

**REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
August 15, 2006**

Senior Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 26 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

**Present:** Council Members Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 8.

**Absent:** Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, Mark S. Etre, Jason L. McCoy, Pauline A. Schaefer; 4.

**Entered During Meeting:** Council Members Daniel A. Anderson (7:34 p.m.), Jason L. McCoy (7:48 p.m.); 2.

**Also Present:** Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

No residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7: 32 p.m.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

None.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 25, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 7 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Oliver abstained.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Fiscal Year(s).
2. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of James Ferguson Jr. as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.
3. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Lance Chernack as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
4. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Christopher Crowne as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
5. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Mark Etre as a member of the Capital Improvement Committee.
6. Request Town Council to approve disposal of fixed assets, Aluminum boat and trailer, Vernon Fire Department.
7. Request the Town Council to approve cancellation of the regular meeting of September 5, 2006.
8. Request the Town Council to approve cost of living increase for non-union employees.
9. Request Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary forms to make application and receive After School funds for FY 2006/2007.

10. Request the Town Council authorize the re-appropriation of FY 2004/05 encumbrances to the FY 2005/06 budget.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):**

Council Member Motola pulled C.N.B. 10 for discussion.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 1 THROUGH AND INCLUDING C.N.B. 9 AS FOLLOWS:

C.N.B. 1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Year(s).

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUND FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,482.16 AND ONE (1) TAX REFUND FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220.47, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED AUGUST 10, 2006 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

(A copy of the memorandum is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix A.")

C.N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of James Ferguson Jr., (U) 65 Dockerel Road, as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, to fill a vacancy due to the regular appointment of Mary LaChance, said term to expire on June 30, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES FERGUSON JR. (U) TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2008.

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Lance Chernack, (D) 50 Cubles Drive, as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, to fill a vacancy due to the regular appointment of Lester G. Finkle, said term to expire on December 31, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF LANCE CHERNACK (D) TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2008.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Christopher Crowne, (R) 21 Ellington Avenue, as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, to fill a vacancy, said term to expire on December 31, 2010.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER CROWNE (D) TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

C.N.B. 5. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Mark Etre, (R) 5 Rheel Street, as a member of the Capital Improvement Committee, said term to expire on August 31, 2009.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF MARK ETRE (R) TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2009.

C.N.B. 6. Request the Town Council to approve the disposal of fixed assets, pursuant to a request from Robert Kelley, Fire Chief.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSET #85009173, 15' ALUMINUM ROW BOAT, AND FIXED ASSET #85009175, 15' BOAT TRAILER.

C.N.B. 7. Request the Town Council to approve the cancellation of the regular meeting of September 5, 2006.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE CANCELLATION OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2006.

C.N.B 8. Request the Town Council to approve cost of living increase for non-union employees.

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 5.2, THAT ALL NON-UNION EMPLOYEES AND PERMANENT PART TIME EMPLOYEES BE GIVEN A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OF THREE (3.0%) PERCENT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006.

C.N.B. 9. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary forms to make application for and receive After School funds for FY 2006/2007.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES ELLEN L. MARMER, M.D., MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY FORMS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE AFTER SCHOOL FUNDS FOR FY 2006/2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000.00.

The motion was carried unanimously 8 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Anderson entered (7:34 p.m.)

**NEW BUSINESS ITEMS (TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):**

C.N.B. 10. Request the Town Council to authorize the liquidation and re-appropriation of fiscal year 2004-2005 encumbrances in the amount of \$154,936.72 to the fiscal year 2005-2006 budget.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE LIQUIDATION AND RE-APPROPRIATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 ENCUMBRANCES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$154,936.72 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET.

Finance Officer James Luddecke was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmmer, M.D. acknowledged Lance Chernak, previously appointed as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and James Ferguson Jr. as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Request the Town Council to approve the job description for Park Ranger.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, HEREBY APPROVES THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR PARK RANGER, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 15, 2006.

Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Dinnie, Police Chief Rudolph Rossmly and Town Administrator Christopher Clark were available for questions and comments.

Council Member McCoy entered the meeting (7:48 p.m.)

Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved to ADD A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION BY ADDING:

1. THE JOB WOULD BE STATE AS PART-TIME WITH NO FRINGE BENEFITS
2. A CPR CERTIFICATE WOULD BE REQUIRED
3. A FORMAL BACKGROUND CHECK WOULD BE MADE

The motion on the Friendly Amendment was carried 8 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member Anderson voting no.

The main motion, as amended, was carried 7 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Members Anderson and Motola voting no.

Council Member McCoy requested a copy of the lease between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Vernon in regards to Rails-to-Trails from Mr. Dinnie.

#### **IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

A.A.I. 1. REQUEST THE TOWN COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENTS #67-72 AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER AT THE MEETING.

A.A.I. 2. REQUEST THE TOWN COUNCIL TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2006, AT 7:35 P.M. AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 7:40 P.M. IN THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, IN ORDER TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE THE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO "RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE FARMLAND AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION SURCHARG IN THE AMOUNT OF \$118,950.00.

The motion to add A.A.I. 1 and 2 to the agenda failed 4 to 6 on a voice vote with Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver and Schaefer voted yes and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, McCoy, Motola and Vale voted no.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO ADD TO THE AGENDA:

A.A.I. 3. INFORMATION #9 - COPY OF MEMO ON TOWN OF VERNON PROJECT UPDATES FROM CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ELLEN L. MARMER, M.D., MAYOR.

The motion to add A.A.I. 3. was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

N.B. 1. Request for Town Council to approve the budget amendments for fiscal year 2006-2007 as outlined in the Budget Amendments #1 or additional amendments as provided by the Finance Officer at the meeting.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST(S) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM #1 AND/OR ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT FORMS AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER AT THE MEETING. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

(A copy of the memorandum is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix B.")

N.B. 2. Request for Town Council to approve the job description for part-time Ordinance Compliance Inspector.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, HEREBY APPROVES THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF ORDINANCE COMPLIANCE INSPECTOR, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 16, 2006.

Human Resources Director Dan Sullivan was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

It was requested by the Council that Building Official Gene Bolles be present at the next scheduled meeting to answer questions regarding this job.

The motion was carried 8 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Oliver, Simon and Vale voted yes and Council Members Campbell and Motola voted no.

#### **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:**

None.

#### **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

A.A.I. 3. Information #9 - Copy of memo on Town Of Vernon project updates from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator to Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor.

Discussion took place.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

None.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

1. Copy of quarterly newsletter from the Department of Social Services.
2. Copy of letter to Councilmember Bill Fox, appointing him as staff liaison to the School Readiness Council.
3. Copy of letter from C. David Oliphant, commending the Department of Public Works for an excellent job relative to the Brookside/Valley View Lane project.
4. Copy of letter to Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor along with accompanying new release announcing the award of the *Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting* to James Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer.
5. Letter from Eileen Miller relative to resignation from the Building Code Board of Appeals.
6. Copy of letter from State Representative Claire Janowski sent to the DPUC objecting to a rate hike request of 30% by the Connecticut Water Company.
7. Copy of a letter to DPUC from Connecticut Natural Gas requesting a rate increase, copy of letter from Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor, to Donald W. Downes, Chair, DPUC.

8. Monthly report from July 2006 from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk.
9. Copy of memo on Town of Vernon project updates from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator to Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor.
10. Copy of memo from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator to Mayor Marmer and Vernon Town Council regarding utility pole location at the intersection of Union and West Street.

**ADJOURN:**

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO ADJOURN.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Received: August 22, 2006  
Approved: September 19, 2006  
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike  
Asst. Town Clerk/Recording Secretary