

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3rd Floor
VERNON, CONNECTICUT

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March 23, 2015 7:30 PM

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Virginia Gingras, Julie Clay, Brian Motola, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Steve Peterson, Fred Lehmann, and Bill Campbell

Absent:

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Michael Winkler (7:31 PM) and John Kopec (9:09 PM)

Also Present: Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

None.

7:31 PM Council Member Winkler entered meeting.

D.) PRESENTATION

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to present any updates since the March 21, 2015 meeting. Discussion took place.

E.) BUDGET REVIEW

The Town Council shall consider the budgets for FY 2015-2016 for various departments, divisions, and organizations to include:

1. Cemetery Operations (carried from 3-21-15 mtng)
2. Vernon Cemetery Commission (carried from 3-21-15 mtng)
3. Water Pollution Control Authority
4. Waste Treatment Plant Operations
5. Housing Authority – Sewer Subsidy
6. Assessment
7. Revaluation
8. Board of Assessment Appeals
9. Collector of Revenue
10. Refunds – Tax Adjustments
11. Capital Improvements – Town
12. Fire Marshal
13. Emergency Management

Directors from each Department presented information and answered questions regarding their budget submissions.

Cemetery Operations

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 12 page 168, account 23342420, in the amount of \$320,008, motion carried unanimously.

Alan West, Superintendent, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 12 page 168, account 23342420, in the amount of \$320,008, motion carried unanimously.

Vernon Cemetery Commission

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 10 page 159, account 10826302, in the amount of \$185,805, motion carried unanimously.

Alan West, Superintendent, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 10 page 159, account 10826302, in the amount of \$185,805, motion carried unanimously.

Water Pollution Control Authority

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to open tab 5 page 39, account 10116157, in the amount of \$8,228, motion carried unanimously.

Director of WPCA, Robert Grasis, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to close tab 5 page 39, account 10116157, in the amount of \$8,228, motion carried unanimously.

Waste Treatment Plant Operations

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to open tab 12 page 177, account 41345700, in the amount of \$5,887,213, motion carried unanimously.

Director of WPCA, Robert Grasis, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close tab 12 page 177, account 41345700, in the amount of \$5,887,213, motion carried unanimously.

Housing Authority- Sewer Subsidy

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to open tab 10 page 152, account 10673282, in the amount of \$50,450, motion carried unanimously.

Director of WPCA, Robert Grasis, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to close tab 10 page 152, account 10673282, in the amount of \$50,450, motion carried unanimously.

Assessment

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 5 page 25, account 10114144, in the amount of \$273,223 motion carried unanimously.

Assessor, Dave Wheeler, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to close tab 5 page 25, account 10114144, in the amount of \$273,223 motion carried unanimously.

Revaluation

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open tab 5 page 38, account 10114147, in the amount of \$5,488 motion carried unanimously.

Assessor, Dave Wheeler, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to close tab 5 page 38, account 10114147, in the amount of \$5,488 motion carried unanimously.

Board of Assessment Appeals

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to open tab 5 page 38, account 10116155, in the amount of \$2,800 motion carried unanimously.

Assessor, Dave Wheeler, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to close tab 5 page 38, account 10116155, in the amount of \$2,800 motion carried unanimously.

Collector of Revenue

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to open tab 5 page 29, account 10114146, in the amount of \$227,027 motion carried unanimously.

Collector of Revenue, Terry Hjarne, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to close tab 5 page 29, account 10114146, in the amount of \$227,027 motion carried unanimously.

Refunds- Tax Adjustments

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open tab 5 page 28, account 10114145, in the amount of \$20,000 motion carried unanimously.

Collector of Revenue, Terry Hjarne, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to close tab 5 page 28, account 10114145, in the amount of \$20,000 motion carried unanimously.

Capital Improvements- Town

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to open tab 11 page 153, account 10780290, in the amount of \$751,688, motion carried unanimously.

9:09 PM Council Member Kopec entered meeting.

Finance Officer, Jim Luddecke and Director of Parks and Recreation, Bruce Dinnie, Fire Chief, William Call, and Public Works Director, Robert Kleinhans, were present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to close tab 11 page 153, account 10780290, in the amount of \$761,688, motion carried unanimously.

RECESS (9:30 PM)
RECONVENED (9:38 PM)

Fire Marshal

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to open tab 6 page 64, account 10232185, in the amount of \$92,924 motion carried unanimously.

Fire Marshal, Adam Libros, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Clay made a motion to decrease account 51030 by \$1,000. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 4 opposed (Council Members Gingras, Appleyard, Winkler and Letendre).

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to close tab 6 page 64, account 10232185, in the amount of \$91,924 motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Management

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to open tab 6 page 72, account 10232189, in the amount of \$58,330 motion carried unanimously.

Emergency Management Director, Michael Purcaro, was present to answer questions. Discussion took place

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to close tab 6 page 72, account 10232189, in the amount of \$58,330 motion carried unanimously.

H.) MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING ACTION

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Winkler moved to recess the meeting. Discussion took place. Motion failed with 5 in favor and 7 opposed. Discussion took place. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to postpone the Saturday, March 28, 2015 meeting to April 4, 2015. Discussion took place.

Council Member Wakefield, second by Council Member Kopec made a motion to extend curfew by 15 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Peterson withdrew the motion.

10:08 PM Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Wakefield moved to recess the meeting until 7:30 PM Thursday, March 26, 2015 at Town Hall, Third Floor. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) RECESS REMAINING ACCOUNTS TO MARCH 26, 2015.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary