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

December 4, 2012 – 7:30 PM

Mayor George Apel called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

B) ROLL CALL:
Present: Council Members Bill Campbell, Thomas DiDio, Virginia Gingras, Marie Herbst, John Kopec, Brian Motola, Steven Peterson, Thomasina Russell, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Weissberger, and Michael Winkler
Absent: Judy Hany
Entered During Meeting:
Also Present: Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Edie Chernack, 50 Cubles Dr., spoke regarding her meeting with the Mayor over the summer regarding Camp Newhoca and the traffic issues. She was looking for the resolution to the matter.

James Krupienski, 59 Deerfield Dr., spoke about the pedestrian crossing at Dart Hill Road and Thrall Road being blocked with wood, his difficulty in attending the meeting regarding Amerbelle grant applications at 5:00 PM and new business item #2 the boiler replacement at the school administration building, he asked about funding from the Governor's new energy improvement commission.

Janine Gelineau, 28 Anchorage Road, asked about Camp Newhoca.

Citizen's forum closed at 7:43 PM

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to move the presentation before the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

F.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**
Presentation of Proclamation by Mayor George F. Apel to the Central Connecticut Young Marines and their Unit Commander Donna Pelletier for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the Cemetery Commission.

Presentation to Mayor George F. Apel from Director of the Vernon Housing Authority Jeff Arn. PILOT Program funds.

Presentation by Mayor George F. Apel to members of the Hockanum Industrial Development and Venture Corporation for their volunteer efforts on behalf of the Town of Vernon.

Presentation by Dr. Mary P. Conway Superintendent of Schools, relative to the Board of Education's Plans - Governor Malloy's Thirty Alliance School Districts.

Presentation by Michelle Hill and the Vernon Community Network to update the Town Council on the VCN Community Plan.

Mayor George F. Apel to make a presentation to the Town Council on various topics.

Council Member Herbst spoke briefly about her hand-out regarding Camp Newhoca and requested the information be put on the next Town Council Agenda.

- Ribbon cuttings continue
- Key Hyundai and Suburban Subaru were very generous in their donations for the Veterans Day Parade
- A joint meeting between the Town Council and Board of Education took place last week and went well. Discussion took place regarding the Board of Education's plans regarding the Alliance School District status.
- A meet and greet will take place tomorrow 12/5/2012 at 9:30 AM with the new IT Director
- Mayor Apel attended services at Union Congregational Church on Thanksgiving Eve to read the Presidential proclamation.
- Winterfest starts this weekend
- New wheelchair was purchased for use by visitors to the Town Hall
- A review of the phone lines is taking place. One line has been disconnected saving the town approximately $6,000 per year.
- The Mayor directed the Parks and Recreation Director to ensure all people coming to Camp Newhoca will be directed to use the front entrance. The entrance to the park on Anchorage Road has been closed to everyone but emergency and repair vehicles.

D.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion to go into executive session:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-200(6) (B), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT ON DOCKET NO. CV-12-6016441-S, FIRST NIAGARA BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION V. TOWN OF VERNON - BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS AND INVITES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO ATTEND: DAVID WHEELER, TOV ASSESSOR; ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY MARTIN BURKE, AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO SETTLE A TAX APPEAL CV-12-6016441-S, CAPTIONED "FIRST NIAGARA BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION V TOWN OF VERNON ET AL," FOR TAXES ON THE GRAND LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2011 FOR THE ASSESSED VALUE OF $1,119,990 OR THE 100% FAIR MARKET VALUE OF $1,600,000 AND TO APPLY A CREDIT OF $23,954.98 TO THE SECOND HALF OF THE TAX INSTALLMENT DUE JANUARY 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion to go into executive session:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUES § 1-200 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGIES AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING WITH THE PROFESSIONAL UNION AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, JOHN D. WARD AND ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL MOVES TO APPROVE THE NEGOTIATED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE PROFESSIONAL UNION, REPRESENTED BY LOCAL 818 OF COUNCIL 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO IN EFFECT JULY 1, 2012 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017, ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRESENTED AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL TO ENTER INTO SAID AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Motion carried unanimously.

E.) **PUBLIC HEARING**
None

G.) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Council Member Winkler pulled item #2 for discussion. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6 as presented.

C 1. **Request for Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Year.** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator November 21, 2012 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) OVERPAYMENT OF PRIOR YEAR TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF $80.88 AND TWO (2) OVERPAYMENTS FOR CURRENT YEAR TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF $1427.85 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED NOVEMBER 21, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the request for tax refunds for prior and current year. Motion carried unanimously.

C 3. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of Robert D. McGarity, Jr., (R), 151 Hany Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission. Said term to commence on 01-01-2013 and expires 12-31-2015.** (A copy of Mr. McGarity's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #268, TOWN CODE SEC. 10-105 - 10-108 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT D.

MCGARITY, JR., (R), 151 HANY LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE JANUARY 1, 2013 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Robert D. McGarity as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission for a term of 1/1/2013 through 12/31/2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C 4. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of Daniel Robertson, (D), 3 Saddlegate Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2013 and expires December 31, 2015.** (A copy of Mr. Robertson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #268, TOWN CODE SEC. 10-105 - 10-108 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL REAPPOINTMENT OF DANIEL ROBERTSON, (D), 3 SADDLEGATE LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE JANUARY 1, 2013 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Daniel Robertson as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission for a term of 1/1/2013 through 12/31/2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C 5. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of Howard Steinberg, (R), 75 Meadowview Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2013 and expires December 31, 2015.** (A copy of Mr. Steinberg's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #268, TOWN CODE SEC. 10-105 - 10-108 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S REAPPOINTMENT OF HOWARD STEINBERG, (R), 75 MEADOWVIEW LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE JANUARY 1, 2013 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Howard Steinberg as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission for a term of 1/1/2013 through 12/31/2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C 6. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Julie Clay (R), 81 Ravenscroft, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence on December 5, 2012 and continue until December 31, 2013.** (A copy of Ms. Clay's resume is included for Council review.) (It should be noted that Ms. Clay will complete the term vacated by Scott Sierakowski.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF JULIE CLAY (R), 81 RAVENSCROFT, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN DECEMBER 5, 2012 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2013.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Julie Clay as a regular member of the Conservation Commission for a term of 12/5/2012 through 12/31/2013. Motion carried unanimously.

H.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

C 2. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #14 - #18 for fiscal year 2012-2013 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke.** (Included for Council review is a copy of Mr. Luddecke's submission)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENTS #14 - #18 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve budget amendment #14-18 for fiscal year 2012-2013. Discussion took place.

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to separate budget amendment #16 from the rest of the amendments. Motion carried unanimously.

9:28 PM – Recess
9:35 PM – Reconvene

Discussion regarding amendments 14, 15, 17 and 18 continued. Motion to approve budget amendments with the exemption of #16 carried, Council Members Winkler, Russell, DiDio, Gingras and Herbst opposed.

Discussion took place regarding amendment #16. Motion to approve amendment #16 carried, Council Members Campbell, Kopec, Motola, Peterson, Sullivan, and Weissberger abstained.

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council endorse the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal in the areas of Human Resources On-line Clearinghouse and Templates, Human Resources Town Employee Portal – Regional Development and Local Call Log and Management System.** (See memorandum dated November 27, 2012 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor George F. Apel and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION
THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ENDORSES THE REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM PROPOSAL REFERENCED IN SECTION 5 OF PUBLIC ACT 11-61 (AN ACT CONCERNING RESPONSIBLE GROWTH) FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS FOR THE FOLLOWING GRANTS: (1) HUMAN RESOURCES ON-LINE CLEARINGHOUSE AND TEMPLATES; (2) HUMAN RESOURCES TOWN EMPLOYEE PORTAL – REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND (3) LOCAL CALL LOG AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above resolution to approve the request to endorse the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal in the areas of Human Resources On-line Clearinghouse and Templates, Human Resources Town Employee Portal – Regional Development and Local Call Log and Management System. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the request of the Vernon Board of Education to move $80,000.00 from the Capital and Non-Recurring Education Fund for the purpose of replacing the 30 year old steam boiler at the Administration Building.** (See memo dated November 28, 2012 from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to John D. Ward and letter dated November 20, 2012 from Dr. Mary P. Conway, Superintendent of Schools to Mayor George F. Apel relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COMMITMENT OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE EDUCATION RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF $80,000.00 FOR COSTS RELATING TO THE REPLACEMENT OF THE THIRTY-YEAR OLD STEAM BOILER AT THE SCHOOL CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve the request of the Vernon Board of Education to move $80,000.00 from the Capital and Non-Recurring Education Fund for the purpose of replacing the 30 year old steam boiler at the Administration Building. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Discussion requested by Council Member Winkler relative to vehicle maintenance.** (See email from Council Member Winkler dated November 21, 2012 to John D. Ward.)

NO MOTION REQUIRED

Discussion took place regarding the vehicle maintenance program and staff.

9:59 PM – Council Member Rusell, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to extend curfew. Motion carried, Council Members Campbell, Sullivan, and Peterson opposed.

Discussion continued.

K.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
None

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

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

None

N.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
None

O.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 20, 2012 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the November 20, 2012 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Monthly Activity Report – October, 2012 from the Vernon Police Department as prepared by Captain Stephen M. Clark.

Adjourn (10:17 PM)

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary