

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

**Tuesday, January 20, 2009 7:30 P.M.**

A.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Mark Etre, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Brian Motola, Sean O'Shea, Pauline Schaefer, Harry Thomas, Michael Winkler

Absent: Daniel Champagne, Nancy Herold

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Interim Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Representative Claire Janowski and Thomasina Clemens spoke about the reenactment of the first town meeting as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration where the resolution establishing the Town of Vernon was read. They recognized the Town Clerk's office for their help in the research and without their help they would not have been able to replicate the original document. They presented a plaque, which was a replica of the resolution to James Krupienski and Bernice Dixon.

Peter Olson, Vernon Housing Authority introduced Jeffrey Arns as the new Executive Chairman of the Housing Authority.

Melanie Smith, 165 South Street, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner spoke about her opportunity to meet with the school board about her concerns with students.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:46 PM

B.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

C.) **PRESENTATION**

1. Mayor's Proclamation to Craig Segar for his volunteerism on behalf of the Vernon Town Council and the Town of Vernon bringing the televised Town Council meetings to our citizens.

Mayor McCoy presented a proclamation to Craig Segar for his dedication to the Town of Vernon. Mr. Segar volunteered his time by running the equipment, which televised the Vernon Town Council meetings on the Community Voice Channel for over 10.5 years.

2. Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting presented to the Town of Vernon and the entire Finance Department lead by James Luddecke, Finance Officer.

Mayor McCoy presented the Certificate of Excellence in Finance Reporting given by the Government Finance Officer Association. This is the highest form of achievement in

Government Accounting for providing an award winning Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Luddecke recognized his staff for helping win this award for the 13<sup>th</sup> time.

**TOWN COUNCIL TO RECESS FIFTEEN MINUTES FOR REFRESHMENT AND CELEBRATION.**

**(8:00 PM) Recess**

**(8:20 PM) Reconvene meeting**

- 3. Informational presentation by the Walter Mealy, Planning and Zoning Commission representative along with Len Tundermann, Town Planner regarding the update of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Mr. Mealy and Mr. Tundermann presented a Power Point presentation regarding the Plan of Conservation and Development for the Town of Vernon. This plan must be completed every year pursuant to CGS section 8-23. Next steps include hiring a Land Use Consultant and publishing the plan on the Town of Vernon website. Discussion took place.

**D.) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Council Member Motola pulled item numbers 3 and 9. Council Member Schaefer pulled item numbers 6, 8 and 14. Council Member Winkler pulled item #7. Motion carried to approve item numbers 1, 2, 5 and 8 as presented.

- C 1. Request for Tax Funds Prior Years and Current Year.** (A copy of the memorandum from Carol S. Nelson, Collector of Revenue to John D. Ward, Interim Town Administrator dated January 12, 2009 is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ELEVEN (11) TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$3539.53 FOR THE PRIOR YEARS, AND TWELVE (12) TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$4552.76 IN TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED JANUARY 12, 2009 TO THE JOHN D. WARD, INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to approve the request for tax funds prior years and current year. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 2. Request that the Town Council approve the appointment of Christopher A. Haddock (D), 38 Merline Road, Vernon, Connecticut to the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board as a regular member. Mr. Haddock's term to commence on 01-21-09 and expire on 12-31-2011.** (Copy of Mr. Haddock's resume is included in the Council packet)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 226, SECTION ONE MEMBERSHIP, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER A. HADDOCK (D), 38 MERLINE ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF MUNICIPAL FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON 01-21-09 AND EXPIRING ON 12-31-2011.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to approve the appointment of Christopher A. Haddock to the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board as a regular member for a term of 01/21/09 through 12/31/2011. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 3. Request that the Town Council Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Jeff Pescosolido, (D), 9 Brent Drive, Vernon, Connecticut to the Inland Wetland Commission to a term commencing on 01-01-09 and expiring on 12-31-2011.** (A copy of Mr. Pescosolido's resume is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF JEFF PESCOSOLIDO, ~~(D)~~ (U), 9 BRENT DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO THE INLAND WETLAND COMMISSION TO A THE TERM COMMENCING ON 01-01-09 AND EXPIRING ON 12-31-2011.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Jeff Pescosolido to the Inland Wetland Commission for a term of 01/01/09 through 12/31/2011. Discussion took place regarding the start date of the term. It was determined that the next meeting of the Inland Wetlands Commission will take place on January 27, 2009. Council Member Motola made a friendly amendment to change Mr. Pescosolido's status to "unaffiliated" and change the wording in the motion to "the term". Motion carried unanimously with amendments.

- C 4. Request that the Town Council Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Mark J. Kalina (R), 33 Snipsic Street, Vernon, Connecticut as an Alternate member of the Inland Wetland Commission to a term commencing on 01-01-2009 and expiring 12-31-2011.** (A copy of Mr. Kalina's resume is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARK J. KALINA (R), 33 SNIPSIC STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS COMMISSION TO THE TERM COMMENCING ON 01-01-2009 AND EXPIRING ON 12-31-2011.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Fox made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Mark J. Kalina as an alternate member of the Inland Wetland Commission for a term of 01/01/2009 through 12/31/2011. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 5. Request that the Town Council Approve the Mayor's appointment of David Clough, (R), 221 Skinner Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Said term commencing on 02-21-2009 and expiring on 06-30-2013.** (A copy of Mr. Clough's resume is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID CLOUGH, (R), 221 SKINNER ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF

APPEALS . SAID TERM COMMENCING ON 02-21-2009 AND EXPIRING ON 06-30-2013.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of David Clough as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term of 02/21/09 through 06/30/2013. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 6. Request that the Town Council Approve the Mayor's reappointment of Carl H. Slusarczyk (R), 72 Frederic Road, Vernon, Connecticut, as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals said term to commence on 07-01-2008 and expire on 06-30-2013.** (A copy of Mr. Slusarczyk's resume is included in the Council packet).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CARL H. SLUSARCZYK (R), 72 FREDERIC ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON 07-01-2008 AND EXPIRES ON 06-30-2013.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Carl H. Slusarczyk as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for said term to commence on 07/01/08 through 06/30/2013. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 7. Request that the Town Council approve the appointment of Keith R. Lauzon (U), 49 Brookview Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, to Alternate Member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term commencing on 01-21-09 and expiring on 12-31-2010.** (A copy of Mr. Lauzon's resume is included in the Town Council packet for review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1 & 6, AND CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SEC. 8-4a & b, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KEITH R. LAUZON (U), 49 BROOKVIEW DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, TO ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON 01-21-09 AND EXPIRING ON 12-31-2010.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to approve the appointment of Keith R. Lauzon as an Alternate Member of the planning and Zoning Commission for a term of 02/21/09 though 12/31/2010. Discussion took place.

**(9:01 PM) Recess**

**(9:03 PM) Reconvene Meeting**

Motion carried, Council Member Fox, Schaefer, Herbst and Winkler abstained.

**C 8. Request that the Town Council Authorize the Mayor to sign the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant No. 06-6002112 in the amount of \$200.00.**

(A copy of the grant is attached for your review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZE MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO SIGN THE GRANT FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT NO. 06-6002112 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant 06-6002112 in the amount of \$200.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**C 9. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to execute, grant agreement No. B-08-SP-CT-0722, with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$196,000.00 for exterior and interior upgrades to the historic Amerbelle Mill facility.**

(A copy of a memorandum dated 01-11-09 from John D. Ward, Interim Town Administrator, to the Vernon Town Council and Mayor Jason L. McCoy is included in the Council packet).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY, TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) AND THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR EDI-SPECIAL PROJECT GRANT NO. B-08-SP-CT-0722 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$196,000.00 FOR EXTERIOR AND INTERIOR UPGRADES TO THE HISTORIC AMERBELLE MILL FACILITY.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute grant agreement #B-08-SP-CT-0722 with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$196,000.00 for exterior and interior upgrades to the historic Amerbelle Mill facility. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

**E.) IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**F.) PENDING BUSINESS**

**This item was moved to just before the Executive Session regarding the Town Administrator’s contract. (see section “L”)**

**1. Mayor Jason L. McCoy to present the selected candidate for the position of Town Administrator.** (Contract discussion to take place during the Executive Session listed later in the agenda.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR TOWN ADMINISTRATOR PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3, AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 3, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER.

G.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council endorse the Vernon Arts Commissions selection of the architectural firm of Quisenberry Arcari Architects, LLC., for the creation of the "Community Arts Center" at the former Kindergarten Building, located at 709 Hartford Turnpike.** (A copy of a memorandum dated 01-11-09 from John D. Ward, Interim Town Administrator, to Mayor Jason L. McCoy and the Vernon Town Council is included in the Council packet for review. Bob Hurd and other committee members along with Thomas Arcari, Partner in Quisenberry Arcari Architects LLC., will make a presentation.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO ENDORSE THE SELECTION OF THE FIRM OF QUISENBERRY ARCARI ARCHITECTS, LLC, AS THE DESIGN CONTRACTOR FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE KINDERGARTEN BUILDING INTO THE VERNON COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$97,500.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion for the Town Council to endorse selection of Quisenberry Arcari Architects, LLC as the architectural firm for the creation of the "Community Arts Center" at the former Kindergarten Building. Mr. Hurd presented information regarding the selection process. Mr. Hurd and Mr. Arcari were available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Discussion of the MUNI-CODE and our Ordinance postings on the internet as requested by Town Council Member Mark Etre.**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

CONSISTENT WITH CHARTER CHAPTER V, ENTITLED TOWN COUNCIL, SECTION 6, ORDINANCES MUST BE PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER APPROVAL. THE TOWN COUNCIL ALSO REQUIRES ANY APPROVED ORDINANCE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH MUNICODE SERVICE (OR TOWN CLERK APPROVED EQUAL) WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE APPROVED ORDINANCE.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to approve posting of ordinances in the MUNI-CODE within ten days of the approved ordinance. Discussion took place. Council Member Etre also asked the Town Clerk's office to advertise the ordinances in the Reminder whenever the time factor allows. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **A Fiscal Update on 2008-2009 Budget, per request of Town Council Member Marie Herbst.**

Mr. Luddecke provided information to Town Council Members regarding the fiscal status of the 2008-2009 budget. Council Member Herbst asked Mr. Luddecke to provide a fiscal status each month at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Discussion took place regarding format. Mayor McCoy spoke about the potential for state budget issues.

H.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**  
None

I.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**  
None

J.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**  
None

K.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 16, 2008 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2008 Town Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**(9:50 PM) RECESS**

**(10:00 PM) RECONVENE**

F.) **PENDING BUSINESS**

1. **Mayor Jason L. McCoy to present the selected candidate for the position of Town Administrator.** (Contract discussion to take place during the Executive Session listed later in the agenda.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVE THE MAYOR'S RECOMMENDATION FOR TOWN ADMINISTRATOR PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3, AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 3, OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to approve the Mayor's recommendation of John Ward for the position of Town Administrator.

**(10:03 PM) RECESS**

**(10:05 PM) RECONVENE**

Discussion took place. Council Member Motola made a motion for a friendly amendment to approve the Mayor's recommendation of John Ward for the position of Town Administrator subject to terms of employment contract to be discussed at executive session. Motion carried with amendment, Council Members Herbst and Schaefer opposed and Council Member Winkler abstained.

L.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the contract negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SEC. 1-200(6)(D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS: CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE TO ATTEND HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR, DAN SULLIVAN; AND LABOR COUNSEL, ATTORNEY BUD O'DONNELL.**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to accept the contract negotiations discussed during Executive Session subject to the changes made in section 9A. Motion carried, Council Members Schaefer and Herbst abstained.

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation concerning debris in the Hockanum River in the area of 98 East Main Street. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Hebst seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to go back into Regular Session. Motion carried unanimously.

1. **THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SEC. 1-200 (6)(D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS: PENDING LITIGATION CONCERNING DEBRIS IN THE HOCKANUM RIVER IN THE AREA OF - 98 E. MAIN STREET, ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT AND INVITES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO ATTEND, HAROLD CUMMINGS, TOWN ATTORNEY; JOHN D. WARD, INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; PETER HOBBS, BUILDING OFFICIAL; CRAIG PERRY, INLAND WETLANDS OFFICER; JAMES LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER AND TERRY MCCARTHY, TOWN ENGINEER.**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the following motion:

The Town Council, pursuant to its authority under Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-146, hereby authorizes the Town Building Inspector, with the concurrence of either the Town Administrator or Mayor to take such actions and contract for such services as they deem appropriate and necessary to free the Hockanum River in the area of 98 East Main Street from any debris, wreckage, or other similar material which prevents or which tend to prevent the free discharge of the flood waters of said river. Contract for services is not to exceed \$50,000. The Town Administrator with the concurrence of the Mayor is further authorized, on behalf of the Town of Vernon, to assess the cost of such removal against any person, firm or corporation responsible for the same. The Council further determines that it is in the best interest of the Town to waive the requirements of Town Charter, Chapter XII, Section 9 for sealed bids for any work contracted for, pursuant to this resolution.

Motion carried unanimously.

M.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Monthly Report for November, 2008 submitted by the Town Clerk.
2. Fire Marshals Quarterly Report FY 2008-2009, submitted by Fire Marshal.
3. Monthly Report for November, 2008 submitted by the Senior Center Director.
4. Thank you email from the Town of Bolton, Town Administrators, Joyce Stille and the BLWPCA to Mayor Jason L. McCoy, regarding his efforts on their behalf with the passage of Bill No. 1200 – An Act Concerning Various Measures of Relief for Municipalities.

5. Reminder Article dated January 13, 2009 entitled, "Town Officials ready to face challenges, and grow in 2009.
6. December, 2008 Monthly Report – Truancy Intervention and YSB After School Program submitted by Alan Slobodien.
7. December, 2008 Monthly Report – Rockville High School Program, submitted by Alan Slobodien.

**ADJOURNMENT (11:50 PM)**

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Received:**

**Approved:**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jill Kentfield  
Recording Secretary**