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Draft Minutes  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
VERNON, CONNECTICUT  
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2024  
7:30 P.M.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

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:** None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne updated the Town Council on various topics.

1. **ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION** - Mayor reminded everyone to rsvp to the invitations they received last meeting. Seating is based on rsvp responses to the invitations. As a reminder the event is June 12, 2024, Rockville High School Courtyard. Arrival is 6:00 PM and dignitaries enter as a group to the ceremony.
2. **GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC (GAR) RIBBON CUTTING** - This event is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM, on the 2nd floor of Town Hall in the Museum. The event honors the "Plumb Brothers" Exhibit that will be unveiled. All are welcome!
3. Mayor informed everyone to mark their calendars for "2024 July in the Sky Fireworks", July 9th beginning at 6:00 PM. The rain date is July 10th. Activities are planned for the Henry Park and Downtown Rockville. Come join the fun.
4. The VRABE Graduation (Vernon Regional Adult Based Education ) is on June 6, 2024 at the RHS Auditorium, 70 Loveland Hill Road, Vernon beginning at 6:00 PM. All are welcome.
5. Jennifer Johnston, Director of Rockville Public Library, invited everyone to join the Summer Reading Program Kick-Off in the Library on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

**F.) PUBLIC HEARING: (7:35 PM)**

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE **“NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT SUBMISSIONS FOR 2024”**.

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO CALL THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

TOWN CLERK READS THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

***NOTE: Action to be considered in “Section K - New Business #1”***

- 7:35 PM, Mayor Daniel A. Champagne calls the public hearing to order.
- Meriline Sarkar, Recording Secretary, read the legal notice into record.
- Mayor Champagne opened the floor to receive comments from the public.
- Sharon Redfern, Executive Director, from Cornerstone Foundation spoke on heating and cooling projects and answered questions. Action to be considered in “Section K - New Business #1.”
- No other comments received.
- 7:39 PM, Mayor Daniel A. Champagne adjourn the Public Hearing and returned to the meeting agenda.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne invited Mike Purcaro, Town Administrator, spoke on the composting program and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

**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 May 28, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE HUNDRED-FOUR (104) CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$37,366.86 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 28, 2024.

- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s appointment of Jason Hahn, (D), 14 Janet Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Building Code Board of Appeals, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires June 30, 2027. (Mr. Hahn’s resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTIONS 4 AND 6; C.G.S. §29-266, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE’S

APPOINTMENT OF JASON HAHN, (D), 14 JANET LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Danial A. Champagne's appointment of William Dowty, (R), 80 Wilson Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Building Code Board of Appeals, said term to begin on July 1, 2024 and expires June 30, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Dowty's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTIONS 4 AND 6; C.G.S. §29-266, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM DOWTY, (R), 80 WILSON LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Kenneth J. Boynton, (U) 100-25 Dobson Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Building Code Board of Appeals, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Boynton's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTIONS 4 AND 6; C.G.S. §29-266, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF KENNETH J. BOYNTON, (U), 100-25 DOBSON ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2027.

- I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS: None
- J.) PENDING BUSINESS: None
- K.) NEW BUSINESS

7:50 PM Council Members Motola, O'Connell, and Rogers left the table siting conflict.

1. Request the Town Council endorse the application for the Neighborhood Assistance Act 2024 by the Cornerstone. (See memorandum from Matt Hellman, Director of Social Services included in the Council packet dated May 18, 2024 relative to same. Mr. Hellman will be present to answer any questions.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ENDORSES THE APPLICATION FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT 2024 BY THE CORNERSTONE.

Council Member Bush, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to endorsed the application for the Neighborhood Assistance Act 2024 by the Cornerstone.

Sharon Redfern, Executive Director, and Mike Bahler, Programs and Operations Coordinator, from Cornerstone Foundation spoke to the Town Council and answered questions from the Council Members. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried unanimously.

Council Members Motola, O'Connell, and Rogers returned to the table.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the application for and receive Sustainable CT Community Matching Funds.** (See memorandum dated May 28, 2024 from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIPT OF SUSTAINABLE CT COMMUNITY MATCHING FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7000.00 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to authorized the application for and receipt of Sustainable CT Community matching funds in the amount of \$7000.00 for the purpose of supporting our community health initiative.

Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator, spoke to explain the Sustainable CT Community matching funds. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the consulting contract for the Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation Program Income Program.** (See memorandum from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator dated May 16, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE CONSULTING CONTRACT WITH A & E SERVICES GROUP TO PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON'S SMALL CITIES HOUSING REHABILITATION - PROGRAM INCOME GRANT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Abernathy, made a motion to approve the Consulting Contract with A & E Services Group to provide Administrative and Technical Services for the Town Of Vernon's Small Cities Housing Rehabilitation - Program Income Grant.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the Rockville Public Library Policy entitled “ Rockville Public Library Collection Development Policy”.** (See said policy dated May 22, 2024 attached.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE POLICY ENTITLED “ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICY”, AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the policy entitled “Rockville Public Library Collection Development Policy,” as presented. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke. Jennifer Johnston, Director of Rockville Public Library, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request the Town Council approve the Asset Disposals for the Rockville Public Library as presented on the fixed asset forms attached.** (See memorandum dated May 28, 2024 from John W. Kleinhans, Finance Officer & Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE **ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY** AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSET FORMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Rockville Public Library as disclosed on the request for Disposal of Fixed Asset Forms. No Discussion.

The motion carried unanimously.

6. **Request the Town Council approve the Asset Disposal for the Town of Vernon Information Technology Department as presented on the fixed asset forms attached.** (See memorandum dated May 28, 2024 from John W. Kleinhans, Finance Officer & Treasurer to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE **VERNON INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT** AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSET FORMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Maryann, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Information And Technology Department as disclosed on the request for Disposal of Fixed Asset Forms.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke. No discussion.

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 **MAY 7, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council meeting on **May 7, 2024**. The motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MAY 21, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council meeting on **May 21, 2024**. The motion carried unanimously.

- Q.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

- E.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

8:13 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session. The motion carried unanimously.

- Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator Michael Purcaro and Joseph Macary, Superintendent of Schools, 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, and Phyllis Winkler attended the Executive Session.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (B), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT RELATED TO **RODMAN V TOWN OF VERNON ET.AL. DOCKET NO. TTD-CV22-6024311-S**, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND JOSEPH MACARY, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS TO ATTEND.

8:35 PM Executive Session ended.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session. One abstention Mike Wendus.

**MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE SETTLEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$100,000, RELATIVE TO *RODMAN V TOWN OF VERNON ET AL.*, DOCKET NO. *TTD-CV22-6024311-S* AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried.

**R.) ADJOURNMENT (8:36 PM)**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Meriline Sarkar  
Recording Secretary

