

**Draft Minutes**  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR  
VERNON, CONNECTICUT  
TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024  
7:30 P.M.

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
24 APR -8 AM 10:42

A.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Recited

B.) **ROLL CALL:**

- Present: Council Members Laurie Abernathy, Bill Dauphin, Maryann Levesque, John B. O'Connell, Terilynn Rogers, Jesse Schoolnik, Andrew J. Tedford, Jim Tedford, Michael D. Wendus, Phyllis Winkler.
- Absent: Laura B. Bush and Brian R. Motola
- Entered During Meeting: None
- Also Present: Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro and Recording Secretary Diane Wheelock.

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS:** None

D.) **CITIZENS FORUM:**

- Genaro Gonzalez, 133 West Main Street, Vernon shared his concerns relative to multiple current events.
- Bree Maxwell, Arts Studio 467, West Main Street, Vernon introduced herself as the owner of the Studio and the many offerings at the studio. She invited everyone to stop by and visit.
- Citizens forum was closed at 7:40 PM

E.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING WAS MOVED TO THE END OF THE AGENDA DIRECTLY FOLLOWING THE MINUTES IN SECTION P.

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING:** None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

- Mayor Champagne reminded everyone of the following events:
- Annual Town Meeting – April 23, 2024 7:00 PM Rockville High School Auditorium
- Mother's Day Dash – May 12, 2024, Race Begins at 9:00 AM
- Memorial Day Parade – May 27, 2024. Ceremony at Lugg Field at 10:00 AM and Parade comes around the corner at Amerbelle at approximately 11:00 AM.
- Also, May 27, 2024 as you wait for the parade, the GAR will be open 9:00 AM to Noon and the Shriners Motor Patrol will perform.

H.) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member John O'Connell, seconded by Council Member Jim Tedford, made a motion to move the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

**C 1. Request the Town Council approve the tax refunds for current year taxes as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue.** (See memorandum dated March 25, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWELVE (12) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TOTALING \$90,406.37 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 25, 2024.

I.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS:** None

J.) **PENDING BUSINESS :** None

K.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program adopt the following documents, and further declare April, 2024 Fair Housing Month.** ( See a copy of the six documents listed in the resolution below in your packet for review.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE FOLLOWING *SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM* DOCUMENTS:

- TOWN OF VERNON – *AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT*
- TOWN OF VERNON – *AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT ADA NOTICE*
- TOWN OF VERNON – *AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE*
- TOWN OF VERNON – *COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964*
- TOWN OF VERNON – *FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT*
- TOWN OF VERNON – *FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION*

Council Member John O’Connell, seconded by Council Member Maryann Levesque moved to adopt the policies and waived the reading of same. A discussion ensued and the motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL JOINS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE IN DECLARING *APRIL, 2024 FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE TOWN OF VERNON.*

Council Member John O’Connell, seconded by Council Member James Tedford moved the motion as written and it passed unanimously.

L.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES – None**

M.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCE (S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED - None**

N.) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS - None**

O.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATION ITEMS - None**

**P.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 19, 2024 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member John O'Connell moved the motion as presented, seconded by Michael Wendus and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**SECTION E: EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS CONSIDERED HERE:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 1-200 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

THE TOWN COUNCIL ENTERED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:50 PM.

THE TOWN COUNCIL EXITED EXECUTIVES SESSION AT 8:05 PM. AND ENTERED THE CHAMBERS.

COUNCIL MEMBER JOHN O'CONNELL OFFERED THE FOLLOWING MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH MARC F. PETRUZZI, FOR THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY MARYANN LEVESQUE AND THE COUNCIL VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE.

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

**R.) ADJOURNMENT:**

Council Member John O'Connell seconded by Maryann Levesque moved adjournment at 8:09 PM.

NOTE: At the conclusion the Council Members chatted with the new Police Chief Petruzzi.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Wheelock  
Recording Secretary