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

March 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, Julie Clay, John Kopec, Brian Motola, Steven Peterson, Thomasina Russell, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Weissberger, and Michael Winkler
Absent: Council Member Marie Herbst
Entered During Meeting:
Also Present: Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Danielle Forand

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Miss Greater Rockville Gina Salvatore and Miss Greater Rockville Outstanding Teen Jeanette Porcello introduced themselves to the Mayor and Town Council since being crowned.

Citizen's forum closed at 7:33 PM

D.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
None.

E.) **PUBLIC HEARING**
Open Public Hearing 7:35 PM

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR *2013 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT* PROGRAM (A copy of the legal notice is attached for Council's review)

MAYOR APEL TO OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING

CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR APEL AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to waive the entire reading of the legal notice. Motion carried unanimously.

Peter Testa of L. Wagner & Associates Inc. spoke about Vernon grants, assistant programs, and the Town of Vernon Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program.

Director of Social Services, Marina Rodriguez was also present to discuss Vernon Grants and pass out brochures.

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

Regular meeting reconvened.

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 Mayoral Proclamation proclaiming April, 2013 "Fair Housing Month" in Vernon to the Vernon Housing Authority. Commissioner Ray Powers and Peter Olson were present to receive the proclamation from the Mayor.

G.) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

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 March 11, 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 $41,962.57 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 11, 2013.

C 2. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #31-#33, 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 #31 - #33 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

C 3. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of William J. Gilson, Jr., (D), 95 Skinner Road, Vernon, Connecticut s a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on March 20, 2013 and expires on August 31, 2013.** (A copy of Mr. Gilson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECTION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. GILSON, JR., (D), 95 SKINNER ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 20, 2013 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 31, 2013.

C 4. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Charles Ayer (R), 42 Rambling Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee, said term to commence on March 20, 2013 and expires on August 31, 2013.** (A copy of Mr. Ayer's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED NOVEMBER 18, 1986 AND TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SECION 3, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF CHARLES AYER (R), 42 RAMBLING ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 20, 2013 AND EXPIRES ON AUGUST 31, 2013.

C 5. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Sarah J. Olson (Iacobello), (D), 6 Tunnel Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on March 20, 2013 and expires April 3, 2017.** (A copy of Ms. Olson'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 GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF SARAH J. OLSON, (D), 6 TUNNEL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 20, 2013 AND EXPIRES APRIL 3, 2017.

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

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**

1. **Update and discussion relative to the monthly report from Finance Director James M. Luddecke for Revenue and Expenditures – 2012-2013, as of February 28, 2013.**

NO MOTION REQUIRED

Director of Finance, Jim Luddecke was present to answer any questions. Discussion took place.

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council adopt the Certified Resolution of Applicant for the Small Cities Program.**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, Federal monies are available under the Connecticut Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development pursuant to Public Law 93 – 3 83, as amended; and,

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

WHERAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the **Town of Vernon** make application to the State for **$400,000** in order to undertake a Small Cities Community Development Program and to execute an Assistance Agreement therefore, should one be offered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Town Council and the Town of Vernon:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State Assistance imposed by Part VI of Chapter 130 of The Connecticut General Statutes; and,

2. That the filing of an application by the Town of Vernon in an amount not to exceed $400,000 is hereby approved, and that the **Mayor** is hereby authorized and directed to file such Application with the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required by the Commissioner, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an Agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions

thereto, to carry out approved activities and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Vernon.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to adopt the Certified Resolution of Applicant for the Small Cities Program. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Notification of Department changes - Transfer of Maintenance of Park Buildings and Grounds to the Department of Public Works for a trial period of nine months, Beginning April 1, 2013.** (See memorandum from Mayor George F. Apel to the Town Council dated March 12, 2013 relative to same.)

NO MOTION REQUIRED

Council Member DiDio, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to delay the implementation until further clarification from a legal opinion on the charter and a cost saving analysis is performed.

Recess 8:11pm

Reconvened 8:21pm

Discussion took place. Motion failed with 5 in favor, 5 against and 1 abstention. The tie was broken by the Mayor.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG Coordinator) job description as recommended by Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek.** (A copy of the new job description is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN OUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF FOG COORDINATOR AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to approve the Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG Coordinator) job description as recommended by Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek.

Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek and Director of WPCA, David Ignatowicz were present to answer any questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the Parks and Recreation application to apply to DEEP for the Recreation Trail Grant in the amount of $60,000.** (See memorandum dated March 14, 2013 to Mayor George F. Apel from Bruce Dinnie, Director of Parks and Recreation.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL TO EXECUTE ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS TO MAKE

APPLICATION AND RECEIVE THE DEEP RECREATION TRAIL GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $60,000.00

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to approve the Parks Recreation application to apply to DEEP for Recreation Trail Grant in the amount of $60,000. 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 and approve the minutes of the March 5, 2013 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried 10 in favor and 1 abstention.

P.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Monthly Activity Report – February, 2013 Town Clerk's Office, as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.

2. News Article from the Enfield Press dated February 28, 2013 announcing Mike Pirro's selection as the new Director of the North Central Health Department.

3. News Release from Governor Dannel P. Malloy announcing CHAMP funds for two Vernon projects. Vernon receives CHAMP funds for the Old Talcott Brother's Mill and Loom City Loft projects totaling $9.4 million dollars.

4. Monthly Activity Report - February, 2013 EMS as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.

5. Letter from Stacey Vairo, DECD relative to the Strong Family Farm being placed on the State Register of Historic Places on February 6, 2013.

6. Year to Date Budget Report from the Board of Education as submitted by Michael Purcaro, Finance and Business Manager.

Adjourn 8:45pm

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Forand
Recording Secretary