

July 18, 2023

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR, VERNON, CONNECTICUT  
**TUESDAY, July 18, 2023**  
7:30 P.M.

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
24 JAN 11 PM 6:35

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, 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: None**

**F.) PUBLIC HEARING: None**

**G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne reminded all on the upcoming Town event and encouraged everyone to attend.
  - National Night Out – August 1, 2023, 5-8 PM location is the Ladd and Hall Parking Lot, 20 Main Street. Everything is free! This event is hosted by the Vernon Police Department, Vernon Community Network and the Rockville Downtown Association. All are welcome!!!
  - Vernon's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual "Summer Days" Carnival runs from Wednesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Event opens at 6PM on Wednesday to Friday and Saturday at 5PM. This event is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Maple Grove Club with the support of many volunteer workers. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne thanked everyone who supported this program. The project helps support the fund for camps, scholarships and other charitable organizations.
  - Summer Concert Series: There are four evening concerts in Henry Park beginning at 6:30 PM each Thursday evening in August. **August 3<sup>rd</sup> is COVER-2-COVER; August 10<sup>th</sup> is NIGHTSHIFT; August 17<sup>th</sup> is COBBLESTONE ROAD** and

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the final concert is **August 23<sup>rd</sup> is the TEALS**. Thank you again to this year's sponsors: *CLAY FURNITURE AND SANTINI VILLA APARTMENTS*.

**H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:** Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, moved the Consent Agenda as written, 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 July 11, 2023 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TEN (10) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$6095.32 AND THREE (3) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$183.98 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JULY 11, 2023.

**C 2.** Request the Town Council approve budget amendment requests for FY23. (See memorandum dated July 13, 2023 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENTS #28, #29, #30, #31, #32 AND #33 FOR FY 23 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 approve the disposal of items for the Vernon Police Department. (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated July 10, 2023 to Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro and Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FORMS FOR THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Police Department as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed assets forms.

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- The motion carried unanimously.
2. **Request the Town Council consider the request of Betsy R. Soto, Executive Director of the Vernon Housing Authority to waive the building permit fees for the Franklin Park West Roof Replacement Project and the Grove Court projects.** (See the letter to the Town of Vernon dated June 20, 2023 and June 21, 2023 from Ms. Soto to the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE BUILDING PERMIT FEES OWED FOR THE FRANKLIN PARK WEST ROOF PROJECT IN EXCESS OF \$1,846.86 AND BUILDING PERMIT FEES OWED FOR THE GROVE COURT PROJECTS IN EXCESS OF \$27,504.44 AS REQUESTED BY THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY.

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to waive the Building Permit Fees owed for the Franklin Park West roof project in excess of \$1,846.86 and Building Permit Fees owed for the Grove Court projects in excess of \$27,504.44 as requested by the Vernon Housing Authority.
- Shaun Gately, Director of Development Services, spoke to the Council to explain the expenses requested by the Vernon Housing Authority and answered questions. Betsy Soto, Executive Director of the Vernon Housing Authority, answered questions. Discussion ensued.
- The motion carried unanimously.

**L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

**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, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SEC. 6, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES," HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING, ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ "CONVERSION OF AN EXISTING NON-CONFORMING STATIC BILLBOARD LOCATED AT 520 HARTFORD TURNPIKE TO A DIGITAL DISPLAY", SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 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 Bush, made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding, Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_ "Conversion of an Existing Non-conforming Static Billboard Located at 520 Hartford Turnpike to a Digital Display", said

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Public Hearing to take place at 7:35 pm on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 located at the Town Council Chambers, Third floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut.

- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, spoke to the Council and discussion ensued.
- 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 JUNE 20, 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 June 20, 2023.
- The motion carried unanimously.

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

**E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- 7:41 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, 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 AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

- 8:30 PM Executive Session #1 ended.
- 8:30 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 A POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT RELATED TO. KELLI COURTOIS V. TOWN OF VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION CASE NO. A02944 AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

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- 8:37PM Executive Session #2 ended.

NO MOTION PROPOSED for Executive Session #1

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AGREES TO THE FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT AS PRESENTED IN THE MATTER OF KELLI COURTOUS V. TOWN OF VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION TO RESOLVE SAID CLAIM. ONCE THE SETTLEMENT IS EXECUTED, IT WILL BECOME PUBLIC.


- The motion carried unanimously.

R.) **ADJOURNMENT:** (8:37 PM)

- Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously at 8:37 PM.

Received: July 31, 2023  
Approved: August 15, 2023

Meriline Sarkar  
Recording Secretary



Karen C. Daigle  
Town Clerk