

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

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
15 OCT 29 AM 8:33

October 20, 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, Julie Clay, Brian Motola, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Steve Peterson, Jim Tedford, Bill Campbell, John Kopec, Michael Winkler and Ann Letendre

Absent: Council Member Virginia Gingras

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Joe Tarzi, 155 West Main Street, praised the historical significance of the Civil War Museum and Town Hall and would like to see said Memorial Building lit up at night.

Jeffrey Arn, executive director of the Vernon Housing Authority, Peter Olsen, chairman, and Ray Powers, tenant commissioner, thanked the council and Town of Vernon, including various departments, for their support throughout the year. They presented the town with a payment in lieu of taxes in the amount of \$71,959. Mr. Powers thanked the Mayor for the basket sent to him.

John Horan, 55 Richard Road, spoke in favor of the town purchasing the Tunnel Road property for the senior center.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:37 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING – 7:37 PM

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO "AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF \$220,000.00 TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BUDGET FOR THE PURCHASE AND IMPROVEMENTS OF 133 TUNNEL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT".

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE MADE OPENING REMARKS AND CALLED FOR
PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk read an email from John and Catherine Duna, 421 Lady Bug Lane, in which they enthusiastically support this proposal and relocation.

Wes Shorts, 109 Hany Lane, board member and chairman of the Senior Center Advisory Committee and exploratory committee, spoke about the events leading up to the finding and endorsement of the purchase of this property.

Paula Claydon, former director of the senior center, spoke of the need for a new center, including issues with parking, accessibility, and safety.

Joe Tarzi, 155 West Main Street, expressed his concerns with another vacant building in Rockville if the senior center is moved, and the difficult accessibility to the Tunnel Road location.

Emily Westerberg, 197 Center Road, has unanswered questions on the project.

Joe Grabinski, 623 Dart Hill Road, is in support of a new senior center, although not endorsing any particular location.

Tom DiDio, 112 Box Mountain Drive, very much in favor of a senior center, but has concerns with the property and the lack of a plan by the town. Wants to postpone vote to be sure there is no contamination.

James Krupienski, 104 Crestridge Drive, has many concerns with this property, including topography, wetlands, traffic, town and state plan of conservation and development, approvals, and the notification of this meeting to citizens.

Bill Dauphin, 11 Olive Lane, supports a new senior center, but not this particular property, as he has many concerns about wetlands, contamination, no plan of building or costs.

Barnett Baron, 126 Daryl Drive, is in favor of a new senior center, but as a commercial developer, has only purchased property when he has received approvals from the town/state. Would like to see a plan of development before making an intelligent decision.

Jennifer Roggi, 84 Hillside Manor Drive, is not opposed to a new senior center, but thinks it's premature to purchase before there is a plan.

8:29 PM Council Member Clay left the meeting; 8:30 PM Council Member Clay returned

Corinne Fisher, 6 North Park Street, would like to see the senior population polled for their input on the location of a new center. Is not in favor of the Tunnel Road location and wonders if seniors would drive to that location at night.

Carl Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, is not in favor of the location, as this location would come off the tax rolls, and seniors are moving out of town because of taxes. Agrees there needs to be a change, but questions the committee, minutes and the site.

Mike Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, is in favor of a new senior center, but not this location. Concerned with the close proximity of the highway and diesel exhaust. Suggests a different location, as an existing building can be changed, but not the property.

Paul Margelony, 42 Church Street, disputed the diesel exhaust and prevailing winds. People would be in the building, not outside.

Ron Abrahams, 10 Vinetta Drive, questioned the scope of advertising for this hearing and transparency.

Phyllis Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, supports a new senior center but not this location.

Polly Schaefer, 1A Fox Hill Drive, supports a new senior center but is very concerned with the location of this property, i.e. highway noise, steep grade, hazardous driveway.

Ann Letendre, 29 Gottier Drive, agrees we need a new senior center, as Vernon's population is one of the oldest in the State, but would like to see a site plan and wetlands review.

Jennifer Holt, 30 King Street, is in favor of a new senior center but not this site. As a local realtor, she feels other sites may be more expensive, but would be in better locations. She is not in favor of bonding for this project.

Daniel Donnell, 143-151 Tunnel Road, is not opposed to a new senior center but is not in favor of this property. He has concerns with water, runoff and the cost to build.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE DECLARED THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT
9:03 PM

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

10:00 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Kopec, made a motion to extend curfew until end of business. Motion carried unanimously.

10:00 PM RECONVENED AND IMMEDIATELY RECESSED
10:15 PM RECONVENED

F.) PRESENTATIONS

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

- A moment of silence for the passing of Paul Gingras, husband to Council Member Virginia Gingras.
- Earlier this month John Ward attended an award ceremony on behalf of the Town of Vernon to receive a clean energy community award of achievement presented by Energize Connecticut, Eversource and Connecticut Green Bank.
- October 21, 2015 is a statewide emergency exercise at the EOC. This is only a drill.
- Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 2:30 PM is the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Loom City Lofts. Congratulations on improving the gateway to the town.
- On October 30, 2015 the Town of Vernon and Visiting Nurses will hold an employee and family flu clinic.

- As this is the last meeting of this town council, a thank you goes out to all council members for their hard work, and good luck to all in the upcoming election.
- The election is set for November 3, 2015 between 6:00 AM and 8:00 PM. Any questions can be directed to the Registrars of Voters at 860-896-2376.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items C1 – C5. Council Member Winkler pulled C-5. Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve the consent agenda items C1 – C4. 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 October 7, 2015 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (1) ONE PRIOR TAX REFUND TOTALLING \$211.57 AND (23) TWENTY-THREE CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$1326.57, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED OCTOBER 7, 2015.

- C 2.** **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Susan Reudgen, (R), 61 East Street, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission; said term to commence October 21, 2015 and expires December 31, 2015.** (A copy of Ms. Reudgen's resume is included in the Council packet for review. Ms. Reudgen is completing the unexpired alternate term of Mr. Reveron.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN REUDGEN, (R), 61 EAST STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE OCTOBER 21, 2015 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2015.

- C 3.** **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Robin C. Lockwood, (U), 121 Huntington Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission, said term to commence on October 21, 2015 and expires December 31, 2016.** (Ms. Lockwood is completing the term vacated by Terence Monahan. A copy of Ms. Lockwood'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 APPOINTMENT OF ROBIN C. LOCKWOOD, (U), 121 HUNTINGTON

DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON OCTOBER 21, 2015 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2016.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #63 for budget year 2014-2015, as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment form attached to this agenda.**

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #63 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #2, #3, #4, and #5 for fiscal year 2015-2016 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.**

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #2, #3, #4 AND #5 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the consent agenda item C5. Finance Director, James Luddecke and Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek were available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS
None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council approve the bid waiver requested by Chief James Kenny relative to the acquisition of sixteen (16) body worn camera systems and two (2) camera docking stations for the Police Department. (See the memorandum dated October 14, 2015 from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator and the Police Department submission relative to same.)**

PROPOSED MOTION:

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO HEREBY WAIVE THE BID PROCEDURE FOR COSTS INVOLVING THE ACQUISITION OF SIXTEEN (16) BODY WORN CAMERA SYSTEMS AND TWO (2) CAMERA DOCKING STATIONS FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT,

FROM **ISLAND TECH SERVICES**, 980 SOUTH 2ND STREET, RONKONKOMA, NEW YORK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,322.00; 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 the purchase of 16 body camera systems and 2 camera docking stations from Island Tech Services. Chief James Kenny answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. **Request the Town Council approve the resolution designating Medicaid reimbursements for Special Education**". (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE RESOLUTION DESIGNATED AS "MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION", AND DATED OCTOBER 20, 2015.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the resolution designating Medicaid reimbursements for special education. Superintendent, Joseph Macary and Director of Business and Finance, Michael Purcaro answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3. **Request the Town Council authorize the transfer of available funds, in the amount of \$90,000.00, from the Board of Education Fiscal Year 2014-2015 General Fund budget to the Education Reserve for Capital Non-Recurring Expenditure Account.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE TRANSFER OF AVAILABLE FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,000.00 FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 GENERAL FUND BUDGET TO THE EDUCATION RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT, AS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND PURSUANT WITH THE RESOLUTION SO ESTABLISHED FOR THE EDUCATION RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to transfer funds in the amount of \$90,000.00 from the Board of Education Fiscal Year 2014-2015 general fund budget to the education reserve for capital and non-recurring expenditures account. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Schaefer spoke that she was honored to attend the Rockville High School Festival of Bands. Mr. Davis continues to do an excellent job with the students.

- 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 OCTOBER 6, 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 October 6, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Kopec spoke that serving on this town council was both an honorable and humbling experience.

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

1. **REMINDER:** Flyer relative to the "*Seniorhood Fair*", a senior, adult and caregiver resource fair, on October 24, 2015 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Vernon Center Middle School.
2. Letter from the Government Finance Officers Association recognizing James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer with a *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Finance Reporting*.

Adjourn (11:01 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary