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

April 3, 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
There were no speakers at Citizen's forum.

Citizen's forum closed at 7:32 PM

D.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion to go into executive session:

MOTION
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-11-6003466S UNION FUEL ASSOCIATES VS TOWN OF VERNON 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 Weissberger made the following motion:

MOTION:
TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ATTORNEY TO SETTLE A TAX APPEAL CAPTIONED "UNION FUEL ASSOCIATES, LLC, VS. TOWN OF VERNON ET.AL DOCKET NO. CV-11-6003466S" FOR TAXES ON THE GRAND LIST OF OCTOBER 1, 2010 FOR THE ASSESSED VALUE OF $122,500 OR THE 100% FAIR MARKET VALUE OF $175,000 AND TO REFUND ANY TAXES OVERPAID TO BE APPLIED TO THE 2011 GRAND LIST TAXES.

Motion carried unanimously.

E.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

F.) **PRESENTATIONS**

1. Mayoral Proclamation Proclaiming April, 2012 - "Fair Housing Month".
The Vernon Housing Authority has been invited to receive the Proclamation.
Mayor Apel presented a proclamation to members of the Vernon Housing Authority.

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

- 30 members of the Public Works Department along with the Board of Education Janitorial staff attended an electrical safety program arranged by the Emergency Management Coordinator.
- On April 28, 2012 the Public Works garage will hold a medication disposal day.
- The Moody bond rating came out and Vernon was given an AA2 level
- Mayor Apel attended the ribbon cutting at Jumpin Johnnies
- The Easter egg hunt takes place at Henry Park on April 6, 2012 9:00 AM
- The 2012-2013 budget has been decreased due to negotiations with the town's new Health care provider.
- The Town closed on 8, 11, 12 West Street and 47 Village St. which was bought by ECHN.

G.) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Council Member Herbst pulled consent agenda item #9 for discussion. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1 through 8 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 March 26, 2012 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THREE (3) OVERPAYMENTS OF THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF $532.55 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 26, 2012.

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

C 2. **Request 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 Affirmative Action Policy is included for Council review)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY STATEMENT** AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL TO EXECUTE THIS DOCUMENT, DESIGNATING JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AS THE TOWN'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to adopt the Town of Vernon Affirmative Action Policy Statement as required by DECD and the Small Cities Grant Program. Motion carried unanimously.

C 3. **Request the Town Council, in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant, endorse the Fair Housing Resolution for the Town of Vernon during April, 2012 Fair Housing Month.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND ADOPTS THE TOWN OF VERNON **FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION** AND AUTHORIZES JOHN WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND FAIR HOUSING OFFICER TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON. SAID FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION IS A REQUIREMENT OF THE SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to waive the reading of and adopt the Town of Vernon Fair Housing Resolution as required by the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application for 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C 4. **Request the Town Council, in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant, endorse the Fair Housing Policy Statement for the Town of Vernon during April, 2012 Fair Housing Month.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND ADOPTS THE **FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT** AND AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AND FAIR HOUSING OFFICER TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON. SAID POLICY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED BY THE SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to waive the reading and adopt the Fair Housing Policy Statement as required for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

C 5. **Request the Town Council, in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant, endorse the Title VI Document for the Town of Vernon during April, 2012 Fair Housing Month.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND FAIR HOUSING OFFICER TO SIGN THE **TITLE VI DOCUMENT** DECLARING THE TOWN OF VERNON'S COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964. SAID COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED BY THE SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to waive the reading of and authorize John D. Ward, Town Administrator to sign the Title VI Document for the Town of Vernon as required by the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

C 6. **Request the Town Council, in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant, endorse the ADA Notice for the Town of Vernon during April, 2012 Fair Housing Month.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND RE-ADOPTS THE **ADA NOTICE** AND AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND FAIR HOUSING OFFICER TO PUBLISH SAID NOTICE IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER. SAID COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED BY THE SMALL CITIES.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to waive the reading of and re-adopt the ADA notice for the Town of Vernon as required by the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

C 7. **Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant, endorse the ADA Grievance Procedure for the Town of Vernon during April, 2012 Fair Housing Month**.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING AND RE-ADOPTS THE **ADA MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE** PROCEDURE NOTICE AND AUTHORIZES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL TO SIGN THE ADA MUNICIPAL GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE NOTICE DECLARING THE TOWN OF VERNON'S COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. SAID COMPLIANCE IS REQUIRED BY THE SMALL CITIES, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION FOR 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to waive the reading of and re-adopt the ADA Municipal Grievance Procedure for the Town of Vernon as required by the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

C 8. **Request the Town Council approve the grant application for the 2013 submission for Historic Documents Preservation.** (A copy of a memorandum from Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk, to Mayor George F. Apel dated March 22, 2012 is included for your review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVE, THAT GEORGE F. APEL, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF VERNON IS EMPOWERED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER IN THE NAME AND ON BEHALF OF THIS MUNICIPALITY A CONTRACT WITH THE CONNECTICUT STATE LIBRARY FOR AN HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve the grant application for the 2013 submission for Historic Documents Preservation. Motion carried unanimously.

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

C 9 **Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #31 - #36 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 #31-#36 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 32-36 for fiscal year 2011-2012. Discussion took place. Motion carried Council Members Winkler, DiDio, Herbst, Russell and Gingras opposed.

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**
None

K.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
None

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

M.) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**
Council Member Herbst made a motion to encumber $14,000 remaining in the planning and zoning budget to go out for bid as a RFP to find someone to revised and update the Planning and Zoning regulations. Motion failed, there was no second.

N.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

O.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
MOTION:
THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 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 March 20, 2012 regular Town Council meeting. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Monthly Report for February, 2012 from Youth Services Bureau – as submitted by Alan Slobodien, Director.
2. Monthly Report for February, 2012 from Emergency Medical Services – as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.
3. Monthly Report for February , 2012 from the Police Department as submitted by Stephen M. Clark, Captain.

Adjourn (8:20 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary