

May 2, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
23 MAY 25 AM 11:57

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

A) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited

B) **ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members 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: Council Members Laura Bush

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

None

D.) **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Genaro Gonzalez, West Main Street, spoke on digital currency.

Teri Rogers, 26 White Street, questioned speaking protocol for Council Members.

7:41 PM Citizen's Forum ended.

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Proclamation recognizing *Municipal's Clerk's Week, April 30, 2023 – May 6, 2023*. Present at the meeting were members of the Vernon Town Clerk's Office. Town Clerk, Karen Daigle, spoke and introduced the Assistant Town Clerks.

Proclamation recognizing *Public Service Recognition Week, May 7, 2023 – May 13, 2023*. Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek, spoke and accepted the proclamation.

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

- Council Member Linda Gessay tendered her resignation from the Council last week
- A list of ARPA funds that have gone through the contract process is on the Town website
- Square Peg Pizza celebrated its grand opening on May 2nd, in the old Little Marks location
- Titanium Strength has expanded, doubling in size and offering programs for high school students
- **Ready Set School Fair**, May 4, 2023, 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM at Henry Park for all children and families starting their Kindergarten journey. The rain date is May 5th

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- **Memorial Day Parade**, May 29, 2023 with ceremonies at St. Bernard's and Grove Hill Cemeteries as well as Central Park. Stay tuned for more information
- **Mother's Day Dash**, May 14, 2023 beginning at 9:00 AM. Starting line is in Henry Park by the pavilion and the race concludes in Henry Park as well. Still time to register. Call Parks and Recreation 860-870-3520. The Mother's Day Dash raises monies for Send-A-Kid to Camp and the Vernon Explorers.
- A thank you note was received by Administration relative to the extraordinary efforts of our Social Workers on behalf of the Florence Mills residents
- **Grove Street Sidewalks** are being removed and new concrete installed with work taking place between 7:00 AM - 4:00 PM, the sidewalks being closed overnight, and taking three weeks, weather permitting. Please use caution and avoid walking in the road.

Rob Grasis, WPCA Director, presented an update on the WPCA Facility Upgrade, and answered questions.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, 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 April 24, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) REFUND FOR PRIOR YEAR TOTALING \$696.20 AND TWO (2) CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$202.49 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 24, 2023.

- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve budget amendment forms #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15, and #16, for FY 2023. (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated April 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, #8, #9, #10, #11, #12, #13, #14, #15 AND #16 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 AS PROVIDED ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL.

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

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J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council authorize the application for and receive School Readiness and School Readiness Enhancement funds in the amount of \$323,745.00 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. (See memorandum from Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director dated April 26, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE SCHOOL READINESS AND SCHOOL READINESS ENHANCEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$323,745.00 FOR FY 2023-2024.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion authorizing Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute necessary documents to apply for and receive School Readiness and School Readiness enhancement funds in the amount of \$323,745.00 for FY 2023-2024. Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director, spoke. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES 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 OF **April 4, 2023** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 4, 2023 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **April 18, 2023** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 18, 2023 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION (Taken Out of Order)

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne pulled Executive Session #3.

8:04 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Nieves-Matias, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

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 TO ATTEND.

8:25 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

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

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.

Motion carried unanimously.

8:34 PM Council Member Wendus left Executive Session; returned at 8:38 PM.

8:46 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3 Pulled.

~~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.~~

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive 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, TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

8:59 PM Executive Session #4 ended.

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Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made the following motion to Executive Session #5:

EXECUTIVE SESSION #5

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.

9:13 PM Executive Session #5 ended.

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

MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AWARDS THE CONTRACT FOR THE IRRIGATION INSTALLATION AT WINDERMERE FIELDS #2 AND #3 TO *US PITCHCARE, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$101,200.00*, AND FUNDS SAID PROJECT WITH THE ARPA GRANT.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AWARDS THE CONTRACT FOR LANDSCAPING SERVICES FOR TREE PLANTINGS AT WINDERMERE FIELDS TO *BCI, INC., DBA THE BUTLER COMPANY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$46,298.00*, CURRENTLY FUNDED IN THE FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION #3

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII) SECTION NINE (9) OF THE TOWN CHARTER, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO: WAIVE THE TRADITIONAL SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE TOWN OF VERNON'S FIBER FROM ITS CURRENT LOCATION TO THE WINDERMERE FIELDS SITE. AND AWARDS SAID CONTRACT TO *SERTEX IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$38,736.00*. THIS PROJECT IS CURRENTLY FUNDED IN THE TOWN'S FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION #4

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AWARDS THE CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO ***MARCHESE LANDSCAPING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$8000.00.*** SAID CONTRACT IS CURRENTLY FUNDED IN THE TOWN'S FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

MOTION #5

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AWARDS THE CONTRACT FOR HYDROSEEDING MATERIALS AWARDED TO ***SITEONE LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7569.82.*** SAID CONTRACT IS CURRENTLY FUNDED IN THE TOWN'S FY 2023 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made the following motion to Executive Session #4:

MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO ADDRESS NIP BOTTLE LITERING IN VERNON WITH OPPORTUNITY WORKS, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made the following motion to Executive Session #4:

MOTION #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO NEGOTIATE AND EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO ADDRESS NIP BOTTLE LITERING IN VERNON WITH BOY SCOUT TROOP 20/20, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,000.00.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made the following motion to Executive Session #5:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AWARDS THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR THE FOX HILL TOWER REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION PROJECT TO GALE ASSOCIATES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$185,595.00.

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Motion carried unanimously.

**Q.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE,
REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION**
None

R.) Adjourn (9:18 PM)

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

Received: May 9, 2023
Approved: May 16, 2023



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary