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

October 6, 2015 - 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 Virginia Gingras, Julie Clay, Brian Motola, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Steve Peterson, Jim Tedford, Bill Campbell, John Kopec, Michael Winkler and Ann Letendre

Absent: Council Member Pauline Schaefer

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Virginia Gingras entered at 7:36 PM

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

No one spoke at Citizen's Forum. Closed at 7:31 PM

7:31 PM RECESS

7:35 PM RECONVENED

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING – 7:35 PM

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS
RELATIVE TO "AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE
PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENTS OF 166 UNION STREET IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00"**

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

7:36 PM Council Member Gingras entered meeting

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE CALLED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Trantolo, 8 Ogden View Drive, and principal of Maple Street School, representing the staff, and Simone Christian, 6 Trumbull Street, representing parents, spoke in favor of the purchase of the Salvation Army building and lot, which will support their efforts in establishing positive relationships between the school, home and the community.

Peter Tracey, 75 Blue Ridge Drive, supports the purchase and suggested keeping a portion of the building as a recreation center for the youth of the town.

Melissa Pratt, 31 Dailey Circle, is in full support of the purchase.

Alicia McCavanagh, 84 West Street, supports the purchase.

Mark Etre, 5 Rheel Street, is in full support of the purchase.

David Kemp, 87 Hatch Hill Road, representing the Board of Education, Facilities Commission, who is in full support of the motion and endorses the purchase.

Joe Macary, Superintendent of Schools effective October 1, 2015, is in favor, and the Board of Education is in favor of the purchase.

Jennifer Holt, 30 King Street, spoke for absent Council Member Schaefer, against the purchase, stating it would be dangerous for teachers and parents to cross the street. She would like to see the property put back onto the tax rolls, and suggests utilizing land already owned on Maple Street and possible purchase of Henry Butler's property to be demolished and paved for parking lots.

Mark Kalina, 33 Snipsic Street, is in support of the purchase for the safety of children.

Kim Appleyard, 125 Tallwood Drive, as a previous employee, is in support of the purchase, to benefit the staff and community.

Brian Motola, 103 Vernwood Drive, agrees with the purchase, which will affect the school and residents. Wants to see the fence down.

Mary Conway, 317 South Street, former Superintendent of Schools, thanked the Mayor for his tenacity with the purchase; she's in full support.

John Kopec, 24 Jan Drive, is in support of the purchase.

Julie Clay, 81 Ravens Croft, is in full agreement for the purchase, as she wants parents to be able to visit the school.

Laura Bush, 219 Risley Road, heartily supports the purchase.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE DECLARED THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT
8:00 PM

**TOWN COUNCIL RECESSED MEETING UNTIL COMPLETION OF THE
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

8:08 PM RECONVENED AND IMMEDIATELY RECESSED

8:15 PM RECONVENED

F.) PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne updated the Vernon Town Council on a variety of topics and events.

- On October 2, 2015, attended ribbon cutting ceremony with Polly Schaefer and Mike Winkler for the dedication of the new flagpole at Fox Hill Center to honor veterans.

- On October 2, 2015, attended the unveiling of the newly renovated American Legion Post, done by Home Depot volunteers, from a grant to the American Legion Post by Home Depot.
- On September 29, 2015, representatives from all state agencies involved, contractors and local officials, including Ann Letendre and Dan, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for the West Main Street Bridge.
- West Main Street is open for full traffic after almost a full year of closure.
- The annual Seniorhood Fair is planned for October 24, 2015 at Vernon Center Middle School from 10 AM to 2 PM. All are encouraged to attend.
- Rockville Marching Band is again hosting its Festival of Bands, on Saturday, October 17th at 6:30 PM. All council members are invited.

Council Member Wakefield spoke of the Town of Vernon's 7th Annual Summer Days Carnival, a charity event in which 100 percent of net proceeds were divided between the Rockville Exchange Club, the Maple Grove Club and Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, to be given to the charity of their choice. Polly Schaefer is on the executive committee and Brian Motola is also a volunteer.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items C1 and C2. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1.** **Request for the approval of Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Year(s).** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated September 23, 2015 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (4) FOUR PRIOR TAX REFUND TOTALLING \$3,798.12 AND (57) FIFTY-SEVEN CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$12,262.64, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED SEPTEMBER 23, 2015.

- C 2.** **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's Appointment of Mr. Jason Cormier, (D), 36 Lawrence Street, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals; said term to commence October 7, 2015 and expires October 6, 2020.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JASON CORMIER, (D), 36 LAWRENCE STREET VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE OCTOBER 7, 2015 AND EXPIRES OCTOBER 6, 2020.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS
None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS
None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. Request the Town Council approve the job description for the Assistant Collector of Revenue as recommended by Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek. (A copy of the new 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 ASSISTANT COLLECTOR OF REVENUE AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the job description of Assistant Collector of Revenue. Finance Director, James Luddecke was available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting to be held October 20, 2015, at the third floor Town Council Chambers in the Town Hall Memorial Building, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut to receive comments and questions regarding an additional appropriation of \$220,000.00 to the Capital Improvement budget for the purchase and improvements of 133 Tunnel Road Vernon, Connecticut; and the approval of the resolution by electors and qualified taxpayers at the Special Town Meeting. (See memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne dated October 1, 2015 to the Vernon Town Council relative to same and the Property Card for said parcel.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM AND A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:40 PM ON OCTOBER 20, 2015, AT THE THIRD FLOOR TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS IN THE TOWN HALL MEMORIAL BUILDING, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$220,000.00 FROM GENERAL FUND BALANCE TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENTS OF THE PARCEL LOCATED AT 133 TUNNEL ROAD VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Wakefield made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting to be held October 20, 2015 at 7:35 PM and 7:40 PM respectively to receive comments and questions regarding an additional appropriation of \$220,000 from general fund balance to the fiscal year 2015-2016 capital improvement budget for

the purchase and improvements of the parcel located at 133 Tunnel Road. Mayor Champagne made a statement. 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 OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2015, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

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 September 15, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Letter dated September 14, 2015 from Energize Connecticut to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne announcing Vernon's selection as a "high achieving participant" in the Clean Energy Communities program.

Adjourn (8:31 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary