

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

**Tuesday, February 17, 2009 7:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

A.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: Council Member Daniel Champagne

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Nancy Herold 8:45 PM

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

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Ann Marie Hotchkiss, member of Talcottville Church, spoke regarding the civil war monument at the Mount Hope cemetery which was recently restored. She is looking for donations to help pay back the loan they received to fix the monument. Mayor McCoy asked her to contact his office to set up a meeting to try to help with their situation. Pictures of the before and after monument were shared with Council Members.

Citizens forum closed at 7:35 PM.

B.) **PUBLIC HEARING**  
None

C.) **PRESENTATION**

Presentation by Mayor Jason L. McCoy to Former Mayor Steve Marcham in honor of his individual commitment to the Town of Vernon through his activities as an Elected Official, Volunteer and Vernon Business Owner.

Mayor McCoy presented former Mayor Steve Marcham the citizen's recognition award for his activities as an elected official and commitment to the Town of Vernon. The Mayor spoke about Mr. Marcham's accomplishments. He also presented Mr. Marcham with a flag sent courtesy of Congressman Courtney which was flown over the Capitol in his honor. Representative Janowski presented Mr. Marcham with a legislative citation along with a citation from the State Comptroller. Mr. Marcham thanked everyone for being present at his celebration.

**RECESS FOR REFRESHMENT AND CELEBRATION!**

**(8:05 PM) Recess**

**(8:35 PM) Reconvene meeting**

GIS Presentation by Aaron Nash, GIS Coordinator, (PowerPoint demonstration the evening of the meeting.)

Mr. Nash, GIS Coordinator for the Town of Vernon presented to the committee a PowerPoint regarding the roll-out of the new web application. Residents will be able to view parcel maps that cover the entire town using measurements and acreage of the deed among other applications. The maps will be available in .pdf files and hard copy.

Updated Presentation from Marina Rodriguez, Economic Development Coordinator. Coordinator Rodriguez to present an update of the Economic Development Commission Priorities. (Handouts to be distributed at the meeting)

Ms. Rodriguez and members of the Economic Development Committee presented information regarding the ranking of their priorities as requested by the Town Council at the December meeting.

Top 3 priorities include 1.) retention and support of existing businesses including the Rockville Downtown Association revitalization efforts; 2.) Streamline the permitting process making it more friendly to business owners and Developers; 3.) Develop incentives for future development such as tax incentives, energy efficiency and permitting.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

D.) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- C 1. Request for Tax Refunds Prior Years and Current Year.** (A copy of the memorandum from Carol L. Nelson, Collector of Revenue to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated 02-09-09 included in the Council packet).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$9,737.84 FOR THE PRIOR YEARS, AND TEN (10) TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$3,672.43 FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2009 TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the request for Tax Refunds prior years and current years. Motion carried unanimously

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #8, and amendments #9-#17 for fiscal year 2008-2009, as provided by James Luddecke, Finance Officer.** (A copy of budget amendments #8-#17 are included in the Council packet).

**PROPOSED MOTION #1**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT #8 OF \$69,080.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF ELEVEN (11) CHEMICAL CONTROL UNITS WITH GPS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAID PROCUREMENT BE DONE IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER XII, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, SUB-SECTION 9 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED PURCHASING.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve budget amendment #8 for fiscal year 2008-2009. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED MOTION #2**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENTS #9-#17 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009, AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve budget amendments #9-17 for fiscal year 2008-2009. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 3.** **Request the Town Council approve the Subrecipient Agreement between the Town of Vernon and the Vernon Non-Profit Housing and Development Corporation for the Village Street Revitalization Program to fund the Down Payment Assistance Program.** (A copy of the Subrecipient Agreement is attached for your review.) (Director Jeff Arn of the Vernon Non-Profit Housing and Development Corporation will be present to answer questions.)

**PROPOSED MOTION 1:**

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL RENEWS ITS COMMITMENT OF \$250,000.00 OF THE TOWN OF VERNON'S CDBG FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR HOME BUYERS PARTICIPATING IN THE VILLAGE STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2009.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to renew its commitment of \$250,000 for the Village Street revitalization project until December 31, 2009. Motion carried unanimously

**PROPOSED MOTION 2:**

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO SIGN THE SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE VERNON NON-PROFIT HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OFFICIALLY DESIGNATING \$250,000.00 OF THE TOWN OF VERNON'S CDBG FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF DOWN PAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR HOME BUYERS PARTICIPATING IN THE VILLAGE STREET REVITALIZATION PROJECT WITH AN EXTENSION ON THE TERM OF THE AGREEMENT UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2009.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to authorize Mayor Jason McCoy to sign the agreement between the Town of Vernon and the Vernon Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 4.** **Request that the Town Council adopt the attached Annual Town of Vernon Affirmative Action Policy Statement required by DECD and the Small Cities Grant Program.** (A copy of the required Statement is included in your packet for your review). (A copy of a letter dated 01-05-2009 to John D. Ward, Interim Town Administrator from L. Wagner Associates requesting this action is also included for your review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VERNON HEREBY ADOPTS THE PROVISION OF THE "TOWN OF VERNON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT" AND HEREBY DESIGNATES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AS THE TOWN'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to adopt the Annual Town of Vernon Affirmative Action Policy Statement. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 5. Request the Town Council reappoint Chief James Kenny as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority pursuant to the Vernon Town Code, Article II, Sections 13-16 and 13-17; for a three year term beginning on 02-21-2009 and expiring on 02-20-2012.** (A copy of Chief Kenny's resume is attached for your review).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JAMES KENNY, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON 02-21-2009 AND EXPIRE ON 02-20-2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the reappointment of Chief James Kenny to the Vernon Traffic Authority for a three year term beginning 02-21-2009 through 02-20-2012. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 6. Request the Town Council reappoint E. Mason Thrall III, (U), 172 Irene Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority pursuant to the Vernon Town Code, Article II, Sections 13-16 and 13-17; for a three year term beginning on 02-21-2009 and expiring on 02-20-2012.** (A copy of Mr. Thrall's resume is attached for your review).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF E. MASON THRALL III, (U) 172 IRENE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON 02-21-2009 AND EXPIRES ON 02-20-2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the reappointment of E. Mason Thrall as a regular member of the Traffic Authority for a term beginning 02-21-2009 through 02-20-2012. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve the Mayor's reappointment of Tim Poloski (D), 38 Risley Road, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Capital Improvements Committee, pursuant to the Vernon Town Code 10-61 – 10-63, to fill the balance of the unexpired term which began on 09-01-2008 and ends on 08-31-2011.** (Stated Vernon Town Code Sections require the above stated begin and end dates).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TIM POLOSKI (D), 38 RISLEY ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE, TO FILL THE BALANCE OF THE UNEXPIRED TERM WHICH BEGAN ON 09-01-2008 AND ENDS ON 08-31-2011.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Tim Poloski as a regular member of the Capitol Improvements Committee, to fill the balance of the unexpired term, which began on 9/1/2008 and ends on 08/31/2011. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve the Mayor's reappointment of Karen L. Roy-Guglielmi, (U) 66 Indian Trail, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority, pursuant to Chapter 8, Section 5 of the Vernon Town Charter, said term to begin 03-01-09 and end 02-28-2014.** (Mrs. Roy-Guglielmi's resume is included in your packet for review).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KAREN L. ROY-GUGLIELMI, (U), 66 INDIAN TRAIL, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO BEGIN 03-01-09 AND END 02-28-2014.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Karen L. Roy-Guglielmi as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority for a term beginning 03-01-09 and ends on 02-28-2014. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 9. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to enter into an Agreement with the East Central Narcotics Task Force (formerly known as Tri-Town Narcotics Task Force.)** (Chief James Kenny to be present to answer questions. Included in your packet is the East Central Narcotics Task Force Agreement; a memorandum from Town Administrator John D. Ward to Mayor Jason L. McCoy and the Town Council dated 02-11-09 and a memorandum from Chief James Kenny to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated 02-12-09.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO REJOIN THE EAST CENTRAL NARCOTICS TASK FORCE ALONG WITH THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MANCHESTER, SOUTH WINDSOR AND GLASTONBURY, SUBJECT TO THE TERMS OF THE 2002 NON-EMERGENCY INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNS. THE COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO RE-EXECUTE THE 2002 AGREEMENT, IF REQUIRED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to enter into an agreement with the East Central Narcotics Taskforce. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 10. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign Department of Social Services Grant #146-SFM-01/08DSS0302BG in the amount of \$8450.00.** (Enclosed is a copy of the Grant Award along with a memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor, Jason L. McCoy dated 02-11-09 for your review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO EXECUTE ALL DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICE, AGING SERVICES DIVISION – 2008 SPECIAL INITIATIVE AWARD TO THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8450.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign Department of Social Services Grant # 146-SFM-01/08DSS0302BG in the amount of \$8450.00 for a special initiative award to the Vernon Senior Center. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 11. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Safety, Highway Safety Grant Application. This Grant supports the SAFE S.T.R.E.E.T.S program.** (Chief James Kenny will be present to answer your questions. Included in your package is a memorandum dated 02-11-09 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Jason L. McCoy and the Town Council for your review).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZE THE VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR A HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$14,631.36.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Safety, Highway Safety Grant Application in the amount of \$14,631.36 to support the Safe Streets program. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 12. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign the grant award given to the Vernon Fire Department from the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$2999.00.** (A copy of a memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Jason L. McCoy and Town Council members dated 02-11-09 is included for your review.)(Also included for your review is a copy of the Grant Award.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

MOVE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZE MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2999.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign the grant award given to the Vernon Fire Department from the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services in the amount of \$2999.00. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None

**F.) PENDING BUSINESS:**

None

**G.) NEW BUSINESS**

None

**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 JANUARY 20, 2009 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 January 20, 2009 Town Council Meeting. Motion carried, Council Member Herold abstained.

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member O'Shea made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the matter of Exit 66 Vernon Professional Building VS Town of Vernon et.al. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION #1**

CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 1-200 (6) (B), THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING THE MATTER OF EXIT 66 PROFESSIONAL BUILDING VS. TOWN OF VERNON ET AL. DOCKET NO. TTD-CV-08-4009288S. THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS; JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; DAVID WHEELER, TOWN ASSESSOR; AND ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY SUSAN BOYAN, ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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

**TO AUTHORIZE MAYOR MCCOY TO SIGN A STIPULATED JUDGMENT IN A TAX APPEAL CAPTIONED "EXIT 66 PROFESSIONAL BUILDING VS. TOWN OF VERNON ET.AL, DOCKET NO. TTD-CV-08-4009288S" FOR TAXES ON THE GRAND LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2007 FOR THE ASSESSED VALUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$645,000.00 OR THE 100% FAIR MARKET VALUE OF \$922,000.00 AND TO REFUND ANY TAXES OVERPAID TO THE PLAINTIFF WITHIN 30 DAYS WITHOUT INTEREST.**

Council Member Motola made a motion for a friendly amendment to change the amount of the assessed value to \$645,400.00. Motion carried unanimously with friendly amendment.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION #2**

CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 1-200 (6) (B), THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING 60/66 LAKE STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AND THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS, HAROLD CUMMINGS, TOWN ATTORNEY AND JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

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

**THE TOWN COUNCIL TO REFER THE MATTER OF THE DONATION OF LAND KNOWN AS 60/66 LAKE STREET TO THE TOWN OF VERNON PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN 8-24 REFERRAL.**

Motion carried unanimously.

**M.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Thank you letter to Mayor Jason L. McCoy from the Vernon Historical Society thanking Mayor McCoy for the donation of Fourth Grade Day, by Andre J. Garant.
2. Monthly Report, December, 2008 from the Vernon Senior Center submitted by Director Penny Rand.
3. Monthly Report, December, 2008 from the Vernon Police Department submitted by Captain Stephen Clark.
4. Retirement letter to Jason L. McCoy, Mayor from Daniel P. Sullivan, Human Resources Director dated 01-30-09.
5. Retirement letter to John Ward, Town Administrator from Carol S. Nelson, Collector of Revenue dated 01-28-09.
6. Police Department Monthly Report – January, 2009, submitted by Captain Stephen M. Clark.

**ADJOURNMENT (9:58 PM)**

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

**Received:**

**Approved:**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jill Kentfield  
Recording Secretary**