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

**February 19, 2013 - 7:30pm.**

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:**
**Entered During Meeting:** Julie Clay
**Also Present:** Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Danielle Forand

**C) CITIZEN'S FORUM**
There were no speakers at Citizen's Forum.
Citizen's forum closed at 7:33PM

D.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
None

E.) **PUBLIC HEARING**
None

F.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

Mayor George F. Apel to present Proclamations to members of the Parks and Recreation Department and the Public Works Department for their efforts on behalf of the Town during Blizzard Charlotte.

- A senior at RHS Tim Sullivan, recently participated in a shadowing with administration, touring the building, visiting the EOC in preparation for "Blizzard Charlotte" and interviewed the Mayor.
- The Emergency Management Director collaborated with the Department of Corrections to have 72 hydrants uncovered and cleared for emergency personnel.
- The time and attendance system is almost ready to be implemented.
- Dr. Conway is periodically holding coffee hours at the local schools to open the lines of communication with parents and residents. Check the BOE Website for meeting times.
- The Finance Department renovations are expecting to be finished next month.
- Leslie Campolongo has been assisting the "99 Restaurant" to put together a group of thirty pictures and scenes from around Vernon to be used to decorate and showcase in the newly renovated Vernon location.

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Request the Town Council hereby approve the Vernon Republican Town Committee's nomination of Julie Clay, (R), 81 Ravenscroft,**

**Vernon, Connecticut as a Town Council member.** (A copy of a letter of recommendation by the Vernon Republican Town Committee, dated February 14, 2013, and a copy of Ms. Clay's resume are included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE VERNON REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE'S NOMINATION OF JULIE CLAY, (R), 81 RAVENSCROFT, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 19, 2013 AND EXPIRING NOVEMBER 10, 2013.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to approve the Vernon Republican Town Committee's nomination Julie Clay, as a Town Council Member. Motion carried unanimously to approve the new business item as presented. Julie Clay was sworn in at 7:51pm.

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 Weissberger and Council Member Winkler pulled consent item #'s 1 and 2 for discussion respectively. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items #'s 3, 4, and 5 as presented.

**C 3.** **Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing to be held March 19, 2013 at 7:35 PM for the 2013 Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Funding.**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**
THE TOWN COUNCIL, PER THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CDBG FUNDING, HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS AND RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
PROGRAM, SAID HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

**C 4.** **Request the Town Council authorize the disposal of fixed assets and other items for the Department of Parks and Recreation and Finance Administration as disclosed on the fixed assets disposal forms submitted by Finance Office, James M. Luddecke.**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**
THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS AND OTHER ITEMS FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND FINANCE ADMINISTRATION AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORM.

**C 5.** **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of J. Michael O'Neil, (U), 101 Rambling Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority.** ( See the letter dated February 14, 2013 from Peter Olson, Chairman of the Vernon Housing Authority Board requesting said appointment. Included for your review is Mr. O'Neil's resume.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S REAPPOINTMENT OF J. MICHAEL O'NEIL, (U), 101 RAMBLING ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2013 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2018.

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

**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 February 11, 2013 is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES FOURTEEN (14) OVERPAYMENTS FOR CURRENT YEAR TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF $9,874.63 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 11, 2013.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve fourteen (14) overpayments for current year taxes in the amount of $9,874.63. Discussion took place. Motion carried 11 in favor and 1 abstention by Council Member Weissberger.

**C 2.** **Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #27 - #29, as provided by Finance Officer James Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #27 - #29 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 amendments #27-#29, as provided by Finance Officer James

Luddecke. Discussion took place. James Luddecke was present to answer any questions. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**

**1. Update and discussion relative to the monthly report from Finance Director James M. Luddecke for Revenue and Expenditures – 2012-2013.**

**NO MOTION REQUIRED**

James Luddecke was present to answer any questions.

**2. Request the Town Council set fixed compensation for Registrar of Voters**
(A copy of a memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor George F. Apel and the Town Council dated January 10, 2013 and follow up memorandum dated February 14, 2013 are included for Council review.) **(THIS ITEM WAS POSTPONED ON FEBRUARY 5, 2013 UNTIL FEBRUARY 19, 2013).**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION:**

WHEREAS, THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF VERNON AND CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO HOME RULE THE SUBJECT OF LOCAL VOTER REGISTRAR COMPENSATION; THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE REGISTRARS' TOTAL COMPENSATION FOR ALL REGISTRAR RELATED FUNCTIONS, BE SET AT THE AMOUNT OF $ 27,000.00 PER YEAR, PLUS COMPENSATION FOR CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AS REQUIRED BY CONN. GEN. STATUTES. 9-6 AND 9-6A WITH ANY OTHER ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION OF ANY KIND COMING BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL FOR PRE-APPROVAL.

Resolution pending from the Town Council Meeting on Tuesday February 5, 2013, made by Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger.

Council Member Didio, seconded by Council Member Winkler proposed an amendment to change the total compensation to $29,250. John Anderson and Judy Beaudreau were present to answer any questions. Discussion took place.

8:38 PM- Recess
8:43 PM- Reconvene

Amendment to the resolution failed, with 4 in favor, 7 opposed and 1 abstention by Council Member Herbst.

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Campbell moved the question. Resolution carried unanimously.

Returning to the original resolution, the council voted, motion carried with 7 in favor and 5 opposing.

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

**2.** **Request the Town Council approve dates for budget deliberations.** (See memorandum dated February 11, 2013 to Mayor George F. Apel, John D. Ward, Town Administrator and the Vernon Town Council from Executive Assistant, Diane Wheelock.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS: *Saturday, March 16, 2013* WITH A START TIME OF 9:00 AM; *Saturday, March 23, 2013* WITH A START TIME OF 1PM; *Monday, March 25, 2013, Wednesday, March 27, 2013 and Thursday, March 28, 2013* ALL WITH A START TIME OF 7:30 PM. FURTHER, Wednesday, April 3, 2013, START TIME OF 7:30 PM AS A BACK UP DATE SHOULD THE COUNCIL NEED ADDITIONAL TIME. ALL BUDGET HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. March 16, 2013 and March 28, 2013 are designated to include Public Hearings.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve the following dates, March 16, 2013 with a start time of 9am, March 23, 2013 with a start time of 1pm, March 25, 2013, March 27, 2013, and March 28,2013 with a start time of 7;30pm. March 16,2013 and March 28,2013 are designated to include Public Hearings. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER VI, "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, APRIL 23, 2013 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2013-2014 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 23, 2013 PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT 06066 BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve April 23, 2013 as the Annual Town Meeting and Final Public Hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

L.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

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

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

O.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the February 5, 2013 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Monthly Activity Report for EMS – January, 2013, as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.

2. Monthly Activity Report for Town Clerk – January, 2013 as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.

3. Letter of Resignation from Judy Hany, Town Council Member dated February 6, 2013.

**Adjourn (9:15 PM)**

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Forand

Recording Secretary