

August 15, 2023

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
VERNON, CONNECTICUT
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2023
7:30 P.M.

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
24 JAN 16 AM 8:32

Mayor Daniel A. 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, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, John O'Connell, Jim Tedford, Michael Wendus
- Absent: Julie Clay, Ann Letendre, Ariana Nieves-Matias, Teri-Lynn Rogers,
- 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, 133 West Main Street, Vernon, spoke on China and other topics.

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

F.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:36 PM)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO ***"AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING NON-CONFORMING STATIC BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 520 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY." REPEALING AND REPLACING ORDINANCE #320 ENTITLED "CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING NON-CONFORMING STATIC BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 57 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY." (A COPY OF SAID ORDINANCE IS INCLUDED FOR COUNCIL REVIEW.)***

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALL THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER AT 7:36 PM.

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE.

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE described the issues regarding the Billboard and answered questions from the Council Member Bush.

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED NO COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC.

7:39 PM MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED the PUBLIC HEARING.

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

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Mayor Daniel A. Champagne opens the floor for the Citizen's Forum.

Maryann Levesque, 183 Bolton Rd., Vernon, spoke briefly about a newspaper's article on the Vernon police, but was advised the topic transpired in Executive Session, not open to the public.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:41 PM

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

The Mayor's Summer Concert Series is in full swing. Last week's concert was rained out and is being held this evening. The final two remaining concerts are scheduled on Thursday, August 17th with Cobblestone Road and Thursday, August 23rd with TEALS. All concerts free and are held in Henry Park beginning at 6:30 PM. In the event of rain the concerts are moved to the following Tuesday. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne thanked the Clay Furniture Company and Santini Villa Apartments for their generous sponsorships.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. 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 August 7, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ELEVEN (11) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$2925.96 AND THIRTY (30) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$4974.36 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED AUGUST 7, 2023.

- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Tim Poloski, (D), 38 Risley Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Capital Improvements Committee, said term to commence September 1, 2023 and expires August 31, 2026. (A copy of Mr. Poloski's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TIM POLOSKI, (D), 38 RISLEY ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 AND EXPIRES AUGUST 31, 2026.

- C 3.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of M. Lisa Moody, (R), 51 High Ridge Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Capital Improvements Committee, said term to commence September 1, 2023 and expires August 31, 2026. (A copy of Ms. Moody's resume is included for Council review.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF M. LISA MOODY, 51 HIGH RIDGE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 AND EXPIRES AUGUST 31, 2026.

- C 4.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Nichole Greco, (U), 66 Vernwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence September 1, 2023 and expires August 31, 2026. (A copy of Ms. Greco's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF NICHOLE GRECO, (U), 66 VERNWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 AND ENDS AUGUST 31, 2026.

- C 5.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Cynthia Ferguson, (R), 764 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cemetery Commission, said term to commence on August 16, 2023 and expires June 30, 2024. (A copy of Ms. Ferguson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19A-296; CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 10, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CYNTHIA FERGUSON, (R), 764 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 16, 2023 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2024.

- C 6.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Kelly L. O'Brien, (R), 20 Oakmoor Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on September 1, 2023 and ends on August 31, 2026. (A copy of Ms. O'Brien's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KELLY L. O'BRIEN, (R), 20 OAKMOOR DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 AND ENDS ON AUGUST 31, 2026.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS: None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS: None

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K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council authorize the application and execution of all documents for the State of Connecticut Homeland Security FY22 Grant Program.** (See memorandum from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council dated August 7, 2023.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO THE FY 2022 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AND FURTHER AGREES TO BE THE CUSTODIAL OWNER OF REGIONAL ASSETS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute a memorandum of agreement on behalf of the Town of Vernon, with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department relative to the FY 2022 State Homeland Security grant program and further agrees to be the custodial owner of regional assets.

Town Administrator Michael Purcaro spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. The motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve a resolution for the Community Development Block Grant Program in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 for the major renovations to Vernon Housing Authority property located at Grove Court and Grove Court Extension.** (See memorandum dated August 9, 2023 from Nichole Greco, Project Coordinator to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO FILE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE THE \$2,000,000.00 FROM THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE GROVE STREET AND GROVE COURT RENOVATIONS AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Tedford, made a motion to authorized Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to file any and all documents required to receive the \$2,000,000.00 from the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program through the Department of Housing for the Grove Street and Grove Court renovations and further authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute any and all documents on behalf of the Town.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke. Betsy Soto, Director of the Housing Authority answered questions from the Council Members.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve an authorizing resolution for the Town of Vernon to receive the DEEP Connecticut Urban Act Grant Award in the amount of \$1,636,696.00, for the construction of sanitary sewers and pump station in the surrounding area of Exits 66 and 67 off of Interstate 84.**

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(See memorandum dated August 9, 2023 from Nichole Greco, Project Coordinator to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO FILE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE THE \$1,636,696.00 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEEP) CONNECTICUT URBAN ACT GRANT FOR SANITARY SEWERS AND A PUMP STATION IN THE AREA OF EXITS 66 AND 67 AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Bush, made a motion to authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to file any and all documents required to receive the \$1,636,696.00 from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) Connecticut Urban Act Grant for sanitary sewers and a pump station in the area of Exits 66 and 67 and further authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute any and all documents on behalf of the town. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke. The motion carried unanimously.

L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES: None

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE (S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED:

1. **ACTION ON:** Proposed Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 520 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display". Repealing and Replacing Ordinance #320, entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 57 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display"" (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, SECTION 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 520 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display". Repealing and Replacing Ordinance #320, entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 57 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display"".

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 520 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display". Repealing and Replacing Ordinance #320, entitled "Conversion of an Existing Non-Conforming Static Billboard located at 57 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display".

Attorney Dorey Familgletti and Attorney Brian Roeser answered questions. The motion carried unanimously.

N.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS: None

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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 **JULY 18, 2023** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council meeting on **July 18, 2023**. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report for the Town Clerk's Office – July, 2023 as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

R.) ADJOURNMENT (7:58 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

Received: August 22, 2023

Approved: September 19, 2023

Meriline Sarkar
Recording Secretary


Karen C. Daigle

Town Clerk