

December 17, 2013

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

**December 17, 2013- 7:30 PM**

Mayor Daniel 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, Steve Wakefield, Steven Peterson, Adam Weissberger, Bill Campbell, John Kopec, Michael Winkler and Kim Appleyard, Ann Letendre

**Absent:**

**Entered During Meeting:**

**Also Present:** Mayor Daniel Champagne, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Danielle Forand

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

None.

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

[7:31 PM] Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion to go into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200(B)(2) MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS: **STRATEGY OR NEGOTIATION** WITH RESPECT TO THE **TEACHER'S COLLECTIVE BARGAINING CONTRACT** AND INVITES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO ATTEND: JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DR. MARY CONWAY, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS; DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; ANNE FISCHER, BOARD OF EDUCATION CHAIRMAN; AND DEAN HOULE, BOE MEMBER.

~~Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to approve strategy or negotiation with respect to the Teacher's collective bargaining contract. Motion carried unanimously.~~

~~Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to reject the strategy or negotiation with respect to the Teacher's collective bargaining contract. No action taken.~~

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200 (6) (C), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS **LITIGATION, TOWN OF VERNON ET AL V. BRIDGEPORT FUNDING ALLIANCE, LLC ET AL DOCKET # CV 135005776-S** RELATIVE TO THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS **AMERBELLE** AND INVITES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY HAROLD CUMMINGS TO ATTEND.

December 17, 2013

[9:19 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to approve strategy or negotiation with respect to the Teacher's collective bargaining contract. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to reject the strategy or negotiation with respect to the Teacher's collective bargaining contract. No action taken.]

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING**

None.

**F.) PRESENTATIONS**

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne reports to the Town Council on various topics.

**G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented # C1- C-7 and pulled consent agenda item #C 8 from the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- 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 dated December 9, 2013 is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIX (6) OVERPAYMENTS FOR CURRENT YEAR TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2950.74 AND THREE (3) OVERPAYMENTS FOR PRIOR YEAR TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1722.40, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED DECEMBER 9, 2013.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of John K. Anderson, (R), 105 Maple Avenue, Unit #40, Vernon, Connecticut as a Special Constable, said appointment to commence on January 1, 2014 and expires on December 31, 2015.** (A copy of Mr. Anderson's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO C.G.8. §7-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN K. ANDERSON, (R), 105 MAPLE AVENUE, UNIT #40, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A SPECIAL CONSTABLE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2014 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

December 17, 2013

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Charles E. Bettinger, (R), 15 Kingsbury Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Traffic Authority, said appointment to commence on December 18, 2013 and expires February 21, 2014.** (Mr. Bettinger's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Bettinger is completing the unexpired term of Pauline A. Schaefer.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES E. BETTINGER, (R), 15 KINGSBURY AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON DECEMBER 18, 2013 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 21, 2014.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Elma Alikhanov, Eastern Connecticut Health Network's representative to the Energy Improvement District, said appointment to commence on December 18, 2013 and expires June 30, 2018.** (A copy of Ms. Alikhanov's resume is included for Council review. It should be noted that Ms. Alikhanov is completing the unexpired term of Mr. Hussey.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 292 AND TOWN CODE SECTION 3(A), THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ELMA ALIKHANOV – REPRESENTING ECHN, 31 UNION STREET, ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD, SAID TERM TO BEGIN DECEMBER 18, 2013 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2018.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Sandra M. Justin, (R), 11 Patricia Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Arts Commission, said term commences on December 18, 2013 and continues indefinitely.** (A copy of Ms. Justin's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 09-21-76 AMENDED ON 09-21-1982 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF SANDRA M. JUSTIN, (R), 11 PATRICIA DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON ARTS COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON DECEMBER 18, 2013 AND CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

December 17, 2013

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Pat Larensen, (R), 90 Butternut Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on December 18, 2013 and expires on April 3, 2016.** (A copy of Ms. Larensen's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (TOWN CODE SEC. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF PAT LARENSEN (R), 90 BUTTERNUT LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON DECEMBER 18, 2013 AND ENDS ON APRIL 3, 2016.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of William Nicholson, (R), 86 Huntington Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as the Town of Vernon Hearing Officer, said term to commence on January 1, 2014 and expires December 31, 2015.** (A copy of Mr. Nicholson's resume is included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #215, TOWN CODE 2-5, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 218 TO ENFORCE ORDINANCES 214 AND 216 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. NICHOLSON, (R), 86 HUNTINGTON DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS THE TOWN OF VERNON HEARING OFFICER, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2014 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2015.

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

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion To approve budget amendments #9, #10, and #11 for the fiscal year 2013-2014 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #9, #10 and #11 for fiscal year 2013-2014 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

December 17, 2013

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #9, #10 and #11 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE..

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to divide budget amendments #9, #10, and #11 from the agenda. Motion carried with 1 abstention and 11 in favor.

.Jim Luddecke was present. Discussion took place.

Budget amendment # 9, to provide the Town share of the Connecticut School Security Competitive Grant. The grant award amount is \$538,222.00; comprising of a local match of \$151,828.00, with contributions from the Board of Education and Town General Government of \$75,914.00 each; and funding from the State of Connecticut of \$386,394.00. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 opposed.

Budget amendment #10, to cover costs of food, delivery and setup pertaining to the November 5, 2013 Election. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 opposed.

Budget amendment #11, pertaining to the November 5, 2013, election, additional costs of \$3,000.00 were incurred due to the reprinting of 12,000 ballots. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 opposing.

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**  
None.

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Update and discussion regarding Year to Date Revenue and Expenditures report from Finance Director James M. Luddecke for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.** (Please see report provided in the Council packet.)

**NO PROPOSED MOTION**

Jim Luddecke, Finance Director present. Discussion took place.

2. **Request the Town Council authorize designation of funds for the 29% local match for the School Security Competitive Grant Program.** (See memorandum dated December 12, 2013 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council, along with other supporting *documents attached to Consent #8, budget amendment #9.*)

**PROPOSED MOTION #1:**

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COMMITMENT OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE EDUCATION RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,914.00, AS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, FOR THE VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS LOCAL SHARE OF THE CONNECTICUT SCHOOL SECURITY COMPETITIVE GRANT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to authorize the commitment of available funds in the education reserve for capital and non-recurring expenditure account

December 17, 2013

in the amount of \$75,914.00, as requested by the Board of Education, for the Vernon Public Schools local share of the Connecticut School Security grant. Motion carried unanimously.

**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**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Wakefield made a motion to discuss a survey in relation to a current audit. Motion carried with 9 in favor, 2 against and 1 abstention.

**O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 3, 2013 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carries unanimously.

**P.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION**

1. Monthly Report – November, 2013 for the Town Clerk’s Office as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
2. Year to Date Report for the Board of Education as submitted by Michael Purcaro, Business Manager.  
Monthly Report – November, 2013 for the Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain Stephen M. Clarke

**[Adjourn (10:00 PM)]**

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

Received: December 24, 2013

Approved: January 7, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Forand  
Recording Secretary

Karen C. Daigle, CCTC  
Assistant Town Clerk