

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

RECEIVED
 VERNON TOWN CLERK
 14 OCT - 1 PM 12:47

September 16, 2014 7:30pm.

Mayor Daniel A. 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, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Steven Peterson, Fred Lehmann, Bill Campbell, John Kopec, Michael Winkler and Ann Letendre,

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

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

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Karl Prewo of 135 Grier Road, spoke in regards to the issues at the Bolton Lake Water Shed.

John Roe of 70 Valley Falls Road, spoke in regards to the groups in Vernon that address common challenges and a collaboration of local groups supporting the community.

Cathy Rebi of 42 Neill Road, spoke in regards to the Vernon Volunteer Collaborative Group.

Closed: 7:49PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to move Consent Agenda items as presented and pull Consent Agenda items C #2 and C #3. Consent Agenda item #10 was removed from the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

C 1. Request for the approval 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 September 4, 2014 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (9) NINE PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$1067.04, AND (70) SEVENTY CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$23710.60 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE,

COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED SEPTEMBER 4, 2014.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Robert Lewis, (R), 655 Talcottville Road, Unit 160, Vernon, Connecticut as regular member of the Inland Wetlands Regulatory Commission, said term to begin September 17, 2014 and expires December 31, 2016.** (A copy of Mr. Lewis' resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT LEWIS, (R), 655 TALCOTTVILLE ROAD, UNIT 160, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2016.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of James Simon, (U), 28 Midland Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Conservation Commission , said term to begin September 17, 2014 and expires December 31, 2015.** (A copy of Mr. Simon's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JAMES SIMON, (U), 28 MIDLAND DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2015.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Catherine Bouley, Program Coordinator at the Vernon Senior Center as Municipal Agent for the Elderly, for a term to commence on September 17, 2014 and expires on December 31, 2017.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF CATHERINE BOULEY, PROGRAM COORDINATOR AT THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER AS MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Paula Claydon, Director of the Vernon Senior Center as Assistant Municipal Agent for the Elderly, for a term to commence on September 17, 2014 and expires on December 31, 2017.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF PAULA CLAYDON, DIRECTOR OF THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER AS ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2017.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jose D. Correia, (D), 1 Correia Way, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said term to commence on September 17, 2014 and expires June 30, 2016. (A copy of Mr. Correia's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 7, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JOSE A. CORREIA, (D), 1 CORREIA WAY, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2016.

- C 9. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Ronald A. Szrejna, Jr., (R), 123 Lake Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, said appointment commences on September 17, 2014 and expires on December 31, 2016. (A copy of Mr. Szrejna's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 10-61 - 10-63, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF RONALD A. SZREJNA, JR., (R), 123 LAKE STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2016.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED ITEMS

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #65 for fiscal year 2013-2014 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda. (See amendment forms in the Council packet.)**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #65 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013-2014 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Request #65 for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 as outlined in the Budget Amendment forms provided by Finance Officer, James M. Luddecke. Finance Officer, Jim Luddecke and Chief of Police, James Kenny were present. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approved budget amendment #4 and #5 for fiscal year 2014-2015 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.** (See amendment forms in the Council packet.)

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #4 and #5 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Requests #4 and #5 for Fiscal Year 2014-2015. Finance Officer, Jim Luddecke and was present. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council hereby approve the Vernon Democratic Town Committee's endorsement of Thomasina C. Russell (D), 21 Chamberlain Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a Board of Education member, to complete the unexpired term of Armarjit Buttar. Said term to commence on September 17, 2014 and expires on November 8, 2015.** (A copy of a letter of recommendation by the Vernon Democratic Town Committee, dated August 26, 2014, is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE VERNON DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE'S NOMINATION OF THOMASINA C. RUSSELL, (D), 21 CHAMBERLAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER FOR A TERM EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 AND EXPIRING NOVEMBER 8, 2015.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the endorsement of Thomasina Russell as a Board of Education member to complete the unexpired term of Armarjit Buttar. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Discussion relative to the Year to Date Budget figures for FY 2014-2015 as presented by James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer through August 31, 2014.** (See documents attached to the agenda relative to same.)

NO MOTION REQUIRED

Finance Officer, Jim Luddecke and was present. Discussion took place.

3. **Request the Town Council per Charter Chapter 10, Section One, consider the compensation for the Chief Executive Officer.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to the Vernon Town Council dated September 11, 2014 and various other financial documents for the Council to review.)

NO MOTION PROPOSED

Discussion took place.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the Town of Vernon participating in the CT Clean Energy Communities Program.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to the request by the EIDB.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AGREES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CT CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PROGRAM, AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AS SIGNATORY ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN, TO EXECUTE THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES MUNICIPAL PLEDGE, AND ANY OTHER DOCUMENTS DEEMED NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE FOREGOING.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to agree to participate in the CT Clean Energy Communities Program and authorizes John D. Ward, Town Administrator as signatory on behalf of the Town, to execute the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge and any other documents deemed necessary. Chairman, Jeff Bodice was present. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request the Town Council approves the requested resolution by DECD authorizing Town Administrator John D. Ward to file the grant application, execute other documents as may be required and act as the Town of Vernon's authorized representative.** (See memorandum September 4, 2014 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. 32-763, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Vernon make an application to the State for \$200,000.00 in order to undertake the ***Environmental Assessments on Five (5) Strategically Important Mill and Industrial Properties*** and to *execute an Assistance Agreement.*

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL

- (1) That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by C.G.S. 32-763, and*
- (2) That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the **TOWN OF VERNON** in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 is hereby approved, and*
- (3) That John D. Ward, Town Administrator is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the **TOWN OF VERNON**.*

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the resolution by DECD authorizing John D. Ward to file the grant application, execute other documents as required and act as the Town of Vernon's authorized representative. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. **Request the Town Council authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Vernon with the Department of Social Services of the State of Connecticut for the Social Service Block Grant.**(See documents submitted by Marina Rodriguez, Director Social Services included in the packet marked New Business #8.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL EMPOWERS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO ENTER INTO AND AMEND CONTRACTUAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE NAME AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR A SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT AND AFFIX THE CORPORATE SEAL.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion empower Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town of Vernon with the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services for a Social Services Block Grant and affix the corporate seal. Motion carried unanimously.

- K.) INTRODUCTION TO ORDINANCES
- L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
- M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS
- N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting of August 19, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Year to date for budget year 2013-2014 for the Vernon Board of Education as submitted Michael Purcaro, BOE Business Manager.
2. Monthly Report – Town Clerk August, 2014 as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
3. Letter dated September 5, 2014 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue to the Town Council re: Waiver of Interest per §12-145.
4. Letter dated August 28, 2014 to Governor Daniel P. Malloy relative to Amerbelle funding.

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

Adjourned: 9:47 PM

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Forand
Recording Secretary