **MOTION #3**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPROPRIATION OF ARPA FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$175,000.00 FOR THE MIRACLE LEAGUE PARKING LOT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

- The motion carried unanimously.
- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque made the following motion to **Executive Session #3:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE LETTER OF INTENT WITH EVERGREEN FAMILY THEATRE, INC., TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR A GRANT WITH THE CONNECTICUT HUMANITIES GOOD TO GREAT 2.0 GRANT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000.00.

- The motion carried unanimously.
- No motion was made to **Executive Session #4.**
- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell made the following motion to **Executive Session #5:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE THREE YEAR SUMMER WAGE SCHEDULE FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

- The motion carried unanimously.
- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers made the following motion to **Executive Session #6:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AGREES TO THE FULL AND FINAL NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AS PRESENTED IN THE MATTER OF **CRUZ V TOWN OF VERNON-BOE** TO RESOLVE SAID CLAIM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,000.00. ONCE THE SETTLEMENT IS EXECUTED, IT WILL BECOME PUBLIC.

- The motion carried unanimously.
- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus made the following motion to **Executive Session #7:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE LEASE AMENDMENT 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.

- The motion carried unanimously.
- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque made the following motion to **Executive Session #8:**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE PURCHASE OF REQUESTED INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$292,572.00.

- The motion carried unanimously.

Q.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, Petitions, communications, correspondence, reports, etc. not requiring action:** None

R.) **ADJOURNMENT: (9:45 PM)**

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Nieves-Matias, made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously at **9:45pm.**

Received: March 14, 2023  
Approved: March 21, 2023

Meriline Sarkar  
Recording Secretary