

Draft Minutes
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
VERNON, CONNECTICUT
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024
7:30 P.M.

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
24 MAR 26 AM 10:11

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

B.) ROLL CALL:

- **Present:** Council Members Laurie Abernathy, Laura B. Bush, Bill Dauphin, Maryann Levesque, Brian R. Motola, John B. O'Connell, Terilynn Rogers, Jesse Schoolnik, Andrew J. Tedford, Jim Tedford, Michael D. Wendus, Phyllis Winkler
- **Absent:** None
- **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:

- Genaro Gonzalez, 133 West Main Street, Vernon, invited the Town Council and the public to attend the Chess Tournament on April 13, 2024, to show support.
- 7:36 PM Citizen's Forum was closed.

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 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 was pulled.

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 everyone of the **Chief John Kelley's Retirement Event**, March 20, 2024, evening at VCMS from 6-8pm. All are welcome.

Meet And Greet with John Kleinhans, this Thursday From 3-6 pm in administration. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne encouraged everyone to stop by and welcome him to Vernon.

Town Egg Hunt 5:30 – 6:30 PM Henry Park on March 28, 2024.

Annual Town Meeting, April 23, 2024 7:00 PM Rockville High School.

Budget Meetings This Week – Thursday 7:00 PM first Public Hearing 7:05 PM and Saturday 9:00 AM second Public Hearing 9:05 AM.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne also informed the Council that there are two Budget Amendments on the Agenda today.

- New Business #2** - New Budget Amendment form to correct the dates
- New Business #3** - New Budget Amendment form to correct the dates

H.) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Motola, 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 7, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHT (8) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TOTALING \$1,195.41 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 7, 2024.

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

J.) **PENDING BUSINESS:** None

K.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council accept the generous donation of \$15,000.00 for the Tri-Town Fuel Bank from the Rockville Bank Community Foundation.** (See the letter dated December 17, 2023 from the Rockville Bank Community Foundation to Matt Hellman, Director of Social Services and the memorandum dated March 6, 2024 from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to the Rockville Bank Community Foundation relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THE GENEROUS DONATION FROM THE ROCKVILLE BANK COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000.00 TO HELP FUND THE TRI-TOWN FUEL BANK.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to accept the generous donation from the Rockville Bank Community Foundation in the amount of \$15,000.00 to help fund the Tri-Town Fuel Bank.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke and answered questions of the Council Members.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council approve the budget amendment request from the Department of Public Works for Account 10340204 Object Code 51020 for Snow Removal in the amount of \$58,945.34 as presented. (See memorandum dated March 1, 2024 from Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$58,945.34 FOR THE ACCOUNT #10340204 OBJECT CODE 51020 FOR SNOW REMOVAL.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the budget amendment request from the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$58,945.34 for the account #10340204 object code 51020 for snow removal.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke and answered questions of the Council Members.

Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works, answered questions. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request the Town Council approve the budget amendment request from the Department of Public Works for Account 10780290 Object Code 57620 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$77,910.64 for the chassis replacement of 16VE with a new 2024 Isuzu NPR heavy duty (\$73,090.64) and the remount (\$4820.00). (See memorandum dated March 12, 2024 from Eric Jensen, Vehicle & Equipment Supervisor to Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$77,910.64 FOR ACCOUNT 10780290 OBJECT CODE 57620 FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to approve the budget amendment request from the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$77,910.64 for account 10780290 object code 57620 for Capital Improvements.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke and answered questions of the Council Members.

John Kleinhans, Finance Officer, and Eric Jensen, Fleet Supervisor, answered questions. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. Request the Town Council approve the budget amendment request from the Rockville Public Library for the replacement of the window blinds in the Children's Library from the Rockville Public Library Endowment fund in an amount not to exceed \$7,996.00. (See memorandum from Dawn R. Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 13, 2024 relative to same. The budget amendment documentation will be on the table on March 19, 2024 for your meeting.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST FROM THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,996.00 FROM THE ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY ENDOWMENT FUND FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE WINDOW BLINDS IN THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the budget amendment request from the Rockville Public Library in the amount not to exceed \$7,996.00 from the Rockville Public Library endowment fund for the replacement of the window blinds in the children's library.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke and answered questions of the Council Members.

Jennifer Johnston-Marius, Library Director, spoke and answered questions of the Council Members. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried 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 INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:** None
- P.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 5, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council meeting on *March 5, 2024*. The motion carried unanimously.

- Q.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, Petitions, communications, correspondence, reports, etc. not requiring action**

- 1. Monthly Report – February, 2024 for the Town Clerk as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Town Clerk.

- R.) **ADJOURNMENT (7:49 PM)**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made motion to adjourn at 7:49 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Meriline Sarkar
Recording Secretary