

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
24 JUL -8 AM 9:30

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 – 7:30 PM

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 Bush, Bill Dauphin, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, John B. O’Connell, Terilynn Rogers, Jesse Schoolnik, Andrew Tedford, Jim Tedford, Michael Wendus and Phyllis Winkler

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael Purcaro and recording secretary Meriline Sarkar

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

None

D.) **CITIZEN’S FORUM**

David Howey, 55 Grove Street, as Tenant Commissioner, with Art Swanson, 29 Windermere Avenue, Apt 12, spoke concerning actions with and by the Vernon Housing Authority and Grove Street renovations.

E.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING #1 (7:35 PM)**

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE “THE 2022 SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RELATIVE TO THE KIDS SAFE RETAINING WALL.”

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Testa of A&E Services Group, gave a report of the grant project.

There were no further comments.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING #1 at 7:42 pm

PUBLIC HEARING #2 (Immediately following #1)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE “THE 2018 SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RELATIVE TO THE CRUMBLING FOUNDATION TESTING PROGRAM.”

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE The legal notice read for public hearing #1 was also for public hearing #2.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Testa of A&E Services Group, gave a report of the grant project.

Council Member Abernathy asked a question, which was answered by Mayor Champagne.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING #2 at 7:59 pm

As there were no further comments for Citizens Forum, it concluded at 8:00 pm.

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Presentation from Renee Lambert, President, Opportunity Works to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Town Council. Mayor Champagne postponed the presentation to a later date, as a representative from Opportunity Works was unable to attend.

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

- The Annual July in the Sky kick-off is at 6:00 PM on July 9th with a rain date of July 10th. Activities are scheduled for the usual Downtown Rockville area and Henry Park. Fireworks begin just after dark.
- Mayor's Concert Series will include three events: August 1st - The Kerry Boys; August 8th - Night Shift; and August 15th Mass-Conn Fusion. Thank you to our sponsor Santini Villa Apartments for their support. All concerts are held in Henry Park beginning at 6:30 PM each evening.
- National Night Out is scheduled annually on the first Tuesday of August - August 6th this year with a rain date of August 7th. The event supports the partnership between the community and Police Departments nationwide. Lots of activities are planned; the event runs from 5pm-8pm at the Ladd and Hall parking lot.
- Summer Days Carnival annual event is moving its location from Goffland to the student parking lot at Rockville High School. The event runs from July 24 to July 27. Wristbands, rides and summer time food are among the offerings. This event helps the "Send Kids to Camp" program.
- Town Council summer schedule begins in July and continues through the end of September, with one meeting on the third Tuesday of each month; this year on July 16th, August 20th and September 10th.
- The Town of Vernon has been awarded a \$2 million state grant to continue the Cleanup and Redevelopment of the Daniel's Mill, located at 98 East Main Street, coming from the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) Brownfield Remediation and Development Program.
- Mayor Champagne announced that an FOI complaint was lodged against the Town of Vernon by Michael Winkler regarding information on current projects. He explained the process of negotiations and Executive Sessions.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council member Winkler pulled #8. Motion to approve C#1 - C#7 carried unanimously.

- C 1.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Cynthia Ferguson, (R), 764 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cemetery Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Ms. Ferguson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19A-296; CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 10, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CYNTHIA FERGUSON, (R), 764 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Bill Campbell, (R), 214 Tracy Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Human Services Advisory Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Campbell's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3, 05-02-1989 TOWN RESOLUTION VOL. 24, PAGE 382 AS AMENDED /VOL. 37 PAGE 266 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 02-19-2002, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF BILL CAMPBELL, (R), 214 TRACY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 3.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Hanna Marcus, (D), 7 Garden Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Human Services Advisory Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Ms. Marcus' resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3, 05-02-1989 TOWN RESOLUTION VOL. 24, PAGE 382 AS AMENDED /VOL. 37 PAGE 266 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 02-19-2002, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF HANNA MARCUS, (D), 7 GARDEN DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 4.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Joe Miller, (R), 27 Tallwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Human Services Advisory Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Miller's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3, 05-02-1989 TOWN RESOLUTION VOL. 24, PAGE 382 AS AMENDED /VOL. 37 PAGE 266 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 02-19-2002, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF JOE MILLER, (R), 27 TALLWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of C. Ryan Goad, (U), 57 Glenstone Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Regulatory Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Goad's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF C. RYAN GOAD, (U), 57 GLENSTONE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Carole Guttman, (U), 6 Lantern Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said term to commence on July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Ms. Guttman's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 7, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF, CAROLE GUTTMAN, (U), 6 LANTERN LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE SAID TERM TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Chief Marc Petruzzi, 725 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as the Chairman of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on June 19, 2024 and continues indefinitely. (Chief Petruzzi is a Town of Vernon employee and as such no resume is included.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF MARC PETRUZZI, 725 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JUNE 19, 2024 AND CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of William Francis, (R), 41 Pinnacle Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence July 1, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2029. (A copy of Mr. Francis' resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2 & 6; THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM FRANCIS, (R), 41 PINNACLE ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 1, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2029.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve the reappointment of William Francis as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Council Member Winkler spoke. Discussion ensued. Maker of motion and seconder withdrew the motion. Mayor Champagne will bring this back at the next scheduled meeting.

- J.) PENDING BUSINESS
None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council approve a general wage increase (GWI) for all non-union employees at the Town of Vernon. (See memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council dated June 6, 2024 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 3.7, 3.19 AND 5.3 (b) (3), HEREBY AUTHORIZES THAT ALL NON-UNION FULL TIME, PERMANENT PART-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYEES BE GIVEN A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize all non-union full time, permanent part-time and part-time employees be given a general wage increase of 2% effective July 1, 2024. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Request the Town Council authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the formal agreement on behalf of the Town of Vernon with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department relative to DEMHS FFY2023 Homeland Security Grant Program. (See memorandum dated June 6, 2024 from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO THE FFY2023 STATE

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AND FURTHER AGREES TO BE THE CUSTODIAL OWNER OF REGIONAL ASSETS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to execute a memorandum of agreement with the State of Connecticut relative to the FFY2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program and further agrees to be the custodial owner of regional assets. Michael Purcaro spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. **Request the Town Council approves the bid waiver for the Horowitz Pool House structural steel upgrades with Windham Industries, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.00.** See memorandum from Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works dated June 11, 2024 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and John W. Kleinhans, Finance Officer and Treasurer relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII), SECTION NINE (9), OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF VERNON TO WAIVE THE SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTALLATION OF STEEL WORK FOR THE HOROWITZ POOL HOUSE NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000.00 WITH WINDHAM INDUSTRIES, INC.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to waive the sealed bid requirements with the installation of steel work for the Horowitz Pool house not to exceed \$25,000.00 with Windham Industries, Inc. Mayor spoke. Dwight Ryniewicz, Director of Public Works, answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. **Request the Town Council approve the job descriptions for Assistant Collector of Revenue, Accountant and Assistant Finance Officer.** (See memo and job descriptions attached.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, ACCOUNTANT, AND ASSISTANT FINANCE OFFICER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to adopt the job descriptions of Assistant Collector of Revenue, Accountant and Assistant Finance Officer. Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator and Human Resource Director, and John Kleinhans, Finance Officer, spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. **Request the Town Council approve the job descriptions of Senior Network Engineer and Senior Help Desk Coordinator.** (See memo and job descriptions attached.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF SENIOR NETWORK ENGINEER AND SENIOR HELP DESK COORDINATOR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to adopt the job descriptions of Senior Network Engineer and Senior Help Desk Coordinator. Mayor Champagne spoke, along with Andrey Seleznev, Director of Information Technology. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Tammy Castonguay as Assistant Collector of Revenue for the Town of Vernon.**
(See the memorandum dated June 10, 2024 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1 AND 4 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF TAMMY CASTONGUAY AS ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF REVENUE FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve Tammy Castonguay as Assistant Collector of Revenue. Tammy Castonguay spoke. Motion carried unanimously.

- L.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
None
- M.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES 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 **JUNE 4, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the June 4, 2024 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

- Q.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION**
None

- R.) **Adjourn (8:48 PM)**

Council Member Levesque, seconded by Council Member Motola, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:
Approved:


Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary