

December 20, 2016

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3rd Floor
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
17 JAN 23 PM 3:40

December 20, 2016 - 7:30 PM

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

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras

Absent:

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Thomas DiDio, after being sworn in

Also Present: Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Ginny Gingras, 21 Timber Lane, praised the performance of the Vernon Chorale concert. She also spoke of the Rockville High School's Vocational Agriculture program.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:32 PM

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council approve the Vernon Democratic Town Committee's endorsement of Thomas A. DiDio, (D), 112 Box Mountain Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as Town Council member, to complete the unexpired term of Michael Winkler who resigned.** (A copy of a letter of recommendation by the Vernon Democratic Town Committee, dated December 14, 2016, and a copy of Mr. DiDio's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE VERNON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE'S NOMINATION OF THOMAS A. DIDIO, (D), 112 BOX MOUNTAIN DRIVE, VERNON, AS A TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 20, 2016 AND EXPIRING NOVEMBER 13, 2017.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to approve the nomination of Thomas A. DiDio as a Town Council member for a term effective December 20, 2016 and expiring November 13, 2017. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. DiDio was sworn in by Town Clerk, Bernice Dixon.

7:34 PM Council Member DiDio entered meeting.

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D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:35 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made the following motion to go into executive session:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 1-200(6) (A) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE REAPPOINTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Letendre made a motion to postpone executive session. After discussion, no vote was taken on Council Member Schaefer's motion. Original motion to go into executive session carried, with 7 in favor, 4 opposed and 1 abstention.

Executive Session ended at 8:47 PM.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ACCEPTS THE TWO (2) YEAR EXTENSION OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT AS PRESENTED. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 3 opposed. Council Member Tedford was away from the table for the vote.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS

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

- 2016 Santa House season was a huge success. Over 500 children and their families visited and delivered letters to Santa. Thanks to the Santa House Committee for their hard work and hours spent each weekend for our residents.
- Thank you to the Vernon Fire Department and all volunteers for their 2016 Toys for Tots Campaign, distributing many toys, food and clothing to Vernon residents.
- Thank you to the Engineering Department and Department of Public Works for a successful Stormwater audit from DEEP.
- The Town of Vernon and Vernon Public Schools are the 2017 CIRMA Excellence in Risk Management Award Winners in the category of Sustained Risk Management Programs. Congratulations to our staff and Dr. Macary for their hard work.
- The Freedom of Information Commission ruled in the Town's favor in Winkler vs Town of Vernon relative to the Filming Policy. Said Commission also ruled in favor of Vernon in Matava vs Town of Vernon relative to the timely release of information concerning a particular property.
- Thanks to Council Members Schaefer and Wakefield in their organizing of Wreaths Across America, although the weather hindered the ceremony.

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- The next meeting of the Town Council is January 17, 2017. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented # C1 – C5. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request for the Town Council to approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Year .** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated December 7, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES FOUR (4) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$333.45 AND THIRTEEN (13) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$3767.46, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED DECEMBER 7, 2016.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Ronald J. Scussel, (D), 345 Lake Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said appointment to commence on January 1, 2017 and expires on December 31, 2019.** (A copy of Mr. Scussel's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1,6 & 11 DATED JANUARY 1, 1985; C.G.S. §8-4A&B, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF RONALD J. SCUSSEL, (D), 345 LAKE STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2017 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2019.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Ralph E. Zahner, (U), 142 Vernon Avenue #66, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, said appointment to commence on January 1, 2017 and expires on December 31, 2019.** (A copy of Mr. Zahner's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 3; AND CHARTER CHAPTER XII, SEC. 4, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF RALPH E. ZAHNER, (U), 142 VERNON AVENUE, #66, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2017 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2019.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment Andrew J. Tedford, (R), 70 Trout Stream Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on January 1, 2017 and**

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expires on December 31, 2019. (A copy of Mr. Tedford's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 3; AND CHARTER CHAPTER XII, SEC. 4, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ANDREW J. TEDFORD, (R), 70 TROUT STREAM DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2017 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2019.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of John D. Ward, Town Administrator, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut as an Alternate Director of the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on January 1, 2017 and continues until December 31, 2019.** (Mr. Ward is a town employee therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 242 THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE DIRECTOR OF THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR A TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2017 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2019.

H.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**
None

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None

J.) **NEW BUSINESS (continued)**

- 2. Request the Town Council approves the submission of the Local Prevention Council Grant and authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to sign the necessary documents.** (See grant application for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5342.00.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion authorizing Mayor Champagne to make application for and receive Local Prevention Council grant funds in the amount of \$5,342. Motion carried unanimously.

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3. **Request the Town Council authorizes the spending of \$712,833.00 in the Reserve for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditures account for the Water Treatment Plant facilities planning contract.** (See memorandum dated December 13, 2016 from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE SPENDING OF \$712,833.00 IN THE RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT, FOR THE FACILITIES PLANNING CONTRACT PERTAINING TO THE UPGRADE OF THE WASTE TREATMENT PLANT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion authorizing the expenditure of \$712,833 in the reserve for capital and non-recurring expenditures account for the facilities planning contract pertaining to the upgrade of the waste treatment plant. Finance Director, James Luddecke, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.

None

N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF DECEMBER 6, 2016 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 6, 2016 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 2 abstentions.

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

1. Monthly Report Vernon Police Department – November, 2016 as submitted by Captain John Kelley.

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Adjourn (8:58 PM)

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

Received: December 27, 2016

Approved: January 17, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen C. Daigle', written in a cursive style.

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary