

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
June 26, 2006**

Senior Center, 2nd Floor, 26 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Pauline A. Schaefer, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 10.

Absent: Council Members Jason L. McCoy, Mary A. Oliver; 2.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Jason L. McCoy (7:10 p.m.), Mary A. Oliver (7:18 p.m.); 2.

Exited During Meeting: Council Member Mark S. Etre (11:05 p.m.); 1.

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Finance Officer James Luddecke, Budget Analyst Diane Luddecke, Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. stated for clarity that the Budget was not the "*Mayor's Budget*" but it was the "*Council's Budget*" and that the budget had been given to the Council in late March. She also stated that the Town was in a serious budget dilemma and announced that there would be a special meeting on Tuesday night, June 27.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Eileen Miller, 77 Center Road, stated that the Council should serve the "will of the voters" and "listen to the voters".

Council Member McCoy entered the meeting (7:10 p.m.)

Raymond Bricault, 10 Russell Drive, spoke in favor of department heads making their own cuts.

James M. Hoover, 151 Trout Stream Drive, President Vernon Tax Payers Association, spoke against the Board of Education budget, feels the "taxpayers have been stabbed in the back." He also requested a 1.2 million dollar cut to the budget.

Council Member Oliver entered the meeting (7:18 p.m.)

Joe Grabinski, 623 Dart Hill Road, felt that \$7,000. was not a realistic referendum cost.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:25 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPROVAL OF A 90-DAY BUDGET WARRANT

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS A 90-DAY BUDGET WARRANT IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, SECTION 7-405 AND APPLICABLE STATUTES FOR THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$6,026,551; EDUCATION \$9,684,694, AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT

SERVICE AMOUNTS \$1,277,000; AND FOR A GRAND TOTAL OF \$16,988,245; EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006. THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 BUDGET SUPERSEDES THIS WARRANT.

Finance Officer James Luddecke was present for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

OPEN ALL BUDGETARY ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 43 CODE 10455221 VISITING NURSE & HEALTH SERVICE

OBJECT CODE 58000 GRANTS - HUMAN SERVICES BY \$5,000.

The motion was carried 8 to 4 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Schaefer and Simon voting no.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 44 CODE 10456222 HOCKANUM VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL OBJECT

CODE 58000 GRANTS – HUMAN SERVICES BY \$5,000.

The motion was carried 8 to 4 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Schaefer and Simon voting no.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 46 CODE 10456224 EXCHANGE CLUB – PREVENT CHILD ABUSE OBJECT 58000

GRANTS – HUMAN SERVICES BY \$1,000.

Discussion took place.

The meeting went into recess at 8:12 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:17 p.m.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Motola, moved A **FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT BY \$500.**

The amendment was carried 7 to 5 with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no.

The main motion failed 5 to 7 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre and Motola voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting no.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 49 CODE 10456227 TRI-TOWN SHELTER SERVICES OBJECT 58000 GRANTS –

HUMAN SERVICES BY \$5,000.

Social Services Director Paula Claydon was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 7 to 5 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 50 CODE 10456229 CT LEGAL SERVICES CODE 58000 GRANTS – HUMAN SERVICES

BY \$1,000.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 8 to 2 with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Motola, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox and Oliver voting no. Council Members Herbst and McCoy abstained.

Council Members Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 51 CODE 10456232 HARTFORD INTERVAL HOUSE CODE 58000 GRANTS – HUMAN

SERVICES BY \$1,000.

The motion failed 4 to 7 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Etre and Motola voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting no.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 53 CODE 10456236 HOCKANUM VALLEY SCHOOL READINESS CODE 58000 GRANTS

– HUMAN SERVICES BY \$1,000.

Alan Slobodien, Youth Services Director was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion failed 5 to 7 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre and Motola voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting no.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 57 CODE 10457242 SENIOR CENTER CODE 51030 PART-TIME WAGES BY \$500.

Penny Rand, Senior Center Director was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 10 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox and Oliver voting no.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Anderson, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 8 PAGE 57 CODE 10457242 SENIOR CENTER CODE 53410 INSTRUCTOR FEES BY \$400.

Penny Rand, Senior Center Director was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion failed 6 to 7 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Etre, McCoy, Motola and Vale voting yes and Council Members Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no. Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. broke the tie voting in the negative.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Motola, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 9 PAGE 61 CODE 10560253 PUBLIC CELEBRATION CODE 55000 BICENTENNIAL BY \$1,000.

Discussion took place.

The meeting went into recess at 9:21 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:30 p.m.

The motion failed 5 to 6 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre and Motola voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting no. Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. broke the tie voting in the negative. Council Member Oliver was not present at the table to vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 11 PAGE 74 CODE 10780290 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – TOWN CODE 57200 HARTFORD

TURNPIKE FIRE STATION ROOF IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,500.

George Fetko Public Works Director was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 7 to 4 on a voice vote with Council Members Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne and Motola voting no. Council Member Oliver was not present at the table to vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 11 PAGE 74 CODE 10780290 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – TOWN CODE 57610 FIRE
MARSHALL VEHICLE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.

David Roth, Fire Marshal was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Simon, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED A **FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION TO REDUCE BY \$8,000.**

The amendment was carried 8 to 3 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Anderson, McCoy and Vale voting no. Council Member Oliver was not present at the table to vote.

The motion on the main motion failed unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Oliver was not present at the table to vote.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO EXTEND CURFEW UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS.

The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 11 PAGE 74 CODE 10780290 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS – TOWN CODE 57590 OTHER

EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$31,800.

George Fetko Public Works Director was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion failed 5 to 6 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Etre, McCoy and Vale voted yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no. Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Etre, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 12 PAGE 78 EDUCATION CODE 10990330 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000.

The motion was carried 9 to 3 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Fox, McCoy and Vale voting no.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member McCoy, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 5 PAGE 22 CODE 10150170 PLANNING DEPARTMENT CODE 51010 WAGES -ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR/ASST PLANNER BY \$30,121 AND POSTPONE THE FILLING OF THE POSITION FOR 6 MONTHS.

Neil Pade Town Planner was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The meeting recessed at 10:25 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:29 p.m.

The motion was carried 7 to 5 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola and Vale voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Motola, MOVED TO **REDUCE**:

TAB 7 PAGE 33 CODE 10340201 DPW-GENERAL MAINTENANCE CODE 51020 OT WAGES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,000.

George Fetko Public Works Director was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion failed 4 to 5 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Etre, McCoy and Motola voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting no. Council Members Anderson and Vale abstained. Council Member Champagne was not present at the table to vote.

The meeting recessed at 11:02 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:05 p.m.

Council Member Etre exited the meeting (11:05 p.m.)

APPROVAL OF TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 FOR FOURTH REFERENDUM

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO PRESENT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,707,198 TO THE ELECTORS AND QUALIFIED TAXPAYERS TO VOTE ON PAPER BALLOTS OR BY BALLOT LABELS UTILIZING A "YES" OR "NO" ON THE VOTING MACHINES AT THE THIRD BUDGET REFERENDUM SCHEDULED FOR JULY 13, 2006 AT CENTER 375, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. AND 8:00 P.M., AND TO AUTHORIZE AND DIRECT THE TOWN CLERK TO PUBLISH A WARNING OF SAID REFERENDUM AT LEAST FIVE DAYS BEFORE THE REFERENDUM AND TO PHRASE SUCH ITEM IN A FORM SUITABLE FOR PRINTING ON SUCH PAPER BALLOTS OR BALLOT LABELS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §7-7 AND OTHER LAWS:

"SHALL THE TOWN OF VERNON ADOPT A BUDGET FOR A PERIOD COMMENCING JULY 1, 2006 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,707,198?"

The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TOWN OF VERNON GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$23,850,639; THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND DEBT SERVICE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,014,076; AND THE EDUCATION BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,842,483 FOR A GENERAL FUND TOTAL OF \$70,707,198.

The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET REVENUE ESTIMATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,707,198 TO COINCIDE WITH THE TOTAL RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS OF \$70,707,198 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCE OFFICER TO ADJUST LINE ITEMS IN THE ESTIMATED REVENUES AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SETS THE DATE FOR THE REFERENDUM UPON THE BUDGET VOTE AS THURSDAY JULY 13, 2006 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. AT CENTER 375, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON CONNECTICUT.

The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

INFORMATION:

1. Voter totals relative to the June 20, 2006 referendum.

ADJOURN:

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO ADJOURN.

The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

Received: July 1, 2006
Approved: July 11, 2006
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary