

VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING

TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024
7:30 P.M.

- A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
- B.) ROLL CALL
- C.) CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS
- D.) CITIZENS FORUM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
24 MAR -4 AM 9:04

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- E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

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.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #3

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.

F.) PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO **“AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES PAYABLE UNDER BUILDING, FIRE AND DEMOLITION CODE, FIRE MARSHALS AND FIRE HAZARDS, SAFETY OR PUBLIC AND FIRE MARSHAL INSPECTIONS”** (A COPY OF SAID ORDINANCE IS INCLUDED FOR COUNCIL REVIEW.)

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO CALL THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER.

TOWN CLERK TO READ THE LEGAL NOTICE.

MAYOR AND TOWN TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS.

PUBLIC HEARING IS ADJOURNED.

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

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

- 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 February 22, 2024 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 FISCAL YEARS TOTALING \$1,957.72 AND SEVEN (7) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$4,144.35 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2024.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Tara Trapp, (R), 52 East Street, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on April 5, 2024 and expires on April 4, 2029.** (See Ms. Trapp's resume included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (TOWN CODE SEC. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TARA TRAPP, (R), 52 EAST STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 5, 2024 AND EXPIRES APRIL 4, 2029.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Maureen Gabriele, Senior Center Director as Town of Vernon Assistant Municipal Agent for the Elderly, said term to commence on March 6, 2024 and expires August 17, 2026.** (Ms. Gabriele is a Town of Vernon employee therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MAUREEN GABRIELE, SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR AS THE TOWN OF VERNON'S ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 6, 2024 AND EXPIRES AUGUST 17, 2026.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Matthew Hellman, Director of Social Services as Town of Vernon Municipal Agent for the Elderly, said term to commence on March 6, 2024 and expires June 30, 2026.** (Mr. Hellman is a Town of Vernon employee therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW HELLMAN, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AS TOWN OF VERNON MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 6, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2026.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council approve the request from the Vernon Community Arts Center (VCAC) Executive Director Liz Bologna.** (See letter dated January 26, 2024 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne from VCAC Executive Director Liz Bologna relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO THE ONE YEAR LEASE MODIFICATION WITH THE VERNON COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER.

PROPOSED MOTION #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE PAYMENT OF FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE UTILITY COSTS FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 709 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, SAID FIFTY PERCENT (50%) UTILITY COSTS WILL BE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE UTILITY COMPANY AS REQUIRED THROUGH THE PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET. THE REMAINING FIFTY PERCENT (50%) WILL BE PAID BY THE TENANT, VERNON COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER PER SAID LEASE DATED APRIL 25, 2016.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the 2024-2025 Budget Meeting dates.** (See memorandum dated February 26, 2024 from Diane Wheelock, Executive Assistant to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS: MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2024; THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024; MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2024; THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024, MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024 AND WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 WITH A START TIME OF 7:00 P.M., AND SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 WITH A START TIME OF 9:00 AM. PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024 WITH A START TIME OF 9:05 AM AND THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 WITH A START TIME OF 7:05 PM, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2024-2025 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. ALL BUDGET MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

PROPOSED MOTION #2

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER IV "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE FY 2024-2025 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 23, 2024 PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the new Parks and Recreation Seasonal Rates of pay.** (See memorandum from Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE NEW PARKS AND RECREATION SEASONAL RATES OF PAY, AND ADDITIONALLY APPROVE TO INCREASE THE RATES OF PAY EQUIVALENT TO THE ANNUAL STATE INCREASE THEREAFTER.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the application and receipt by the Vernon Senior Center for the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) Community Challenge Flagship Grant.** (See memorandum dated February 26, 2024 from Maureen Gabriele, Senior Center Director 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 AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED PERSONS (AARP) COMMUNITY CHALLENGE FLAGSHIP GRANT FUNDS FOR THE SENIOR CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5000.00.

5. **Request the Town Council approve the purchase of equipment for the Registrar of Voters and two budget amendments for a total of \$12,020.00.** (See memorandum from Chris Prue and M. Lisa Moody, Vernon's Registrars of Voters dated February 29, 2024 to the Town Council, Mayor Champagne and Town Administrator Purcaro relative to same. Also see two budget amendments included for review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE EQUIPMENT PURCHASE FOR THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS AND FURTHER APPROVES THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$12,020.00.

6. **Request the Town Council approve the purchase of a Deep Tine Aerator for the Parks and Recreation Department and the budget amendment for same.** (See memorandum from Marty Sitler, Director of Parks and Recreation dated February 22, 2024 to Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and budget amendment relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE PURCHASE OF A DEEP TINE AERATOR FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND FURTHER APPROVES THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR SAME IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000.00.

7. **Request the Town Council approve structural improvements to the Valley Falls Barn and the budget amendment for same.** (See memorandum dated February 28, 2024 from Marty Sitler, Director of Parks and Recreation to Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and budget amendment relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VALLEY FALL BARN AND FURTHER APPROVES THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR SAME IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00.

L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

M.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE (S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

ACTION ON: Proposed Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. _____, An Ordinance entitled "ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES PAYABLE UNDER BUILDING, FIRE AND DEMOLITION CODE, FIRE MARSHALS AND FIRE HAZARDS, SAFETY OF PUBLIC AND FIRE MARSHAL INSPECTIONS."

(See Ordinance attached for Council review. A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.) A copy of the fee schedule is also included for review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "**ORDINANCE NO. ___ ESTABLISHMENT OF FEES PAYABLE UNDER BUILDING, FIRE AND DEMOLITION CODE, FIRE MARSHALS AND FIRE HAZARDS, SAFETY OF PUBLIC AND FIRE MARSHAL INSPECTIONS.**" FURTHERMORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPTS THE FIRE MARSHAL'S FEE SCHEDULE AS PRESENTED.

N.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

O.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

P.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **FEBRUARY 20, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

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

R.) ADJOURNMENT