

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
24 AUG 26 PM 4:14

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR**  
**TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 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, Andrew Tedford, Jim Tedford, Michael Wendus and Phyllis Winkler

**Absent:** Jesse Schoolnik

**Entered During Meeting:**

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Michael Purcaro and recording secretary Karen Daigle

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

None

D.) **CITIZEN’S FORUM**

David Coulombe, 55 Grove Street, Apt 18, spoke about concerns with the Vernon Housing Authority and Grove Street renovations.

Eric McVeigh, 152 Warren Avenue, expressed his sincere appreciation with Mayor Champagne, town employees and Michael Purcaro for their concern and actions with regard to the house on Warren Avenue. He presented Mr. Purcaro with a plaque for his service to the Town of Vernon and his commitment to the Warren Ave neighborhood.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO “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”.**

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER AT 7:37 PM

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING #1 at 7:40 pm

**Note:** Action to be considered in **“Section M: Action on Ordinance(s) Previously Presented.”**

**PUBLIC HEARING #2 (7:45 PM)**

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL PENALTY" REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE #194."**

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER AT 7:41 PM

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE The legal notice read for public hearing #1 was also for public hearing #2 and #3.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING #2 at 7:42 pm

**Note:** Action to be considered in "**Section M: Action on Ordinance(s) Previously Presented.**"

**PUBLIC HEARING #3 (7:55 PM)**

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "LINE OF DUTY DEATH DETERMINATIONS".**

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER AT 7:42 PM

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE The legal notice read for public hearing #1 was also for public hearing #2 and #3.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED PUBLIC HEARING #3 at 7:43 pm

**Note:** Action to be considered in "**Section M: Action on Ordinance(s) Previously Presented.**"

**D.) CITIZEN'S FORUM (continued)**

Patrick Sullivan, 22 White Street, expressed his concerns for trash on Earl and White Streets and getting resolutions. Mayor commented on situation.

**G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- Beverly Gakeler, a resident of Vernon since she was fifteen, celebrated her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday recently, surrounded by friends and family wishing her well.
- Horowitz Pool update: Unfortunately, problems with an old pool house caused delays in repairing - broken water pipe, rotted steel columns, new pump struck by lightning. We're hoping to open the pool for a couple of days next week.

- Students return to school on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Please be cautious, watching for pedestrians and bicyclists in and around schools.
- The next Town Council meeting is September 17<sup>th</sup>, the last of the summer meeting schedule. There will be two October meetings, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- A special thank you goes out to Michael Purcaro for his dedication to the Town of Vernon for the last 20 years. No words can express his caring and contribution to the Town. He will be missed, continuing as the Town's Emergency Management Director for the time being.
- Adding two (2) agenda items this meeting.

7:55 PM Council Member Rogers left the meeting.

#### H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1.** Request the Town Council approve the tax refunds for prior and current year taxes as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue. (See memorandum dated July 31, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

#### **PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES EIGHT (8) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$3773.16 AND THIRTY-EIGHT (38) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALLING \$4613.46 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JULY 31, 2024.

- C 2.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of George Roraback, Jr., (R), 110 Montauk Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said appointment to commence on August 21, 2024 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Mr. Roraback'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 GEORGE RORABACK, JR., (R), 110 MONTAUK DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE SAID TERM TO BEGIN AUGUST 21, 2024 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 3.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Officer Cara Momnie, School Resource Officer for Rockville High School as a regular member of the Youth Services Advisory Board. Said term to commence on August 26, 2024 and continues with her appointment as School Resource Officer for Rockville High School. (See letter dated July 31, 2024 from Chief Marc F. Petruzzi to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECT. 3; TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 08-24-1976 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 03-01-1994, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF OFFICER CARA MOMNIE, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER FOR ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE YOUTH SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON AUGUST 26, 2024 AND CONTINUES WITH HER APPOINTMENT AS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.

**I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

None

**J.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**K.) NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. **Request the Town Council review and consider the Vernon Historical Society request to waive the building permit fee relative to the Society's window replacement project at 734 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut.** (See memorandum from Shaun Gately, Director of Development Services dated August 7, 2024 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same. Also see memorandum dated July 30, 2024 from Robert Hurd to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Town Council relative to the Historical Society's request.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY GRANTS THE BUILDING PERMIT FEE WAIVER IN EXCESS OF \$162.00, REQUESTED BY THE VERNON HISTORICAL SOCIETY RELATIVE TO THE WINDOW REPLACEMENT PROJECT AT 734 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve the building fee waiver in excess of \$162.00 requested by the Vernon Historical Society relative to the window replacement project at 734 Hartford Turnpike. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. **Request for the Town Council approve job descriptions for Senior Engineering Technician and Property Maintenance Inspector.** (See memorandum from Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator included in Council's packet.)

**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 ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN AND PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTOR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adopt the job descriptions of Senior Engineering Technician and Property Maintenance Inspector. Mayor Champagne spoke and announced there were two corrections to the Senior Engineering Technician: Under Essential Job Functions, remove the second "approved", line to read:

Performs administrative duties in maintaining project records, and conducts site inspections for compliance to approved Planning and Zoning and Wetlands projects." Under Other Job Functions, word should be "stake" not "state", line to read: May stake sites for construction work by Town maintenance forces and/or contracted construction projects." Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. **Request for the Town Council to approve job descriptions for Administrative Assistant; and WPCA and DPW Mechanic, Non-CDL.** (See memorandum from Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator included for Council review.)

**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 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, WPCA AND DPW MECHANIC, NON-CDL.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to adopt the job descriptions of Administrative Assistant, WPCA and DPW Mechanic, Non-CDL. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

8:01 PM Council Member Wendus left the table, returned at 8:02 PM

- 4. **Request the Town Council approve changes to Town Hall hours.** (See memorandum dated August 14, 2024 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE NEW TOWN HALL HOURS AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve new Town Hall hours. Mayor Champagne explained the new hours would take effect after the November election. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. **Update on the 90 day postage agreement.**

**NO MOTION REQUIRED**

Executive Assistant, Diane Wheelock, updated the Council on the use of the courier service vs the leased postage meter. Savings have been realized in a short time. Mayor Champagne spoke. No action taken.

- L.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**  
None

- M.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

- 1. **ACTION ON: 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".** (A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTION 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "Ordinance No. , 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."

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the ordinance entitled "Garbage and Refuse Collectors – Storing of Solid Waste; Violations and Penalty; Appeals" repealing and replacing sections 6 and 12 of Ordinance #296. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. **ACTION ON: Proposed ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "GENERAL PENALTY" REPEALING AND REPLACING SECTION 4 OF ORDINANCE #194."** (A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTION 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance entitled "General Penalty", Repealing and Replacing Section 4 of Ordinance #194."

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve the ordinance entitled "General Penalty" repealing and replacing Section 4 of Ordinance #194. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. **ACTION ON: Proposed ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "LINE OF DUTY DEATH DETERMINATIONS."** (A new number will be assigned once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTION 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance entitled "Line of Duty Death Determinations."

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to approve the ordinance entitled "Line of Duty Death Determinations". No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

**N.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to add (two) 2 additional agenda items, New Business #6 and New Business #7. Motion carried unanimously.

**O.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

6. Request the Town Council approve the tax refund for current fiscal year 2023 Grand List. (See memorandum dated August 19, 2024 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUND FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$610.09 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED AUGUST 19, 2024 FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR RELATIVE TO SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve one (1) tax refund for the current fiscal year in the amount of \$610.09. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Request the Town Council approve the bid waiver requested by the Department of Public Works for the purchase of a Dodge Durango GT from Bolles Motors for the Chief of Police. (See memorandum from Eric Jensen, Vehicle and Equipment Supervisor to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and John Kleinhans, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated August 8, 2024 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 PURCHASE OF ONE NEW DODGE DURANGO GT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$42,693.50 FROM BOLLES MOTORS OF ELLINGTON.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, proposed a resolution to waive the sealed bid requirements for the purchase of one new Dodge Durango GT in the amount not to exceed \$42,693.50 from Bolles Motors of Ellington. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

**P.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF *JULY 16, 2024* AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the July 16, 2024 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**G.) EXECUTIVE SESSION (Taken Out of Order)**

8:11 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (C) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE

SESSION TO DISCUSS SECURITY AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO TO ATTEND.

Executive Session ended at 8:34 PM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to Executive Session:

**MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIPT OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT CYBERSECURITY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$18,522 WITH AN IN-KIND MATCH OF 10%.

Motion carried unanimously.

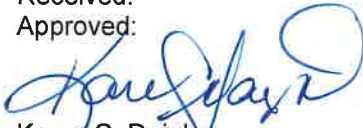
**Q.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION**  
None

**R.) Adjourn (8:35 PM)**

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

Received:

Approved:



Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary