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

May 15, 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, Judy Hany, Marie Herbst, John Kopec, Brian Motola, Steven Peterson, Thomasina Russell, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Weissberger, and Michael Winkler
Absent:
Entered During Meeting:
Also Present: Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Joe Adler, 87 Scott Drive – looking forward to hearing the latest information regarding the nuisance barking policies and handed out a document of his speech from the December Town Council meeting.

Citizen's forum closed at 7:32 PM

D.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
There was no executive session.

E.) **PUBLIC HEARING**
PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR *2012 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT* PROGRAM (A copy of the legal notice is attached for Council's review)

Open Public Hearing (7:33 PM)
Mayor Apel called the public hearing to order to receive comments and answer any questions from the public. The clerk read the legal notice into the record.

Public comments:
There were no public comments

Close Public Hearing (7:34 PM)
Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously. Regular meeting reconvened.

F.) **PRESENTATIONS**
Mayor George F. Apel to make a presentation to the Town Council on various topics.
- There was a large power outage in southern Vernon this week, all power was restored within a couple of hours.
- There was a large fire at 34 Oakmoor Dr, the house was deemed a total loss.
- Mayor Apel thanked the citizens for voting during the budget referendum.

- Administration has put a freeze on the general government accounts until the end of the fiscal year. Department heads need to check with Town Administrator Ward before purchasing items.
- During the 2012-2013 budget year, Mayor Apel will be following the charter, see chapter 12, section 7 *execution of budget* which includes monthly allocations to the Departments.
- Mayor Apel attended the rededication of the Heritage Trail.
- "Kido" a Japanese martial arts studio opened up and had a ribbon cutting.
- Mayor Apel congratulated the EMS team for the designation of EMS week during May
- Mayor Apel congratulated Bruce Dinnie who won a CT Greenways Council award.
- Mayor Apel congratulated the Parks and Recreation Department for a successful Mothers Day Dash on 5/13 and Fishing Derby on 4/4
- The Senior Center is holding a health fair this Friday with 20 different providers.
- The Senior Center is experimenting with evening hours during the summer, they will be open late once a week.
- There will be a small business forum being held by State Senator Tony Guglielomo and State Representative Tim Ackert at the town hall on 5/17.
- The Memorial Day parade takes place on 5/28
- Mayor Apel congratulated the explorer guard for their participation in the annual competition where they won the award: "best overall in random events".
- The Vernon Community Network was awarded funding to implement their community plan for birth to age 18
- Beginning at the June 5th meeting, Town Council members will receive a laptop to use during the meeting to follow the agenda items instead of distributing paper copies. A training on the laptop system for Town Council members will take place on June 5, 2012 from 6:15 to 7:15.

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 Herbst pulled consent agenda item #5 for discussion. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1, 2, 4, and 6 as presented.

C. 1. **Request for Tax Refunds for Current Year.** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated May 4, 2012 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) OVERPAYMENTS OF THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF $33.18 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 4, 2012.

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

C. 2. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor George F. Apel to execute, on behalf of the Town of Vernon, an application to the State of Connecticut for $300,000.00 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement.**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, federal monies are available under the Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, 42 U.S.C § 5301, et. seq., as amended, also known as Public Law 93-383, and administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and

Community Development as the Connecticut Small Cities Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 127c, and Part VI of Chapter 130 of the Connecticut General Statues, the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized disburse such federal monies to local municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the
Town of Vernon make an application to the State for
(Municipality)

$ 300,000 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE
Town Council
(Governing Body)

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by

Part VI of Chapter 130 of the CGS
(State Statutory Reference)

2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by

Town of Vernon
(Municipality)

in an amount not to exceed **$300,000** is hereby approved and that

Mayor, George F. Apel
(Title and Name of Authorized Official)

is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, to carryout approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of

Town of Vernon
(Municipality)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to authorize Mayor George F. Apel to execute, on behalf of the Town of Vernon, an application to the State of Connecticut for $300,000.00 in order to undertake and carryout a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 3. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Charles E. Bettinger, (R), 29 Foster Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said term to commence May 16, 2012 and expires June 30, 2012.** (A copy of Mr. Bettinger's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 7, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF, CHARLES E. BETTINGER, (R), 29 FOSTER DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO BEGIN MAY 16, 2012 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Charles Bettinger as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee for a term of May 16, 2012 through June 30, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 4. **Request the Town Council approve the job description for Senior Center Bus Driver as presented.** (See agenda item in your packets from Dawn Maselek, Assistant Town Administrator.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1(B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF ***SENIOR CENTER BUS DRIVER*** AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the job description for Senior Center Bus Driver as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

C. 6. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Pauline A. Schaefer, (D) 1A Fox Hill Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on May 16, 2012 and expires on February 21, 2014.** (A copy of Ms. Schaefer's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF PAULINE A. SCHAEFER (D), 1A FOX HILL DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MAY 16, 2012 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 21, 2014.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Pauline Schaefer as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority for a term of May 16, 2012 through February 21, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

C. 5. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #42-#52 for fiscal year 2011-2012 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer James M. Luddecke.** (A copy of the budget amendment forms are included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #42-#52 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve budget amendments #42 – 52 for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion regarding the monthly update from Finance Officer James M. Luddecke relative the General Fund Expenditures, Education Expenditures and Revenue report.** (A copy of same are included for Council review.)

Discussion took place. Mr. Luddecke gave an overview on the status of the budget to date.

2. **Request Abatement of Taxes for Town Owned Property per CGS 12-81 129/141 Talcottville Road and 13 Morrison Street.** (See memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated May 4, 2012 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator regarding same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE THE TAXES OF 129 TALCOTTVILLE ROAD AND 13 MORRISON STREET AS PRESENTED IN COLLECTOR HJARNE'S MEMORANDUM OF MAY 4, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the request of abatement of taxes for town owned property for 129/141 Talcottville Road and 13 Morrison Street. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the placement of properties totaling $71,487.99 on the suspense ledger.** (See memorandum to John D. Ward, Town Administrator from Collector of Revenue, Terry Hjarne dated May 7, 2012.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE SECT. 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING $71,487.99 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED MAY 7, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve the placement of properties totaling $71,487.00 on the suspense ledger. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

New business item #'s 4 and 5 are on hold until the June 5, 2012 regular Town Council meeting.

4. **Request the Town Council accept the changes to State Representative Districts 8 and 56.** (Information will be sent to each Town Council member when it arrives from the Registrars via the June 5, 2012 agenda.)

5. **Request the Town Council consider the changes proposed by the Town of Vernon Registrars of Voters, relative to Voting Districts reconfiguration.** (Information will be sent to each Town Council member when it arrives from the Registrars. This item is on hold until the June 5, 2012 agenda.)

6. **Update of Dog Barking Policy from Council Member John Kopec as requested by Council Member Marie Herbst.**

   Council Member Kopec gave an update and thanked all who participated in the policy discussions. The policy is almost ready and will be given to a prosecuting attorney to determine if the policy and procedures are enforceable. Then they will be presented to town council members.

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 SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING April 24, 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 April 24, 2012 Special Town Council meeting. Council Member Motola requested the venue at the top of the minutes be changed to Rockville High School. Motion to approve minutes as amended carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, MAY 1, 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 May 1, 2012 Regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Monthly Report – February 2012, Youth Service Bureau as submitted by Director Alan M. Slobodien.
2. Invitation to the Town of Vernon Memorial Day Parade, May 28, 2012 co-sponsored by the Town of Vernon and the American Legion/American Legion Auxiliary.

3. Monthly Report – March, 2012, EMS as submitted by EMS Coordinator Jean Gauthier.
4. Invitation to "Small Business Forum" hosted by State Representative Tim Ackert and State Senator Tony Guglielmo and DECD, on May 17, 2012 from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM in the Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon, CT.
5. Monthly Report – April, 2012, EMS as submitted by EMS Coordinator Jean Gauthier.
6. Monthly Report – April 2012, Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain Stephen M. Clark.
7. Monthly Report – April 2012, Town Clerk as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
8. Invitation to the RDA Annual Town Meeting, May 22, 2012 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM Social Time and 7:00 PM Meeting.

Adjourn (9:08 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary