

Special Budget Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Special Budget Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

March 21, 2019- 7:00PM

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Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Steve Wakefield, Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Mike Wendus, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, Pauline Schaefer, and Steve Peterson

Absent: Council Member Ralph Zahner.

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Laura Bush at 7:52 PM

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Recording Secretary Cassandra Minor

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM:

None.

D) PRESENTATION:

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Jeff O'Neill, Finance Officer presented 2019-2020 Budget Overview to the Town Council.

E) TOWN COUNCIL To establish the rules and procedures for budget deliberations

PROPOSED MOTION:

The Town Council adopts the following list of Rules and Procedures for the 2019-2020 Budget deliberations:

- Waive all Robert's Rules of Procedure during budget deliberations;
- Revenue will be discussed at the opening meeting and at the final budget meeting;
- All budget accounts shall be opened and closed, with the Council making decisions on each individual budget during the allocated time frame;
- Each meeting will be recessed to the next scheduled budget hearing and draft minutes will be prepared by the Clerk for each meeting to be used during final deliberations;
- At the final budget hearing the Town Council may add or delete from any account previously discussed.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to accept the list of Rules and Procedures for the 2019-2020 Budget deliberations. Motion carried unanimously.

F) BUDGET REVIEW:

18. Emergency Management

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 35, Emergency Management, Code 10232189 in the amount of \$49,752. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Michael Purcaro, Town Administrator and Emergency Management Director spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to deduct \$245.00 from Code 10232189 Line 55300 Postage. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to close Tab 6, Page 35, Emergency Management, Code 10232189 in the amount of \$49,507. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Water Pollution Control Authority

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to open Tab 5, page 21, Water Pollution Control Authority, Code 10116157 in the amount of \$7,122. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Robert Grasis, Director of Water Pollution Control spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to close Tab 5, page 21, Water Pollution Control Authority, Code 10116157 in the amount of \$7,122. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Waste Treatment Plant Operations

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schafer made a motion to open Tab 12, page 89, Waste Treatment Plant Operations, Code 41345700 in the amount of \$5,950,554. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Robert Grasis, Director of Water Pollution Control spoke and answered questions.

7:52PM- Council Member Bush entered the meeting.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close Tab 12, page 89, Waste Treatment Plant Operations, Code 41345700 in the amount of \$5,950,554. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Housing Authority – Sewer Subsidy

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to open Tab 10, page 76, Housing Authority - Sewer Subsidy, Code 10673282 in the amount of \$49,000. Motion carried unanimously.

8:06PM Council Member Wakefield left the table.

Discussion ensued. Robert Grasis, Director of Water Pollution Control spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to close Tab 10, page 76, Housing Authority - Sewer Subsidy, Code 10673282 in the amount of \$49,000. Motion carried unanimously of present members.

4. Assessment

Council Member Wendus, seconded by Council Member Schafer made a motion to open Tab 5, Page 14 Assessment, Code 10114144 in the amount of \$297,303. Motion carried unanimously of present members.

Discussion ensued. David Wheeler, Assessor spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Wendus, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Tab 5, Page 14 Assessment, Code 10114144 in the amount of \$297,303. Motion carried unanimously of present members.

5. Revaluation

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Wendus made a motion to open Tab 5, Page 17, Revaluation, Code 10114147 in the amount of \$18,000. Motion carried unanimously of present members.

8:18PM Council Member Wakefield returned to the table.

Discussion ensued. David Wheeler, Assessor spoke and answered questions.

8:20PM Mayor Daniel Champagne left the table.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Tab 5, Page 17, Revaluation, Code 10114147 in the amount of \$18,000. Motion carried unanimously.

8:23PM Mayor Daniel A. Champagne returned to the table.

6. Board of Assessment Appeals

Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open Tab 5, Page 20, Board of Assessment Appeals, Code 10116155 in the amount of \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously.

8:23PM Council Member Wendus left the table.

Discussion ensued. David Wheeler, Assessor spoke and answered questions.

Council Member DiDio seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close Tab 5, Page 20, Board of Assessment Appeals, Code 10116155 in the amount of \$2,500. Motion carried unanimously of present members.

7. Collector of Revenue

Council Member Bush, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to open Tab 5, Page 16, Collector of Revenue, Code 10114146 in the amount of \$234,418. Motion carried unanimously of present members.

Discussion ensued. Terry Hjarne, Tax Collector spoke and answered questions.

8:26 PM Council Member Wendus returned to the table.

Council Member Bush, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to close Tab 5, Page 16, Collector of Revenue, Code 10114146 in the amount of \$234,418. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Refunds – Tax Adjustments

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open Tab 5, Page 15, Refunds - Tax Adjustments, Code 10114145 in the amount of \$21,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Terry Hjarne, Tax Collector spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Tab 5, Page 15, Refunds - Tax Adjustments, Code 10114145 in the amount of \$21,000. Motion carried unanimously.

8:39PM Recess; 8:50PM Reconvened.

9. Police

Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 26, Police, Code 10230180 in the amount of \$6,438,698. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. James Kenny, Chief of Police spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Peterson, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Tab 6, Page 26, Police, Code 10230180 in the amount of \$6,438,698. Motion carried unanimously.

10. School Crossing Guards

Council Member Tedford, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 28, School Crossing Guards, Code 10230181 in the amount of \$62,120. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. James Kenny, Chief of Police spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Tedford, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close Tab 6, Page 28, School Crossing Guards, Code 10230181 in the amount of \$62,120. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Traffic Authority

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 29, Traffic Authority, Code 10230182 in the amount of \$351,452. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. James Kenny, Chief of Police spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Tab 6, Page 29, Traffic Authority, Code 10230182 in the amount of \$351,452. Motion carried unanimously.

12. Animal Control

Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 36, Animal Control, Code 10233188 in the amount of \$151,136. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. James Kenny, Chief of Police spoke and answered questions.

Council Member DiDio seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close Tab 6, Page 36, Animal Control, Code 10233188 in the amount of \$151,136. Motion carried unanimously.

13. Dog License

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open Tab 12, Page 84, Dog License, Code 22233410 in the amount of \$30,925. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. James Kenny, Chief of Police spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Tab 12, Page 84, Dog License, Code 22233410 in the amount of \$30,925. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Fire Fighting Administration

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 30, Fire Fighting Administration, Code 10231183 in the amount of \$664,661. Motion carried unanimously.

9:29PM Mayor Daniel A. Champagne left the table.

Discussion ensued. Steve Eppler, Fire Chief spoke and answered questions.

9:43PM Council Member Peterson left the meeting.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wendus made a motion to close Tab 6, Page 30, Fire Fighting Administration, Code 10231183 in the amount of \$664,661. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wakefield seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to extend curfew to 10:15PM. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Public Safety – Fire Hydrants

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 32, Public Safety - Fire Hydrants, Code 10231190 in the amount of \$788,642. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne spoke regarding this proposed budget.

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close open Tab 6, Page 32, Public Safety - Fire Hydrants, Code 10231190 in the amount of \$788,642. Motion carried unanimously.

16. Ambulance Division

Council Member Bush, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open Tab 12, Page 82, Ambulance Division, Code 22231417 in the amount of \$1,332,196. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Steve Eppler, Fire Chief and Jean Gauthier, Director of Ambulance spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to extend curfew to 10:25PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Bush seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to close Tab 12, Page 82, Ambulance Division, Code 22231417 in the amount of \$1,332,196. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Fire Marshal

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to open Tab 6, Page 33, Fire Marshal, Code 10232185 in the amount of \$139,903. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. William Call, Deputy Fire Marshal spoke and answered questions.

Council Member Letendre, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to close Tab 6, Page 33, Fire Marshal, Code 10232185 in the amount of \$139,903. Motion carried unanimously.

G) MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING ACTION

None.

H) RECESS REMAINING ACCOUNTS TO MARCH 23, 2019

10:23PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to recess to the next scheduled meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Draft #1

Unapproved Minutes

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully submitted:

Cassandra Minor

Recording Secretary.