

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024 – 7:30 PM

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24 JUL 23 PM 3:56

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 Karen Daigle

C.) CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS

None

D.) CITIZEN’S FORUM

Teresa Labelle, owner of 20 Middle Terrace and 8 South Terrace, spoke with concerns about the Senior Center, out of town members and program availability.

Bernard (Bernie) Sykes, 45 Donnel Road, thanked the Mayor and Town Council for their service to the residents and tax consideration to disabled veterans, along with working together for one common goal.

Citizen’s Forum concluded at 7:34 PM

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

F.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Renee Lambert, Executive Director of Opportunity Works, along with Hercules and Chris, thanked and commended Mayor Dan, Town Administrator Mike and the Town Council for their unwavering support of Opportunity Works. A token of appreciation made by Hercules and Dan was presented to Mayor Champagne.

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

- The Annual July in the Sky was July 9th and one again, the fireworks were better than ever. Thank you to all who donate and work to make this event one to remember.
- 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 Golfland 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.
- Council Member Winkler requested an update of the Fox Hill Tower project. Mayor Champagne explained that the project was moving forward but was in the contract phase, so no public discussion can occur.
- The Horowitz Pool project is in its final phase with the pool almost done, the 1950's building's roof is complete, with Town employees working tirelessly in the heat to complete the inside, having to overcome broken pipes and antiquated engineering. The Town is hoping to open the pool by the end of July/beginning of August.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council member Winkler pulled #3 and #5. Motion to approve C#1, #2, #4 and #6 carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Joseph Greco, (U), 66 Vernwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Building Code Board of Appeals, said term to commence on July 17, 2024 and expires June 30, 2029.** (A copy of Mr. Greco'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 JOSEPH GRECO (U), 66 VERNWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BUILDING CODE BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 17, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2029.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Joseph Miller, (R), 27 Tallwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said term to commence on July 17, 2024 and expires June 30, 2027.** (A copy of Mr. Miller'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 APPOINTMENT OF, JOSEPH MILLER, (R), 27 TALLWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE SAID TERM TO BEGIN JULY 17, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Vincent Bologna, (D), 227 Tracy Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as regular members of the Vernon Arts Commission, said term to commence on August 1, 2024 and expires June 30, 2027.** (A copy of Mr. Bologna's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 09-21-76 AMENDED ON 09-21-1982 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF VINCENT BOLOGNA, (D), 227 TRACY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON ARTS COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 1, 2024 AND ENDS JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Dean Kandilakis, (U), 695 Talcottville Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Board of Assessment Appeals, said term to commence on July 17, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Kandilakis' resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. § 7-105 AND CHARTER CHAPTER IX, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF DEAN KANDILAKIS, (U), 695 TALCOTTVILLE ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 17, 2024 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Cara Clay, (R), 631 Talcottville Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Fair Rent Commission, said term to commence July 17, 2024 and expires June 30, 2027. (A copy of Ms. Clay's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 321, "ESTABLISHMENT OF A FAIR RENT COMMISSION", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CARA CLAY, (R), 631 TALCOTTVILLE ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 17, 2024 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2027.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the reappointment of Cara Clay (R), 631 Talcottville Road as a regular member of the Fair Rent Commission, said term to commence on July 17, 2024 and expire June 30, 2027. Discussion ensued. Executive Assistant, Diane Wheelock, spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of William Francis, (R), 11 Lantern Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence on July 17, 2024 and expires 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), 11 LANTERN LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 17, 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 (R), 11 Lantern Lane, as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to begin on July 17, 2024 and expire on June 30, 2029. No discussion. Motion carried with 10 in favor, one against, Council Member Winkler, and one abstention, Council Member Dauphin.

J.) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None

K.) **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. **Request the Town Council approve the application of and receipt of the JAG Local Violent Crime Prevention Grant Program.** (See memorandum dated July 10, 2024 from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator and Marc Petruzzi, Chief of Police to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE THE **JAG LOCAL VIOLENT CRIME PREVENTION GRAND PROGRAM FUNDS** IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,600 TO INSTALL SPEED/TRAFFIC MONITORING DEVICES.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion authorizing Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute any and all documents to make application for and receive the JAG Local Violent Crime Prevention Grant (maker and seconder corrected from Grand) Program funds in the amount of \$5,600 to install speed/traffic monitoring devices. Mayor Champagne, and Police Chief, Marc Patruzzi, spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. **Request the Town Council approve the application for and receipt of the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant.** (See memorandum dated July 10, 2024 from Nichole Greco, Projects and Grants Coordinator and Marc Petruzzi, Chief of Police to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE **FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION FUNDS** IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,948 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF PORTABLE SPEED AND TRAFFIC MONITORING DEVICES AND TRANSPORTABLE DIGITAL MESSAGE SIGN BOARDS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion authorizing Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to execute any and all documents to make application for and receive the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Funds in the amount of \$24,948 for the purchase and installation of portable speed and traffic monitoring devices and

transportable digital message sign boards. Police Chief, Marc Patruzzi, spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Proposed Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTORS-STORING OF SOLID WASTE; VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY; APPEALS" REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTIONS 6 AND 12 OF ORDINANCE #296"**. (See Ordinance attached for Council review. A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance is passed by Town Council vote.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SEC. 6, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES," HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING, "**AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTORS-STORING OF SOLID WASTE; VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY; APPEALS." REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTIONS 6 AND 12 OF ORDINANCE #296"**, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CGS §7-157(b) FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE TOWN CLERK TO PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2024 LOCATED AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to schedule a public hearing regarding "**AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GARBAGE AND REFUSE COLLECTORS-STORING OF SOLID WASTE; VIOLATIONS AND PENALTY; APPEALS." REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTIONS 6 AND 12 OF ORDINANCE #296"**, and in accordance with CGS §7-157(b) further authorizes the Town Clerk to publish a summary of the proposed action, said public hearing to take place at 7:35 pm on Tuesday, August 20, 2024 located at the Town Council Chambers, third floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed ordinance. Mayor Champagne, Town Attorney Lou Spadaccini and Director of Development Services and Economic Development Shaun Gately, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Council Member O'Connell made a friendly motion to move the question. Motion carried with 11 in favor and one abstention, Council Member Winkler.

2. **Proposed Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL PENALTY" REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE #194."** (See Ordinance attached for Council review. A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance is passed by Town Council vote.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SEC. 6, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES," HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING, "**AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL PENALTY" REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE #194."** AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CGS §7-157(b) FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE TOWN CLERK TO PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 20, 2024 AT 7:45 PM AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK

PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus, made a motion to schedule a public hearing regarding **“AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “GENERAL PENALTY” REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE #194”** and in accordance with CGS §7-157(b) further authorizes the Town Clerk to publish a summary of the proposed action, said public hearing to take place on August 20, 2024 at 7:45 pm at the Town Council Chambers, third floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed ordinance. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. **Proposed Ordinance entitled “LINE OF DUTY DEATH DETERMINATIONS.”** (See Ordinance attached for Council review. A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance is passed by Town Council vote.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SEC. 6, ENTITLED “PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES,” HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING **“AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, “LINE OF DUTY DEATH DETERMINATIONS”**, AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH CGS §7-157(b) FURTHER AUTHORIZES THE TOWN CLERK TO PUBLISH A SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION, SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE ON AUGUST 20, 2024 AT 7:55 PM AT THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule a public hearing regarding **“AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, “LINE OF DUTY DEATH DETERMINATIONS”**, and in accordance with CGS §7-157(b) further authorizes the Town Clerk to publish a summary of the proposed action, said public hearing to take place on August 20, 2024 at 7:55 pm at the Town Council Chambers, third floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed ordinance. Mayor Champagne spoke but there was no further discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

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 18, 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 18, 2024 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

R.) Adjourn (8:11 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary