

VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
VERNON, CONNECTICUT  
**TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023**  
7:30 P.M.

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
23 MAY 23 PM 4:20

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

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

**B.) ROLL CALL:**

- Present: Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, John O'Connell, Teri-Lynn Rogers, Jim Tedford, Michael Wendus
- Absent: Ariana Nieves-Matias
- Entered During Meeting: None
- Also Present: Mayor Daniel A. 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 Federal Reserve Bank and Bonds.
- Tom DiDio, 12 Box Mountain Dr., Vernon, spoke on the contributions of Bryan Flint to the Town of Vernon and proposed to add him to the Wall of Honor.

**F.) PUBLIC HEARING:** None

**G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

1. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne reminded everyone all on the upcoming Town events and encouraged everyone to attend.

- Memorial Day Parade, May 28, 2023 Talcottville Church arrival 8:30 AM and step off at 9:00 AM.
- Town of Vernon - Memorial Day Parade, May 29, 2023 step off at 10:00 AM final ceremony in Central Park is at 11:00 AM.
- 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Naek Construction, Naek Road from 5-7 PM, May 17, 2023.

2. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne invited the Council Members to attend the Rockville High School Graduation ceremony, Class of 2023, on June 14, 2023, at 6:00 PM, Rockville High School, Loveland Hill. (Parking pass was included with the Invitations). He requested them to rsvp.

3. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne informed the Town Council that going forward Council meetings will be LIVE streamed on YouTube. Tonight's meeting is the first. He reminded the Council Members to turn their microphone on when they are speaking and turn it off when they are not.

4. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne closed the updates with a moment of silence in honor of Bryan Flint.

5. Council Member Letendre informed the Council of the opening of Valley Falls Heritage Center on June 3, 2023, with a reception between 1-3 pm and ribbon cutting at 1:30 pm.

H.) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:** Council Member Motola moved the Consent Agenda as written, seconded by Council Member Tedford, and the 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 May 8, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWELVE (12) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$71,265.37 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 8, 2023.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment forms #17, #18, and #19, FY 2023. (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated May 10, 2023 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS, #17, #18, AND #19, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 AS PROVIDED ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED BY JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER.

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

J.) **PENDING BUSINESS:** None

K.) **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council authorize the application for and receive Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder funds for the Vernon Police Department in the amount of \$21,523.36. (See memorandum from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator dated May 10, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION FIRST RESPONDER FUNDS FOR THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,523.36.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute the necessary documents to make application for and receive Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder funds for the Vernon Police Department in the amount of \$21,523.36. The motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Request the Town Council authorize the application for and receive Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder funds for the Vernon Fire Department in the amount of \$10,647.72. (See

memorandum from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator dated May 10, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE GARY SINISE FOUNDATION FIRST RESPONDER FUNDS FOR THE VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,647.72.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute the necessary documents to make application for and receive Gary Sinise Foundation First Responder funds for the Vernon Fire Department in the amount of \$10,647.72.
  - Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Dan Wasilewski, Fire Marshal and Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator, spoke to the Council and answered questions. Discussion ensued.
  - The motion carried unanimously.
3. Request the Town Council authorize the application for and receive State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management funds for the Dash Cameras \$353,464.00. (See memorandum from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator dated May 10, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT FUNDS FOR THE DASH CAMERAS FOR THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$353,464.00.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute the necessary documents to make application for and receive State of Connecticut Office Of Policy And Management funds for the dash cameras for the Vernon Police Department in the amount of \$353,464.00.
  - Mayor Daniel A. Champagne commented regarding this fund and answered questions. John Kelley, Police Chief, answered questions. Discussion ensued.
  - The motion carried unanimously.
4. Request the Town Council authorize the application for and receive Community Investment Fund Planning Grant for the Town of Vernon Performing Arts Center in the amount of \$250,000.00. (See memorandum from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator dated May 10, 2023, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE A COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND PLANNING GRANT FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute the necessary documents to make application for and receive a community investment fund planning grant for the Town of Vernon Performing Arts Center in the amount of \$250,000.00.
  - Mayor Daniel A. Champagne informed the Town Council regarding this fund.
  - The motion carried unanimously.
5. Request the Town Council authorize the application for and receive COPS U.S. Department of Justice – Community Policing Development (CPD) De-Escalation Training Grant for the Vernon Police Department in the amount of \$28,615.00. (See memorandum from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator dated May 10, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE A COPS U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE – COMMUNITY POLICING DEVELOPMENT (CPD) DE-ESCALATION TRAINING GRANT FOR THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$28,615.00.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute the necessary documents to make application for and receive a Cops U.S. Department of Justice – Community Policing Development (CPD) de-escalation training grant for the Vernon Police Department in the amount of \$28,615.00.
  - John Kelley, Police Chief, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued.
  - The motion carried unanimously.
6. Request the Town Council approve the asset disposal request for the Vernon Public School as presented. (See memorandum dated May 10, 2023 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**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 ASSET FORM.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Letendre, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed asset form.
- The motion carried unanimously.

**L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

Proposed Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_, An Ordinance entitled "Establishment of a Fair Rent Commission."(See Ordinance attached for Council review. A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SEC. 6, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES," HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING, ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_ "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "ESTABLISHMENT OF A FAIR RENT COMMISSION," AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CGS §7-157(b) FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE TOWN CLERK TO PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2023 LOCATED AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing and to authorize the Town Clerk to publish a summary of the proposed action, said Public Hearing to take place at 7:35pm on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 located at the Town Council Chambers, Third Floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed ordinance. The motion carried unanimously.

**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 MAY 2, 2023 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 Regular Town Council Meeting on May 2, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON APRIL 25, 2023 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVE.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the Special Town Council Meeting on April 25, 2023. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report for April 2023 – Town Clerk as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

**E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- 7:57 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the motion to go into Executive Session #1. The Motion carried unanimously.

**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.

- 8:21 PM Executive Session #1 ended.
- 8:21 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the motion to go into Executive Session #2. 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 AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

- 8:32pm Executive Session #2 ended.

**MOTION #1**

NO MOTION PROPOSED for Executive Session #1

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell made the following motion to Executive Session #2:

**MOTION #2**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SUPERVISORS REPRESENTED BY LOCAL 818 OF COUNCIL 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2023- JUNE 30, 2027 AS PRESENTED.

- The motion carried unanimously.

**R.) ADJOURNMENT: (8:32 PM)**

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously at 8:32pm.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

Meriline Sarkar  
Recording Secretary