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

August 18, 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 Peterson, Fred Lehmann, Bill Campbell, John Kopec, Michael Winkler and Ann Letendre

Absent: Council Member Steve Wakefield

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 7:31 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented a Proclamation and Award to Alfred "Smokey Dreher" for his 65 years in the Rockville and Vernon Fire Departments. Vernon Fire Chief William Call and other members of the Fire Department were present to speak and offer congratulations.

7:42 PM RECESS

8:06 PM RECONVENED

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

- The 3rd edition of the Vernon Events Magazine will be out shortly.
- The National Night Out was a success, despite a bit of rain.
- The road bond projects are moving right along – 14 out of 16 miles of roads have been completed. Thank you to Public Works and crews working in hot weather and harsh conditions to complete the project.
- Thank you to Kim McTigh and Youth Services Director, Michelle Hill, for a successful summer youth program. The summer youth employment program employed about 30 students in various town departments.
- Many happy families are preparing for the return to school after a summer of camps and activities sponsored by our Parks and Recreation Department.

- 19 Grove Street has been completely leveled. There is more tree cutting to be done, but should be bringing it before the Town Council next month.
- Roosevelt Mills project is coming along quite nicely. Most of the windows are in place.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the consent agenda item C1. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request for the approval of Tax Refunds for Current Year.** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated August 10, 2015 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (8) EIGHT PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUND FOR A TOTAL OF \$703.38 AND (38) THIRTY-EIGHT CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$4332.77, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED AUGUST 10, 2015.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council authorize Town Administrator John D. Ward to negotiate the sale of a portion of Town-owned land located on Franklin Street, Parcel ID 07-0030-00004.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated August 12, 2015 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same, as well as the current property card and maps of the area for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO NEGOTIATE THE SALE OF A PORTION OF TOWN-OWNED LAND LOCATED ON FRANKLIN STREET, PARCEL ID 07-0030-00004, MEASURING APPROXIMATELY TWENTY (20) FEET FROM THE EXISTING SIDE LOT LINE OF 85 FRANKLIN STREET AND APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN (147) FEET FROM FRANKLIN STREET TO THE REAR OF THE LOT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE MARKET VALUE OF THE LAND.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to negotiate the sale of a portion of town-owned land located on Franklin Street for an amount not to exceed the market value of the land. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council authorize the commitment of available funds in the Education Reserve for Capital and Non-Recurring Expenditure Account in the amount of \$120,000.00.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer dated August 12, 2015 and five letters dated July 27, 2015 from Dr. Mary P. Conway, Superintendent of Schools relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COMMITMENT OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE EDUCATION RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$15,000.00 FOR VENTILATION REPAIRS IN THE ATHLETIC AREA AT ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL; \$20,000.00 FOR REMEDIATION ITEMS IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES AT ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL; \$25,000.00 FOR CAFETERIA SECURITY GATES AT VERNON CENTER MIDDLE SCHOOL; \$10,000.00 FOR THE INSTALLATION OF AN AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM IN THE MEDIA CENTER AT CENTER ROAD SCHOOL; AND \$50,000.00 TO REPLACE AN OIL-FIRED BOILER WITH A NATURAL GAS-FIRED BOILER AT THE CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to authorize the commitment of available funds in the education reserve for capital and non-recurring expenditure account for the above items at Rockville High School, Vernon Center Middle School, Center Road School and the Central Office Building. Finance Officer, James Luddecke and Public Works Director, Robert Kleinhans were available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to put off the discussion until a representative from the school administrative offices would be available to answer questions. Discussion took place.

8:27 PM RECESS

8:29 PM RECONVENED

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Peterson withdrew the motion. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Lehmann made a motion to postpone the discussion until the September 15, 2015 meeting and representatives from the education administration could be present. Discussion took place. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Lehmann withdrew the motion but wanted the record to reflect he strongly felt a representative from the education administration should have been present. Discussion took place on the original motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approves the disposal or sale at public auction of eight public works vehicles as disclosed on the fixed asset disposal request forms attached.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION OF EIGHT (8) PUBLIC WORKS VEHICLES AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the disposal or sale at public auction of eight public works vehicles. Finance Officer, James Luddecke and Public Works Director, Robert Kleinhans were available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

J.) NEW BUSINESS

None

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to add one additional agenda item. Motion carried unanimously.

8:52 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

1. EXECUTIVE SESSION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, SECTION 1-200 (6) (A) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER TOWN EMPLOYEE AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD AND FINANCE DIRECTOR JIM LUDDECKE TO ATTEND.

9:05 PM Council returned from Executive Session. Council Member Schaefer had left the meeting during Executive Session. No vote was taken.

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 JULY 21, 2015, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Kopec, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the regular town council meeting of July 21, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report for EMS – June 2015, as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.

2. Letter dated June 30, 2015 relative to a grant award from the Connecticut State Library and our Historic Documents Preservation Grant #146-PC-16 Cycle 1, FY 2016.
3. Capital Workforce Partners Article featuring one of Vernon's Summer Job Students dated August 13, 2015. "Celebrating Dejanee's College Essay."
4. Journal Inquirer Article dated July 2, 2015 entitled "Vernon Greenways Volunteers relocate unstable trail bridge."

Adjourn (9:06 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Lehmann, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary