

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

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
13 SEP 24 AM 9:27

September 17, 2013 – 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, Julie Clay, John Kopec, Brian Motola, Steven Peterson, Thomasina Russell, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Weissberger, and Michael Winkler

Absent: Marie Herbst

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

- John Dilorio, First Alliance Lending, dropped off the latest renderings and gave update on property acquisitions.
- William Graugard, 54 Lake Street, spoke about Vernon's volunteer fire department. Would like to see them have their own maintenance department.
- Michael Winkler, 20 Valley View Drive, spoke of the issues at the Amerbelle buildings.

Citizen's forum closed at 7:48 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion to go into executive session. Motion passed unanimously. Went into Executive Session at 7:49 PM. Regular meeting resumed at 7:56 PM

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-200 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGIES AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO NON-UNION EMPLOYEES AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, JOHN D. WARD AND ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK TO ATTEND.

Council member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the motion that the Town Council hereby moves to accept the Mayor's recommendation for a 1.0% wage increase for non-union employees effective July 1, 2013 and the employee premium share contribution of 5% to the HAS for non-union employees. Motion passed unanimously.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

1. Proclamation was presented declaring *Constitution Week in Vernon* – September 17-23, 2013. Niki Rittenhouse, Connecticut State DAR Constitution Week Chairman was present to receive the Proclamation.
2. Mayor George F. Apel made a presentation to the Town Council on various topics:
 - Mayor Apel presented his annual food challenge for October. Teams of employees will be competing to contribute the most items
 - RHS football is off and running; band festival on 10/19/13
 - Ribbon cuttings and rededications continue
 - Amerbelle - on 8/23 judge issued a temporary injunction; no trespassing signs posted; public works department is removing combustible materials
 - Vernon hosted the Tolland Chamber of Commerce meeting
 - Mayor read to children at Rockville Public Library
 - Met with new hired teachers
 - 10/1/13 at 6:30, prior to the town council meeting, there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the second floor renovations
 - School lunch program served 6,200 meals over the summer
 - Bookmobile distributed 2,103 books over the summer break
 - Ladder truck 141 went back into service; ladder truck 541 awaiting testing on 9/18
 - ECHN meeting attended on merger with Vanguard
 - RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program); seniors to teach and serve lunches
 - Dialog and discussion took place on Amerbelle situation

G.) CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Mayor Apel pulled New Business item #2 for presentation at next council meeting. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1 through 3 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 September 6, 2013 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES NINE (9) OVERPAYMENTS FOR PRIOR YEAR TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,496.05 AND FORTY-TWO (42) OVERPAYMENTS FOR CURRENT YEAR TAXES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 8,743.53 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED SEPTEMBER 6, 2013.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #82-83 for fiscal year 2012-2013 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 #82-83 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 the the disposal of fixed assets for the Police, Finance and Youth Services Departments, as presented.** (See memorandum dated September 10, 2013 from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to John D. Ward, Town Administrator included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF THE EQUIPMENT AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS AND THEIR ATTACHMENTS.

- H.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
None

- I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion relative to monthly update from Finance Officer James M. Luddecke relative to Revenue and Expenditures for FY 2013-2014 as of July 31, 2013.**

NO PROPOSED MOTION

- J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor George F. Apel or his designee to authorize and execute a quit claim deed relative to the Redevelopment Agency referenced in deed dated May 22, 1968.** (See packet from Attorney Harold Cummings dated September 10, 2013.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, OR JOHN D. WARD, THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AS HIS DESIGNEE, IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE A QUIT CLAIM DEED

RELEASING ANY RIGHTS OF REVERTER WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN RESERVED IN FAVOR OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, THROUGH ITS REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, AS REFERENCED IN DEED DATE MAY 22, 1968, AS RECORDED IN VOLUME 179, PAGE 731 OF THE VERNON LAND RECORDS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Winkler made the above motion to authorize and execute a quit claim deed relative to the Redevelopment Agency referenced in deed dated May 22, 1968. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 abstention.

3. Request the Town Council authorize the MOA and resolution for the FY 2012 Homeland Security Grant Funding.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF VERNON MAY ENTER INTO WITH AND DELIVER TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY THE MOA RELATIVE TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT INCLUDING ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WHICH IT DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE; AND

FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT GEORGE F. APEL, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON AND TO DO AND PERFORM ALL ACTS AND THINGS WHICH HE DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF SUCH DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EXECUTING AND DELIVERING ALL AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS CONTEMPLATED BY SUCH DOCUMENTS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve the resolution for the FY 2012 Homeland Security Grant Funding. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Request the Town Council approve the Job Description of *Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)* as recommended by Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek. (A copy of the job description is included for Council review.)

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 *EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT)* AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve the Job Description of *Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)*. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request from Town Council Member Tom Didio to have the Town Council approve an additional appropriation for the Rockville Festival in the amount of \$1400.00 to cover the cost of Police coverage.** (A copy of Council Member Didio's email dated September 9, 2013 is included in the Council packet for review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FROM THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF \$1400.00 TO COVER THE COST OF POLICE COVERAGE FOR THE ROCKVILLE FESTIVAL.

8:35 PM Council Member Motola left the meeting

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Kopec made the above motion to have the Town Council approve an additional appropriation for the Rockville Festival in the amount of \$1400.00 to cover the cost of Police coverage. Discussion took place. Motion failed with 3 in favor, 5 opposed, 1 abstention and 2 recused.

8:52 PM Council Member Motola returned

6. **Request the Town Council approve a bid waiver for operating leases of five (5) unmarked police vehicles.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated September 11, 2013.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, HEREBY WAIVES THE BID PROCEDURE FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A THIRTY-NINE MONTH OPERATING LEASE FOR FIVE (5) UNMARKED VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, FROM SCRANTON MOTORS, INC., TALCOTTVILLE ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$21,000.00 PER YEAR; AND FURTHER, AUTHORIZES THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON ANY INSTRUMENT (S) TO THAT EFFECT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve a bid waiver for operating leases of five (5) unmarked police vehicles. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Request the Town Council approve the bid waiver for support of security enhancements at Amerbelle.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor George F. Apel and Town Council Members dated September 11, 2013 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII), SECTION NINE (9) OF THE TOWN CHARTER, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE TRADITIONAL SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AT AMERBELLE MILL, FROM *T&S BUILDING & REMODELING*, 84 PHOENIX STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,090.00; AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES THIS ACTION AS A RETROACTIVE BID WAIVER FOR THE EMERGENCY HIRING OF T & S BUILDING & REMODELING.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve a bid waiver for support of security enhancements at Amerbelle. Discussion took place. 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

None

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AUGUST 20, 2013 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 August 20, 2013 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried with 2 abstentions, Council Member Peterson and Council Member DiDio.

P.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Monthly Report – Vernon Police Department – July, 2013, as submitted by Captain Stephen M. Clark.
2. Board of Education Year to Date through September 9, 2013 as submitted by Michael Purcaro, Business Manager.
3. Four Year Technology Plan of the Vernon Board of Education and the Town of Vernon, developed by the Technology Council (TeC) – September, 2013. (A color version will be placed on the Council table on Tuesday evening for your review.)
4. Monthly Report – Town Clerk, August 2013, as submitted by Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk.
5. Monthly Report – Vernon Police Department – August, 2013, as submitted by Captain Stephen M. Clark.

Adjourn (9:00 PM)

Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary