

**MINUTES
 VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
 REGULAR MEETING
 SENIOR CENTER 2ND FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM
 26 PARK PLACE
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2007
 7:30 P.M.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Present: Daniel Anderson, George Apel, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Mark Etre, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Jason McCoy, Brian Motola, Mary Oliver, Connie Simon

Absent: Pauline Schaefer

Entered During Meeting: Mary Oliver (7:42 PM)

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Recording Secretary Linda Bukowy, Technical Assistant Christopher Prue

CITIZEN’S FORUM:

- Jackie Cohen, 21 Valley View Lane – Discussion regarding a health issue, I have survey maps to show you. We have a neighbor whose yard abuts our back yard. He has a permit now for open fire burning, he just recently obtained. This is the third summer but he only recently obtained this permit, he burns day and night. The fire is not attended to, we have put up with it for a while. It’s at a point where it’s daily and at 1:00 AM I see the flame really high. Ash all over the house, our clothes, and my husband has asthma. It’s not just us it’s bad for the entire neighborhood, we have a map to show you. We have contacted the police department, officer asked him to put fire out but he refused. It is a real health issue, lungs feel heavy, and we would like to know if something can be done.
- Rudolf Rossmly, 228 Risley Road – Discussion about Vernon’s Bicentennial, October 13 at 12 Noon, Vernon Historical Society Museum. Personal invitation, important day for us, it will be the actual countdown to 200. At noon 5 churches will ring their bells until 12:05, the normal welcome, Jean Luddy will speak, Mayor Marmer will do Town Proclamation, Claire Janowski will do the State Proclamation, Tony Guglielmo also.
- Citizen’s forum was closed at 7:38 PM

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Mayor presented certificate to twins Lucille Thompson Dauphin and Lenore Thompson Hewitt congratulating them on their ninetieth birthday.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

PROPOSED MOTION #1:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING OF AUGUST 29, 2007, AND MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Simon moved to approve the minutes of August 29, 2007
Motion carried

PROPOSED MOTION #2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2007, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED TO INCLUDE AN

AMENDMENT TO REFLECT THAT THE MOTION RELATIVE TO THE PASSAGE OF "AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT AN EXEMPTION OF PROPERTY TAX FOR HYBRID VEHICLES AND CERTAIN AUTHORIZED ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES" FAILED. (refer to Old Business item #3, which includes a copy of the legal opinion from Susan Boyan, Town Attorney.)

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Simon moved to approve the minutes of August 29, 2007

Motion carried Council Member's Etre, Champagne, Campbell abstained

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- C 1.** Request for Tax Refunds – Current Fiscal Year.
- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Carl Slusarczyk as a member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee.
- C 3.** Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Paul Jonas Jr. as a member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee.
- C 4.** Request the Town Council to rescind its motion from its September 18th meeting relative to the appointment of Ralph Zahner as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.
- C 5.** Request the Town Council to approve the contract between the Town of Vernon and Conserv. Inc.
- C 6.** Request The Town Council to fund the audit of personal property of utilities located within the Town of Vernon.
- C 7.** Request the Town Council to affirm the request of Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor, and the State of Connecticut bond agenda item relative to Roosevelt Mills.

Council Member Herbst moved items 1-7 minus 5 & 6, seconded by Council Member Simon. Motion approved.

Council Member McCoy asked consent item #5 be pulled for discussion

Council Member Champagne asked consent item #6 be pulled for discussion

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current Year. (Memorandum from Carol S. Nelson, Collector of Revenue, dated September 27, 2007 to Christopher Clark; Town Administrator, is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,213.92 FOR THE current YEAR, AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED SEPTEMBER 27, 2007 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

2. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Carl Slusarczyk (R), 72 Frederic Road, to serve as a member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, to fill a vacancy due to the term expiration of Terri Quinn, said term to expire on August 31, 2010

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF CARL SLUSARCZYK AS A MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2010.

3. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Paul Jonas (D), 27 Quarry Drive, to serve as a member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, to fill a vacancy due to the term expiration of Richard Lorenc, said term to expire on August 31, 2010. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF PAUL JONAS AS A MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2010.

4. Request the Town Council rescind motion from its September 18th Town Council meeting, relative to the appointment of Ralph Zahner to the Permanent Municipal Building Committee. (Letter to Mr. Zahner is in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESCINDS ITS ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2007 RELATIVE TO THE MOTION TO APPOINT RALPH ZAHNER AS A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE.

5. Request the Town Council approve the contract between Con-Serv Inc., and the Town of Vernon the the Public Works Maintenance Building, front garage, salt dome, and rear storage buildings. (Memorandum from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator, memo from George Fetko, Director of Public Works, and copy of the contract is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND CON-SERV INC. FOR PUBLIC WORKS MAINTENANCE BUILDING, FRONT GARAGE, SALT DOME, AND REAR STORAGE BUILDINGS AS OUTLINED IN THE CONTRACT PROPOSALS DATED SEPTEMBER 6, 2007.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Simon moved to approve the contract between the Town of Vernon and Con-Serv Corporation. Council Member Etre opposed, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Motion carried

6. Request the Town Council to authorize the funding of the audit on personal property of utilities located within the Town of Vernon. (Copy of email along with memorandum from Town Administrator Christopher Clark, copy of email from Town Assessor David Wheeler, and copy of budget amendment is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

REQUEST THE TOWN COUNCIL TO FUND THE AUDIT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OF UTILITIES LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON, AND TO FUND THE PROJECT AT \$15,000.00 WITH FUNDS TO COME FROM AVAILABLE SOURCES.

Council Member Herbst, seconded Council Member McCoy moved to fund the audit of personal property utilities located within the Town of Vernon. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Request the Town Council affirm the request from Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. relative to the bond agenda item for Roosevelt Mills. (Copy of memorandum from Mayor Marmer and copy of letter to Hon. M. Jodi Rell, Governor is in the packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AFFIRMS THE REQUEST OF THE MAYOR THAT GOVERNOR RELL GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE BOND AGENDA ITEM RELATIVE TO ROOSEVELT MILLS, WHICH IS VITAL TO THE ECONOMIC REDEVELOPMENT OF THE DOWNTOWN ROCKVILLE AREA.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

OLD BUSINESS:

1. General Government to make Additional Improvements to Vernon Avenue in the amount of \$415,000. (Finance Officer James Luddecke will be present to discuss)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 16, 2007 AT 7:35 P.M. AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 7:40 P.M. IN THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CT IN ORDER TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO "A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO VERNON AVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$415,000.00.

Council Member Herbst, it is a great deal of money to be spending at this time. I agree that we don't have the money.

Motion missing, Audio Failure, Motion failed. No Public Hearing

2. Designation of Vernon Town Hall as Cable TV Live Return Line Site. Copy of correspondence attached. (Discussion purposes only).

Carl Slicer, you have the ability to run coax cable approximately \$1 per foot. If you need more time then that is what we will do. It is a 13 week schedule, may take a bit in the beginning to get on the rotation basis. If channel is busy you can apply for another channel. You have a church environment and the camera is picking up sounds. The lights affect the range from the microphones.

Council Member Herbst, our meetings during budget time can run late, also we have more than one a week. Will this be a problem with studio time; we normally meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Concerned about meetings that concern budgets.

Council Member McCoy, we need to get open government, we need to have the public have access to government. They would have budget information in front of them and it should be unfiltered.

Council Member Campbell wants motion to have system in place for next meeting.

Mayor Marmer, not enough time the timeline may be December.

Council Member Etre, would like to see coax cable next door for at least computers; want to see it ready and used. Would like update as to what is happening next door

3. Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to Grant an Exemption of Property Tax for Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Certain Authorized Alternative Fuel Vehicles." (Memorandum from Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, and copy of legal opinion from Town Attorney Boyan is in the packet).

NEW BUSINESS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Council Member McCoy requested but had already placed #6 forward due to our guest's time constraints.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy to move Item #6 forward. Motion carried unanimously

Introduction of Vicki L. Shotland, Executive Director of Greater Hartford Transit District and Sandra E. Sheehan, Director of Grants and Contract Administration, Greater Hartford Transit District

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Apel to have Town Council hereby remove funding from the Intermodal Transportation Center

Mayor Marmer asked for some discussion on this item, with the reality that if we give up this opportunity for almost \$7,000,000 for a \$1,500,000 from the town that we are giving up a huge economic development for the center of Rockville, just so everyone knows when it comes time to vote.

A lengthy discussion took place.

Recess 5 minutes at 9:16 PM

Meeting reconvened at 9:23PM

Discussion resumed.

Read back Motion

Council Member Anderson seconded by Council Member Apel moved to have Town Council remove funding from the Intermodal Transportation Center.

Recess 5 minutes at 10:05 PM return 10:14 PM

Council Member Apel seconded by Council Member Anderson moved to amend previous motion to postpone action until full disclosure of information and after town attorney's documents reviewed. Amended motion carried unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the Board of Education meeting of September 10, 2007.
2. Letter from Carl Bard resigning as an alternate of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
3. Copy of proclamations for "Meet the Blind" month and "National Cane Safety Day".
4. Flyer from the Vernon Arts Commission- an invitation to a special night of music with Sirius Coyote on Friday, October 19th from 7-8:30 at the Vernon Senior Center.
5. Letter to Robert Kelley relative to his appointment as a voting representative to the Tolland County Mutual Aid Fire Service.
6. Memorandum from Town Administrator Christopher Clark along with supporting documentation relative to the status of the Vernon Intermodal Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:36 P.M.

Received: October 4, 2007

Approved: October 16, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Bukowy
Recording Secretary



James E. Krupiensi
Assistant Town Clerk