

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

RECEIVED
 VERNON TOWN CLERK
 15 MAY 11 PM 3:21

May 5, 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, Virginia Gingras, Julie Clay, Brian Motola, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Steve Peterson, Fred Lehmann, Bill Campbell, John Kopec, Michael Winkler and Ann Letendre

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

No one spoke at Citizen's Forum. Closed at 7:32 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne made a presentation to the Town Council on various topics.

- The Dr. Henry Cogswell statue has been fully restored and returned to the town green. Rosita Pitkat, who commissioned the replica, attended the unveiling of the statue. Thank you to the Parks & Recreation Department for their cooperation and Bundy Motors who did the restoration work on the statue. The repair noted in the budget amendment item came in at \$1,600 rather than \$50,000. Bundy Motors has generously agreed to maintain the statue.
- There were 2 ribbon cutting ceremonies this week, one at State Farm Insurance on Route 83, and the Wing Stop in Tri-City Plaza.
- The Talcottville Mill located on Main Street announced they received another round of grant financing so they can start the CUNO mill project.
- Ken Kaplan, owner of the Hockanum Mill, held a fundraiser for Relay for Life. The event was a huge success with hundreds of people attending, raising money and seeing what the motorcycle museum will bring to the Town of Vernon.

F.) PUBLIC HEARING – 7:35 PM

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO "THE PROPOSED LEASE OF SPACE AT MAPLE STREET SCHOOL AND ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TO FIRST CHOICE HEALTH SERVICES".

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER AT 7:35 PM

CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

William Nicholson, 86 Huntington Drive, was opposed to the school-based clinics.

Paulette Whipple, 17 Wilson Lane, had many questions concerning the school-based clinics, most of which were answered during the discussion.

Bill Dauphin, 11 Olive Lane, spoke in favor of the school-based clinics.

Norma Marchesani, 18 King Street, spoke against the clinics.

Thomas Joyce, 49 Hale Street Extension, had questions concerning the concept of the school-based clinics.

Michael Purcaro, Finance Director of the Vernon Public Schools, Mary Conway, Superintendent of Vernon Public Schools, Eugene Markets, CEO of First Choice Services were available to answer questions from Council Members. Lengthy discussion took place.

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE DECLARED THE PUBLIC HEARING – ADJOURNED AT 9:07 PM

*(NOTE: Final action to be considered during **Section I** – PENDING BUSINESS #1)*

E.) PRESENTATIONS (continued)

Proclamation presented to Vernon Town Clerk Bernice Dixon and the staff of the Town Clerk's Office in honor of Municipal Clerk's Week May 3 – 9, 2015.

Presentation by Executive Director, Joan Sonnanburg of the Vernon Community Arts Center presented an overview of what the Arts Center does and the value to the community. Ms. Sonnanburg was joined by Board Member and former Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations at the Greater Hartford Arts Council, Jane Penfield. Gabby Mendelson, a teacher and performer, spoke on the Arts Center being a gem in the community.

9:21 PM RECESS

9:35 PM RECONVENED

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented C1 - C4. Council Member Winkler pulled C2. Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to pass consent agenda items C1, C3 and C4. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request for the approval Tax Refunds for Current Year .** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated April 27, 2015 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (5) FIVE CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$12,359.98, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 27, 2015.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment appointment of Marina Rodriguez, Director of Social Services, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut as Vernon's representative to The Access Agency, Inc., said appointment to commence on May 20, 2015 and expires on May 19, 2017.** Ms. Rodriguez is a town employee therefore, no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO THE BY-LAWS OF THE ACCESS AGENCY, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MARINA RODRIGUEZ, DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS VERNON'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ACCESS AGENCY, INC., SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON MAY 20, 2015 AND EXPIRES ON MAY 19, 2017.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jason Ellis (U), 95 Hockanum Blvd, Apt #5811, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Energy Improvement District Board, said appointment commences on May 6, 2015 and expires June 30, 2017.** (A copy of Mr. Ellis' resume is included for Council review. Mr. Ellis is completing the term of Dr. Russell Kunz.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 292 AND TOWN CODE SECTION 3(A), THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JASON ELLIS (U), 95 HOCKANUM BLVD., APT #5811, VERNON,

CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ENERGY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD, SAID TERM TO BEGIN MAY 6, 2015 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2017.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #32, #33, #34 and #35 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 #32, #33, #34 and #35 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 the consent agenda items C2. Finance Director, James Luddecke was available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

- 1. DISCUSSION / ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING HELD EARLIER RELATIVE TO the "Lease of Space at Maple Street School and Rockville High School to First Choice Health Centers, Inc. "**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES EXECUTION OF THE PROPOSED LEASE BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND FIRST CHOICE HEALTH CENTERS, INC., ACTING THROUGH SUPERINTENDENT DR. MARY P. CONWAY, FOR TWO HEALTH CLINICS LOCATED AT ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND MAPLE STREET SCHOOL.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to execute the proposed Lease between the Town of Vernon and First Choice Health Centers, Inc. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Lehmann proposed an amendment to the Lease Agreement on page one, under "Term", item 6, add the following sentence: "Either party may choose not to renew the lease for any reason whatsoever". Discussion took place. Amendment carried with 7 in favor and 5 against. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Lehmann proposed a second amendment to the Lease Agreement under "Tenant's Agreements", beginning on page 7, add the following sentence as a separate item: "The Tenant shall provide periodic reports to the Landlord, at least annually regarding Vernon Health Center

operations. Such reports may be copies of reports provided to other third party organizations".

9:52 PM RECESS

9:54 PM RECONVENED

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to extend curfew to 10:15. Motion carried unanimously.

Second amendment failed with 1 in favor and 11 against.

Main motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Steven Boske, to the position of Assistant Director of WPCA.** See memorandum dated April 30, 2015 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council relative to same. Also included is a copy of Mr. Boske's resume for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3, AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1,4, AND 18 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF MR. STEVEN BOSKE AS ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF WPCA FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the appointment of Steven Boske to the position of Assistant Director of WPCA. Mr. Boske was available to answer questions. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the placement of properties totaling \$207,203.26 on the Suspense Tax Ledger.** (See memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated April 27, 2015 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator, and a copy of the properties reflected on the Suspense Tax Ledger are included for Town Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE SEC 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING \$207,203.26 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED MAY 2015.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the placement of properties totaling \$207,203.26 on the Suspense Tax Ledger. Tax Collector, Terry Hjarne was available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. Request the Town Council approve the tax abatements of Town Owned Properties as outlined by the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, dated April 21, 2015 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator regarding same.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE THE TAXES FOR 18 CHESTNUT STREET UNIQUE ID#40-0109-0046A, 5 BROOKLYN STREET UNIQUE ID#41-0119-00001, AND 104 EAST MAIN STREET UNIQUE ID #40-0117-00006 AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED APRIL 21, 2015.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the tax abatements of Town Owned Properties for 18 Chestnut Street, 5 Brooklyn Street and 104 East Main Street. Tax Collector, Terry Hjarne was available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 4. Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing on June 2, 2015 at 7:35 PM to hear comments and answer questions relative to the Proposed Programs for the 2015 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (CT NAA).** (See memorandum from Kevin B. Sullivan, Commissioner, Department of Revenue Services to all Mayors and First Selectmen dated February 27, 2015 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JUNE 2, 2015 AT 7:35 PM, THIRD FLOOR, MEMORIAL BUILDING, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, TO HEAR COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR THE 2015 CONNECTICUT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on June 2, 2015 at 7:35 PM to hear comments and answer questions relative to the Proposed Programs for the 2015 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the necessary forms to make application for and receive the**

2015-2016 School Readiness Grant funds in the amount of \$332,350. (See grant attached for Council review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE BE AUTHORIZED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY FORMS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE 2015-2016 SCHOOL READINESS GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$332,350.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson resolved that Mayor Daniel Champagne execute the necessary forms to make application for and receive 2015-2016 School Readiness Grant Funds in the amount of \$332,350. Resolution carried unanimously.

- 6. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to enter into a formal agreement allowing the Town of Vernon to become a “sponsor” organization for the Summer Nutrition Program with the State Department of Education.** (See documents attached for Town Council review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL AGREEMENT ALLOWING THE TOWN OF VERNON TO BECOME A “SPONSOR” ORGANIZATION FOR THE SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAM WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell resolved that Mayor Daniel Champagne enter into a formal agreement allowing the Town of Vernon to become a “Sponsor” organization for the Summer Nutrition Program with the State Department of Education. Resolution carried unanimously.

- 7. **Request the Town Council approve to waive the bid procedure for acquisition of a used grapple truck.** (See memorandum dated April 30, 2015 from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, HEREBY WAIVES THE BID PROCEDURE FOR COSTS INVOLVING THE ACQUISITION OF A USED 2006 INTERNATIONAL 4300 GRAPPLE TRUCK AND AN EXTENDED WARRANTY, FROM APEX EQUIPMENT, 1400 WEST 53RD STREET, WEST PALM BEACH,

FLORIDA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$70,000.00; AND FURTHER, AUTHORIZES THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO EXECUTE ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON ANY INSTRUMENT (S) TO THAT EFFECT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to waive the bid procedure for acquisition of a used 2006 International 4300 grapple truck and an extended warranty, from Apex Equipment in the amount of \$70,000 and further authorizes the town administrator to execute an instruments to that effect. Public Works Director, Robert Kleinhans was available to answer questions. 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 **APRIL 21, 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 April 21, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Invitation to the Town of Vernon/American Legion 2015 Memorial Day Parade.

Adjourn (10:12 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