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MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024 – 7:30 PM

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

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Laurie Abernathy, Laura Bush, Bill Dauphin, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, John B. O’Connell, Jesse Schoolnik, Jim Tedford, Michael Wendus and Phyllis Winkler

Absent: Council Members Terilynn Rogers and Andrew Tedford

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, 133 West Main Street, spoke on immigration and the border.

Mike Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, questioned the lack of canceling the last Council meeting due to weather conditions and the process of replacing the Council member that resigned.

7:42 PM Citizen’s Forum ended.

F.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

- We recently lost a very special member of our community. Martin “Bo” Burke, former Town Attorney and friend to everyone passed away. A moment of silence was held.
- Council Member Maryann Levesque requested updates on several projects. Information was given on the status of the Windermere fields, Citizen’s Block and Horowitz Pool.
- Mayor Champagne welcomed back John O’Connell to the Council.
- Rockville High School Musical Theater Company will present “Mamma Mia” on March 1st at 7:00 pm and March 2nd at 2:00 and 7:00 pm. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Vernon-ct.gov, or at the door.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council member Motola pulled #2. Motion to approve C#1 and C#3-8 carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request the Town approve the tax refunds for prior and current year taxes as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue.** (See memorandum dated January 30, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES FOUR (4) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$2099.06 AND SIXTEEN (16) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$3828.82 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JANUARY 30, 2024.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Bill Campbell, (R), 214 Tracy Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Board, said term to commence on February 7, 2024 and continue until June 30, 2025.** (A copy of Mr. Campbell's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Campbell is completing the unexpired term of Ms. Faircloth.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3; EST. 03-02-1982, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF BILL CAMPBELL, (R), 214 TRACY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A MEMBER OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Erika Brookman, (R), 170 Blue Ridge Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence on February 7, 2024 and ends December 31, 2026.** (A copy of Ms. Brookman's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ERIKA BROOKMAN, (R), 170 BLUE RIDGE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AND ENDS DECEMBER 31, 2026.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jeremy Geller, (D), 31 Irene Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence February 7, 2024 and ends December 31, 2026.** (A copy of Mr. Geller's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Geller is completing the unexpired term of John O'Connell.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JEREMY GELLER, (D), 31 IRENE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2026.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Amanda Calve, (U), 12 Estelle Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence on February 7, 2024 and expires June 30, 2027.** (A copy of Ms. Calve's resume is included for Council review. Ms. Calve is completing the unexpired term of Howard Steinberg.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2 & 6; THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF AMANDA CALVE, (U), 12 ESTELLE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of James Tedford, (R), Town Council member, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to serve on the Human Services Advisory Commission, said term to commence on February 7, 2024 and ends November 10, 2025.** (Mr. Tedford is a Town Council member therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3, 05-02-1989 TOWN RESOLUTION VOL. 24, PAGE 382 AS AMENDED /VOL. 37 PAGE 266 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 02-19-2002, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JAMES TEDFORD, (R), 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 10, 2025.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Terilynn Rogers, (D), Town Council member, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to serve on the Human Services Advisory Commission, said term to commence on February 7, 2024 and expires on November 10, 2025.** (Ms. Rogers' is a Town Council member and therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3, 05-02-1989 TOWN RESOLUTION VOL. 24, PAGE 382 AS AMENDED /VOL. 37 PAGE 266 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 02-19-2002, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF TERILYNN ROGERS, (D), TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO SERVE AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING FEBRUARY 7, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON NOVEMBER 10, 2025.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #3 for FY 2024 as outlined in the budget amendment forms included in the packet.** (See the budget amendment forms provided for your review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #3 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Request #3 for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

J.) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None

K.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of the Director of Information and Communication Technology.** (See memorandum dated January 23, 2024 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC 1,3 AND 19 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ANDREY SELEZNEV AS DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve Mayor Champagne's appointment of Andrey Seleznev as Director of Information and Communication Technology for the Town of Vernon. Mayor Champagne and Mr. Seleznev spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the job description for the position of Civil Engineer.** (See memo from Dawn Maselek relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF CIVIL ENGINEER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the job description of Civil Engineer. Mayor Champagne and Town Engineer, Dave Smith, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the bid waiver for a one year contract extension for auditing services with MahoneySabel & Company, LLP.** (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated January 31, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII), SECTION NINE (9), OF THE VERNON TOWN

CHARTER, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COST OF ONE YEAR EXTENSION FOR AUDITING SERVICES FROM THE FIRM MAHONEYLABEL & COMPANY, LLP., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$87,500.00, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON ANY INSTRUMENT (S) TO THAT EFFECT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, proposed a resolution to waive the sealed bid requirements to extend the auditing services from the firm of MahoneyLabel & Company LLP for one year in an amount not to exceed \$87,500 and authorized Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute any instruments(s) to that effect. Mayor spoke and discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Request the Town Council approve the application by the Fire Department to apply for a Safety Equipment Grant offered by HeroFundUSA. (See the memorandum dated January 24, 2024 from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE VERNON FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT OFFERED BY **HeroFundUSA**, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING FOUR (4) NEW THIRD-GENERATION SCOTT RIT-PAK RESCUE PACKS, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize the Vernon Fire Department to apply for the safety equipment grant offered by **HerofundUSA**, for the purpose of purchasing four (4) new third-generation Scott Rit-Pak rescue packs, and further authorized Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and all documents for same. Mayor Champagne, along with Fire Chief, Steve Eppler, and Projects and Grants Coordinator, Nichole Greco, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Request the Town Council approve the application by the EMS/Ambulance Department to apply for a Safety Equipment Grant offered by HeroFundUSA. (See the memorandum dated January 24, 2024 from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE VERNON EMS/AMBULANCE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT OFFERED BY **HeroFundUSA**, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PURCHASING (8) REPLACEMENT SETS OF BALLISTIC PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize the Vernon Ems/Ambulance department to apply for a safety equipment grant offered by **HerofundUSA**, for the purpose of purchasing (8) replacement sets of ballistic personal protective equipment, and further authorized Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to sign any and

all documents for same. Mayor Champagne, along with Fire Administrator, Dan Wasilewski, and Projects and Grants Coordinator, Nichole Greco, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Request the Town Council approve the Asset Disposal for Parks and Recreation and Department of Public Works. (See memorandum from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated January 9, 2024 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS AND PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENTS AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FORMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Public Works and Parks & Recreation departments as disclosed on the request for disposal of fixed assets forms. No discussion. 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 **JANUARY 16, 2024** 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 January 16, 2024 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION (Taken Out of Order)

8:13 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Jim Tedford, 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 (6) (D), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

8:39 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #1:

MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE FEE FOR SERVICE CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH JEFFREY A. O'NEILL FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO ONE YEAR, AS PRESENTED. FUNDING FOR THIS CONTRACT WILL COME FROM THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET.

Motion carried unanimously.


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

R.) Adjourn (8:39 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary