

Draft Minutes
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
VERNON, CONNECTICUT
TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2024
7:30 P.M.

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
24 APR 23 PM 3:44

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, Maryann Levesque, Brian R. Motola, John B. O’Connell, Terilynn Rogers, Jesse Schoolnik, Andrew J. Tedford, Jim Tedford, Phyllis Winkler
- Absent: Bill Dauphin and Michael D. Wendus
- 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

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING:** None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

1. On the agenda this evening there are three items being pulled. **Consent #3, #7 and #8.**
2. **Annual Town Meeting** – April 23rd 7:00 PM at Rockville High School, Loveland Hill Road, in the auditorium.

The Annual Town Meeting will be immediately followed by a **Special Town Council Meeting** to set the mil rate and set the payments for Motor Vehicle Taxes.

3. **Opening Day Vernon/Rockville Little League** - April 20th kicks off with the Parade of Athletes at 10:30 AM and the opening ceremony to follow at 11 AM Legion Field.
4. **Opening Day Miracle League Field** - April 27th at 11:30 AM Northeast School Baseball Field.
5. **Opening Day Vernon Lacrosse** - May 4th
At 9:00 AM at Legion Field.
6. Reminder: **Mother’s Day Dash** - May 12th race begins at 9:00 AM Henry Park

7. Reminder: **Memorial Day Parade**, May 27th. Ceremony at Lugg Field at 10:00 AM and parade comes around the corner at Amerbelle at approximately 11:00 AM. Join in Honoring The Fallen.

While you are waiting for the parade there will be **Entertainment By The Shriners Motor Patrol** in downtown beginning at 9:30 AM.

And

The **G.A.R. Museum**, located on the second floor of Town Hall will be open from 9:00 AM to noon. All are welcome to visit.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda and pulled Consent #3, #7 and #8. 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 April 4, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR TOTALING \$315.84 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 4, 2024.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve the Budget Amendment Requests #34 and #35 for FY23 as provide on the budget amendment forms provided by John W. Kleinhans, Finance Officer. (See budget amendment forms attached and memorandum from John Kleinhans, Finance Officer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael Purcaro dated April 8, 2024 for Council review)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENTS #34 AND #35 FOR FY23 AS PROVIDED ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED BY JOHN W. KLEINHANS, FINANCE OFFICER.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Robin Castro, (R), 150 Vernon Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2024 and expires on April 19, 2026. (A copy of Ms. Castro's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBIN CASTRO, (R), 150 VERNON AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2026.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Bree Maxwell, (U), 201 Regan Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2024 and expires on April 19, 2026. (A copy of Ms. Maxwell's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF BREE MAXWELL, (U), 201 REGAN ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2026.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Ken Kaplan, Jr., (U), 7 Orchard Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2024 and expires on April 19, 2026. (A copy of Mr. Kaplan's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KEN KAPLAN, JR., (U), 7 ORCHARD STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2026.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Liz Bologna, (D), 12 Mountain Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2024 and expires on April 19, 2026. (A copy of Ms. Bologna's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF LIZ BOLOGNA, (D), 12 MOUNTAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2026.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of James Sendrak, (U), 34 Snipsic Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2024 and expires on April 19, 2026. (A copy of Mr. Sendrak's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES SENDRAK, (U), 34 SNIPSIC STREET,

VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2026.

- C 8.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Tammy Lynn Eldredge, (R), 64 Orchard Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2024 and expires on April 19, 2026. (A copy of Ms. Eldredge's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TAMMY LYNN ELDREDGE, (R), 64 ORCHARD STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2026.

- C 9.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Leslie S. Campolongo, (U), 9 Talcott Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cultural District Advisory Board, said term to commence on April 20, 2024 and expires on April 19, 2026. (A copy of Ms. Campolongo's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED FEBRUARY 15, 2022 ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL DISTRICT AND CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF LESLIE S. CAMPOLONGO, (U), 9 TALCOTT AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CULTURAL DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 20, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 19, 2026.

- C 10.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Carmine P. Pellegrino, (U), 15 Lakeview Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence April 22, 2024 and expires April 21, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Pellegrino's resume is included for Council review. An updated resume has been requested from Mr. Pellegrino.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 242 THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CARMINE P. PELLEGRINO, (U), 15 LAKEVIEW DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 22, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 21, 2027.

I.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS:** None

J.) **PENDING BUSINESS:** None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council approve the application for and the receipt of an additional \$15,000.00 from the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood as administered by the Connecticut Children's Collective. (See the memorandum dated March 25, 2024 from Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director to Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING OF \$15,000.00 FROM THE CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD AS ADMINISTERED BY THE CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S COLLECTIVE, FURTHER THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize the Youth Services Department to apply for and receive the additional funding of \$15,000.00 from the Connecticut Office Of Early Childhood As Administered by the Connecticut Children's Collective, further the Town Council authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or His Designee to sign any and all documents for same.

Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director, spoke to the Town Council and answered questions from the Council Members. Discussion ensued.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council gratefully accept the generous donation Of \$500.00 offered by American Eagle Financial Credit Union in support of the "Send-A-Kid" to Camp Summer Program and July in the Sky. (See letter dated March 28, 2024 from Colleen Boccaccio, Marketing and Events Specialist to Matt Hellman, Social Services Director relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS THE GENEROUS DONATION OF \$500.00 OFFERED BY AMERICAN EAGLE FINANCIAL CREDIT UNION.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Abernathy, made a motion to gratefully accepts the generous donation of \$500.00 offered by American Eagle Financial Credit Union.

Daniel Hernandez, Branch Manager, spoke and thanked the Council Members for accepting the donation.

The motion carried unanimously.

3. Request the Town Council approve the Asset Disposals for the Vernon Public Schools. (See memorandum dated April 9, 2024 from John W. Kleinhans to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSET FORMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools as disclosed on the request for disposal of Fixed Asset Forms. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke.

The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing relative to the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act, said public hearing to be scheduled for June 4, 2024 at 7:35 PM in the Town Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut.** (See memorandum from Matt Hellman, Social Services Director to Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 13, 2024 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2024 NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT SUBMISSIONS, SAID PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 4, 2024 AT 7:35 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing to hear comment and answer questions relative to the 2024 Neighborhood Assistance Act Submissions, said Public Hearing will be held on June 4, 2024 AT 7:35 PM in the Town Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. Matt Hellman, Social Services Director, spoke. Discussion ensued.

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 **APRIL 2, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Jim Tedford, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council meeting on **APRIL 2, 2024**. The motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 11, 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 Special Budget Town Council meeting on **March 11, 2024**, with two corrections. The motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 14, 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 Special Budget Town Council meeting on **March 14, 2024**. The motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 18, 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 Special Budget Town Council meeting on **March 18, 2024**. The motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 21, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 23, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 25, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **APRIL 1, 2024** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to waive the reading and approve the minutes of the Special Budget Town Council meeting on **March 21, 2024, March 23, 2024, March 25, 2024, and April 1, 2024**. The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Town Clerk Monthly Report – January, 2024 as submitted by Karen Daigle, Vernon Town Clerk.

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:44 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. The motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

7:56 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Rogers, made the following motion to Executive Session #1.

MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE CONTRACT WITH BOY SCOUT TROOP 20/20 AND THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR THE NIP BOTTLE CAMPAIGN AS PRESENTED.

The motion carried unanimously.

R.) ADJOURNMENT (7:56 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made motion to adjourn at 7:56 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Meriline Sarkar
Recording Secretary