

**REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC HEARINGS
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
November 21, 2006**

Senior Center 2nd 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 Daniel E. Anderson, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Jason L. McCoy, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 12.

Exited During Meeting: Council Member Mark S. Etre (8:55 p.m.); 1.

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

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Sheryl McMullen, 564 Bolton Road, Conservation Commission Chair, read a letter into the record from the Conservation Commission regarding the Assistant Town Planner position. (A copy of the letter was entered into the record.) Mayor Marmer thanked Ms. McMullen and the Conservation Commission for their time and effort.

Pauline Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, announced:

- 1- An invitation from Charles Wright to all Council members regarding the 4th Annual Christmas concert on Saturday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the Cornerstone COmmunity Center.
- 2- Rockville High School Robotics team came in 1st place out of 36 teams at the Pennsylvania competition.
- 3- At the Veteran's dinner held at the Rockville Elks Lodge, 2 VCMS students read and received honorable mention regarding letters they wrote regarding "What it means to be a Veteran".

Mrs. Schaefer requested that letters of congratulations be sent to the students.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:40 p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the Public Hearing to order at 7:41 p.m. to receive comments and recommendations relative to "An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance #263 (An Ordinance Establishing a Local Historic Properties Commission and Designating Historic Properties and Districts.)" with the addition of the County Home School as 7.B.9 and the Talcottville Historic District redesignated as 7.B.10.

The legal notice was advertised in the Journal Inquirer on November 9, 2006 and posted on the Town Hall bulletin board on November 8, 2006.

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

Robert Hurd, Historic Properties Commission Chair was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Marie Herbst, 245 Brandy Hill Road, spoke regarding a presentation she attended given by Mr. Talcott, Sr. describing the 100 year history of the Talcottville section of Vernon.

No other residents wished to speak and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:48 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:48 p.m.

MAYOR RECOMMENDED ACTION ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THE ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE #263 (AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A LOCAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND DESIGNATING HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND DISTRICTS.) WITH THE ADDITION OF THE COUNTY HOME SCHOOL AS 7.B.9 AND THE TALCOTTVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT REDESIGNATED AS 7.B.10". The motion was carried 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the second Public Hearing to order at 7:49 p.m. to receive comments and recommendations relative to "An Ordinance Concerning Landlord Registration."

The legal notice was advertised in the Journal Inquirer on November 9, 2006 and posted on the Town Hall bulletin board on November 8, 2006.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mary Oliver, 15 Dobson Commons Circle, spoke to several citizens and felt that most would be willing to comply to the ordinance.

No other residents wished to speak and the Public hearing was closed at 7:51 p.m.

The Regular meeting reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

MAYOR RECOMMENDED ACTION ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THE ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING LANDLORD REGISTRATION." The motion was carried 9 to 3 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Members Campbell, McCoy and Motola voting no.

Mayor Marmer thanked Council Member Etre for all his time and hard work concerning this ordinance.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

A Presentation recognizing Kimberly McTighe's recent award "Youth Service Worker". State Representative Claire Janowski was present to award Ms. McTighe with a Legislative Citation. Mayor Ellen L. Marmer presented Ms. McTighe with a Mayoral Proclamation.

Alan Slobodien, Youth Services Director, as well as several of Ms. McTighe's peer advocates/students were present.

The meeting took recessed at 8:02 p.m. in order to observe Finance Officer James Luddecke's birthday and to congratulate Congressman Elect Joseph Courtney.

The meeting reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Due to numerous clerical errors on the October 17 minutes, the motion was pulled and will be taken up at the next Town Council meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Fiscal Year(s).
2. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Town of Vernon.
3. Request Town Council adopt the November 2006 Affirmative Action Plan.
4. Request the Town Council adopt the Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy and Policy on Harassment in the Workplace.
5. Request the Town Council to approve the sale/lease of trailer and machinery relative to hazardous waste site cleanup and remediation of the Amerbelle Textiles site.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

Council Member Anderson pulled C.N.B. 1 for discussion.

Council Member McCoy pulled C.N.B. 2 for discussion.

Council Member Champagne pulled C.N.B. 5 for discussion.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 3 AND 4 AS FOLLOWS:

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council adopt "Affirmative Action Plan" revised and updated November 2006.

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY ADOPT THE NOVEMBER 2006 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council adopt "Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy and Policy on Harassment in the Workplace".

THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY ADOPT THE SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY AND POLICY ON HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE" EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 21, 2006, SAID POLICY SUPERSEDES ANY OTHER POLICY ON THIS TOPIC.

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

NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):

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

Discussion took place.

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES FORTY (40) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,317.34 AND FIVE (5) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$881.07 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED NOVEMBER 15, 2006 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

The motion was carried by unanimous consent.

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

C.N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to authorize the mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding Grant #2006-GE-T6-0008, between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Vernon.

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Michael Purcaro, Emergency Management Director was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

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

C.N.B. 5. Request the Town Council authorize the sale/lease of trailer and machinery to Armine Dahmani, Ph.D. for the purpose of cleanup and remediation of the Amerbelle textile site.

Council Member Champagne, seconded by Council Member Etre, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL DOES HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE SALE/LEASE OF TRAILER AND MACHINERY TO ARMINE DAHMANI, PH.D., OF SPECTRUM ANALYTICAL INC. FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLEANUP AND REMEDIATION OF THE AMERBELLE TEXTILES SITE, SAID SALE/LEASE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY HUD.

Christopher Clark, Town Administrator was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The word "SALE" would be taken out of line two of the motion leaving the word "LEASE".

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DECIDES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS AND INVITES CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DANIEL SULLIVAN, HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, AND RUDOLF ROSSMY, POLICE CHIEF, TO ATTEND. The motion failed 5 to 7 on a voice vote with Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola and Vale voting no.

The Council decided that all the following motions would be taken up in a public forum, not in Executive Session.

Council Member Etre requested a recess. The meeting recessed at 8:49 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:54 p.m.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 11, SECTION 3, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYORS APPOINTMENT OF JAMES L. KENNY OF SOUTH WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT, AS CHIEF OF POLICE FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5, 2007.

Council Member Champagne left the table.

Martin Burke, Town Attorney was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Etre exited the meeting (8:55 p.m.)

The motion was carried 5 to 0 on a voice vote with Council Members Fox, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, McCoy, Motola and Vale abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 11, SECTION 4, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYORS APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN M. CLARK OF NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT, AS POLICE CAPTAIN FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 5, 2007.

Council Member Anderson requested a recess. The meeting recessed at 9:37 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:40 p.m.

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

Council Member Champagne returned to the table.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 11, SECTION 4, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYORS APPOINTMENT OF MARINA C. RODRIGUEZ OF 2 EASTVIEW STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, AS THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR/ASSISTANT TOWN PLANNER FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2007.

Neil Pade, Town Planner and Ms. Rodriguez were available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

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

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO REAFFIRM THE CONTENT OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE BUILDING OFFICIAL AND THE ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION OF BENEFITS TO THE ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION.

Martin Burke, Town Attorney was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Anderson, moved TO POSTPONE THE MOTION UNTIL THE DECEMBER MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale voting yes and Council Member Herbst voting no.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Council Member McCoy requested Informational Item #13 (Ambulance statistics report from Fire Chief Robert Kelley covering the period July 1, 2006 to October 26, 2006) be pulled for discussion.

Council Member Oliver left the table.

A.A.I. 1. was added to the agenda by unanimous consent.

NEW BUSINESS:

N.B. 1. Request for Town Council to approve the Budget Amendment for fiscal year 2005-2006 as outlined in the Budget Amendments #74.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS #74 AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER.

James Luddecke, Finance officer was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Oliver returned to the table.

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

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

N.B. 2. Request for Town Council to approve the Budget Amendments for fiscal year 2006-2007 as outlined in the Budget Amendments #4-8.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS #4-8 AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

(A copy of the memoranda are appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix F.")

N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to adopt a motion entitled "A Resolution Authorizing Mayor Ellen L. Marmer to Enter into and Execute a Grant Contract with the State of Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism for the Renovation of the Memorial Building."

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS A MOTION ENTITLED "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MAYOR ELLEN L. MARMER TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE MEMORIAL BUILDING, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT." The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

N.B. 4. Request Town Council to approve amended Resolution entitled "Resolution Town of Vernon Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief Program §12-129-n".

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED "TOWN OF VERNON ELDERLY AND DISABLED TAX RELIEF PROGRAM §12-129N ADOPTED PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE SECTION 12-129N".

Discussion took place.

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

N.B. 5. Town Council request for Emergency Management Plan Report.

Michael Purcaro, Emergency Management Director was available for questions and comment and gave a brief overview of the the Town's recent power outage.

Discussion took place.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

None.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Council Member McCoy requested Informational Item #13 (Ambulance statistics report from Fire Chief Robert Kelley covering the period July 1, 2006 to October 26, 2006) be pulled for discussion.

Discussion took place.

A follow-up report was requested concerning the extended arrival times of service and a breakdown by day was also requested.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from Board of Education regular meeting of October 10 and October 23, 2006.
2. Monthly report for September and October 2006 from Alan S. Slobodien, Director, Vernon Youth Services Bureau, monthly report for September and October 2006 from Penny Rand, Senior Center Director, and quarterly newsletter from Department of Social Services.
3. Copy of report from the North Central District Health Department with the most recent population figures prepared by the Connecticut Department of Public Health Services.
4. Copy of letter of resignation from John Lampson, Design Review Commission.
5. Letters from Mayor Thomas Firmenich, of Frankenberg, Germany and Mayor Dieter Greysinger of Hainichen Saxony, Germany relative to the German-American Partnership Program.
6. Letter from resident Teresa Collin commending Town law enforcement officials.
7. Letter from the North Central Conservation District, thanking the Town of Vernon for its contribution.
8. Copy of correspondence from Town Administrator Christopher Clark to Rick Robbins, Community Development Administrator, Department of Economic and Community Development regarding response to Small Cities Community Development Block Grant, Civil Rights Review.
9. Memo from Mary Pippin, Information Technology Department, regarding "*Fiber Optic and Copper Wire Relocation*".
10. Copy of memo to Department Heads from Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor regarding used toner cartridges.
11. Copy of letter from Lynn Frazier commending Penny Rand and Sela Saunders for their dedicated service to the Senior citizens of our community.
12. Copy of article from *Horizons* Magazine entitled "Krajewski Named to ECSU Hall of Fame".
13. Ambulance statistics report from Fire Chief Robert Kelley covering the period July 1, 2006 to October 26, 2006.
14. Toys for Tots drive to be held in the lobby of Town Hall from 12/1 through 12/16.
15. Notice of free Flu Shot Clinic to be held December 7, 2006 from 8:30 to 11:30, Asnuntuck Community College, 170 Elm Street, Enfield, Connecticut.
16. Dickens' Day Celebration to be held on Saturday, December 2 from 10:00 to 4:30. Copy of Dickens' Day poster is included.

ADJOURN:

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m.

Received: November 28, 2006
Approved: Vernon Town Council
December 5, 2006

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary

Appendix A

Appendix B

Appendix B (continued)

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Appendix C

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Appendix D

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Appendix E

Appendix F

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