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

December 15, 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 Pauline Schaefer, Michael Winkler, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Joe Tarzi, 155 West Main Street, suggested that Rockville become incorporated as a borough of the Town of Vernon, with it's own government. It could then collect an additional tax, perhaps one to five mils. He compared the population density of Rockville to New London and Waterbury.

Carl Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, spoke of the upgrade to the streetlights in town and the motion before the council this evening. He questioned the cost of the study by an out of state company, and their knowledge of Vernon's traffic patterns. Asked the council to consider putting off their vote and put it out to the residents for discussion.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:40 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Presentation to the Town Council by Mayor Daniel A. Champagne on various topics.

- Wreaths Across America was held on December 12, 2015 to honor our fallen heroes. This annual event was well attended, and donations to assist with the effort are always welcome.
- Winterfest was a huge success with an estimated 800-900 people attending, enjoying the free food and items. A big thanks to Parks and Recreation for this memorable event. Other participants included the Board of Education Food Service, Fire and Police Departments, Public Works and Administration.

- Santa's house was rededicated at Winterfest. Thank you to all responsible for this addition. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be there every weekend until Christmas. Stop by and visit the house in Central Park.
- Arctic Splash raised \$2,625 for the "Send a Kid to Camp" fund, sending 35 children to camp this summer. Congratulations to Rich Durkee of our Parks and Recreation for a job well done.
- 66 children participated in the Holiday Festival party at the Vernon Teen Center. Everyone had a great time decorating cookies, watching holiday movies, face painting and many other activities. Thank you to Amy Watt of our Parks and Recreation for organizing this event every year.
- Reminder that everyone is invited to the Mayor's Office at the conclusion of this meeting for some holiday cheer.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items C1-C14. Motion to approve C1-C14 carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request for Tax Refunds for the Current and Prior Year.** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated November 25, 2015 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) OVERPAYMENT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR TOTTALLING \$3.00 AND ONE (1) PRIOR YEAR OVERPAYMENT TOTALING \$1784.93 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED NOVEMBER 25, 2015.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Doreen Evans, (D), 56 Thomas Street, Suite #3, Vernon, Connecticut as the Town of Vernon Parking Hearing Officer, said term to commence January 1, 2016 and expires December 31, 2016.** (A copy of Ms. Evans' resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON CODE OF ORDINANCES, ARTICLE III "PARKING, STOPPING AND STANDING", SEC. 13-39 "FINES FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS" SUBSECTION (e), THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF DOREEN EVANS, (D), 56 THOMAS STREET, SUITE #3, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS THE PARKING VIOLATION HEARING OFFICER, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND ENDS ON DECEMBER 31, 2016.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Robert D. McGarity, Jr., (R) 151 Hany Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory**

Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2018. (A copy of Mr. McGarity's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #268, TOWN CODE SEC. 10-105 - 10-108 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT D. MCGARITY, JR., (R), 151 HANY LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Charles R. Bardes, (U), 79 Meadowview Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2018.** (A copy of Mr. Bardes' resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1,6 & 11 DATED JANUARY 1, 1985; C.G.S. §8-4A&B, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARLES R. BARDES, (U), 79 MEADOWVIEW LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Susan Reudgen, (R), 61 East Street, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2018.** (A copy of Ms. Reudgen's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1,6 & 11 DATED JANUARY 1, 1985; C.G.S. §8-4A&B, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF SUSAN REUDGEN, (R), 61 EAST STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Diane Wheelock, (R), 132 Tallwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the North Central District Health Department, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2018.** (A copy of Ms. Wheelock's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19a-241; CHARTER CHAPTER XI, SECTIONS 1,5, & 14, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF DIANE WHEELOCK, (R), 132 TALLWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of James Simon, (U), 28 Midland Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires December 31, 2018. (A copy of Mr. Simon's resume is included in the packet for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF JAMES SIMON, (U), 28 MIDLAND DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of William J. Nicholson, (R), 86 Huntington Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, as the Town of Vernon Citation Hearing Officer, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2017. (A copy of Mr. Nicholson's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #215, TOWN CODE 2-5, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE 218 TO ENFORCE ORDINANCES 214 AND 216 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. NICHOLSON, (R), 86 HUNTINGTON DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS THE TOWN OF VERNON CITATION HEARING OFFICER, SAID NEW TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2017.

- C 9. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Victor Antico, (R), owner of Holiday Inn Express, as the Town of Vernon representative to the Greater Hartford Regional Tourism District, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires December 31, 2018. (A copy of Mr. Antico's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF VICTOR ANTICO (R), 189 GREAT POND ROAD, SOUTH GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT TO THE GREATER HARTFORD

REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT TO A TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 10. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of C. Ryan Goad, (U), 57 Glenstone Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires December 31, 2018. (A copy of Mr. Goad's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF C. RYAN GOAD, (U), 57 GLENSTONE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 11. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Everett R. Weaver, (U), 14 Deepwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2018. (A copy of Mr. Weaver's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 3; AND CHARTER CHAPTER XII, SEC. 4, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF EVERETT R. WEAVER, (U), 14 DEEPWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 12. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Qilin (Elizabeth) Yang, (U), 70 Old Town Road, Unit 336, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on January 1, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2018. (A copy of Ms. Yang's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 3; AND CHARTER CHAPTER XII, SEC. 4, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF QILIN (ELIZABETH) YANG, (U), 70 OLD TOWN ROAD, UNIT 336, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2018.

- C 13. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Adam Libros, Town of Vernon Fire Marshal, 55 West Main**

Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on December 16, 2015 and expire on May 7, 2016. (Said appointee is a Town of Vernon employee and as such does not require a resume. Mr. Libros will complete the unexpired term of Mr. Walker, Town of Vernon retired Fire Marshal.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ADAM LIBROS, TOWN OF VERNON FIRE MARSHAL, 55 WEST MAIN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON DECEMBER 16, 2015 AND EXPIRES MAY 7, 2016.

- C 14. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment request #7 for fiscal year 2015-2016 as provided by Finance Officer, James M. Luddecke.**
(See attached budget amendment forms for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #7 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICERS, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS
None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to apply for the Local Prevention Grant.** (See memorandum attached as submitted by Michelle Hill, Director of the Vernon Youth Services Bureau.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5323.00.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to authorize Mayor Champagne to apply for the Local Prevention Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Request the Town Council approve the disposal or sale by competitive bidding items from the Vernon Police Department.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DISPOSE OR SELL, BY COMPETITIVE BIDDING, THE TELEVISION, DVD PLAYER AND VCR AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the disposal or sale of items from the Vernon Police Department. Chief Kenny answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal or sale at public auction items from Rockville High School – Vocational Agriculture Program, Lake Street School and Maple Street School, as disclosed on the fixed asset forms attached.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION OF ITEMS FROM ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL – VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM, LAKE STREET SCHOOL AND MAPLE STREET SCHOOL, AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard made a motion to approve the disposal of items from Rockville High School, Lake Street School and Maple Street School. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council affirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Attorney Louis A. Spadaccini as Town Attorney.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER XI, SECTION 5, ENTITLED "OTHER OFFICERS", HEREBY AFFIRMS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF LOUIS A. SPADACCINI, ESQ., AS TOWN ATTORNEY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to affirm the appointment of Attorney Louis A. Spadaccini as Town Attorney. Motion carried unanimously. Attorney Spadaccini introduced himself and expressed his thanks at the appointment.

5. **Request the Town Council affirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Martin B. Burke, Esq., as Assistant Town Attorney.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER XI, SECTION 5, ENTITLED "OTHER OFFICERS", HEREBY AFFIRMS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MARTIN B. BURKE, ESQ., AS ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to affirm the appointment of Attorney Martin B. Burke as Assistant Town Attorney. Attorney Burke addressed the council. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Request the Town Council affirm Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Mark K. Branse, Esq., as Assistant Town Attorney.

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER XI, SECTION 5, ENTITLED "OTHER OFFICERS", HEREBY AFFIRMS MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MARK K. BRANSE, ESQ., AS ASSISTANT TOWN ATTORNEY.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Letendre made a motion to affirm the appointment of Attorney Mark K. Branse as Assistant Town Attorney. Attorney Branse addressed the council. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

1. The Town Council is requested to affirm their support of the December 1, 2015 motion relative to the CCM Streetlight LED Conversion. (See memorandum dated December 10, 2015 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

AFTER FURTHER REVIEW OF THE PROJECT INCLUDING THE CONTRACTS, PAPERWORK, THE TOWN COUNCIL AFFIRMS ITS DECEMBER 1, 2015 APPROVAL OF THE CCM STREETLIGHT LED CONVERSION AND FINANCING AS PRESENTED ON DECEMBER 1, 2015 AND DECEMBER 15, 2015.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to affirm their support of the December 1, 2015 motion relative to the CCM Streetlight LED Conversion. Public Works Director Robert Kleinhans and Attorney Burke answered questions along with Tanko Lighting representative, Julia Allman. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

**K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
None**

**L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
None**

**M.) IDENTIFICATION OF AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS
None**

**N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS, AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS
None**

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2015 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the regular town council meeting of December 1, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report – Vernon Police Department, November 2015 as submitted by Captain John Kelley.
2. Invitation to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne’s Holiday Party, immediately following the December 15th Town Council Meeting.
3. Monthly Report – EMS, November, 2015 as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.

Adjourn (8:40 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary