

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

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
15 JAN 22 PM 12: 21

January 20, 2015 7:30pm.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Virginia Gingras, Brian Motola, Steve Wakefield, Kim Appleyard, Steven Peterson, Bill Campbell, Michael Winkler, Ann Letendre, Julie Clay, Fred Lehmann and John Kopec

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Danielle Forand

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Donna Redford and Sharon Enman from Rockville Public Library informed the Town Council about new programs and online resources the library offers to the community.

Gail Faherty, 138 Trout Stream Drive, spoke in regards to the Northern Connecticut Land Trust and their mission to preserve the natural resources of northern Connecticut region.

Closed 7:54pm.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Mary Conway, Superintendent of Schools and Robert Sigan, Director of Information Technology presented the five year technology replacement plan for the Vernon Public Schools. Discussion took place.

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

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to move Consent Agenda items C# 1-3 as presented. 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 January 12, 2015 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (9) NINE CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$1537.06, AS OUTLINED

IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JANUARY 12, 2015.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Mason Thrall (U), 172 Irene Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2015 and expires on February 20, 2018.** (A copy of Mr. Thrall's resume is included for Council review.)

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 REAPPOINTMENT OF MASON THRALL (U), 172 IRENE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2015 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Chief James Kenny, Vernon Police Chief, 725 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2015 and expires on February 20, 2018.** (Chief Kenny is an employee of the Town of Vernon, therefore no resume is attached.)

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 REAPPOINTMENT OF CHIEF JAMES KENNY, 725 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2015 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 20, 2018.

- H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS
- I.) PENDING BUSINESS
- J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of the new Town of Vernon Engineer .** (See memorandum dated January 15, 2015 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council recommending same. The applicants resume has been included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC.3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1, 3 AND 17 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S

APPOINTMENT OF DAVID SMITH AS **ENGINEER** FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the appointment of David Smith as Engineer for the Town of Vernon. Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek and David Smith were present. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

Recess:8:50pm

Reconvene: 8:59pm

- 2. Update and discussion regarding Year to Date Revenue and Expenditures report from Finance Officer James M. Luddecke for Fiscal Year 2014- 2015.**
(Please see YTD Report provided in the Council packet.)

NO PROPOSED MOTION

Finance Director, Jim Luddecke was present. Discussion took place.

- 3. Request the Town Council consider the request of the Vernon Arts Commission to reduce the membership of the Commission from nine to five regular members.** (See memorandum from the Vernon Arts Commission to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council dated January 8, 2015 relative to same. Also included for Council review are the following historical documents: Copy of the chronological history of this Commission (as prepared by the Town Clerk's Office); VAC original by-laws; Town Council Resolution establishing the Fine Arts Commission on September 21, 1076; three amending Town Council Resolutions amending the by-laws on March 6, 1978; September 21, 1982 and March 24, 2008.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF VERNON ARTS COMMISSION REGULAR MEMBERS FROM NINE TO FIVE

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to approve the reduction in the number of Vernon Arts Commission Regular members from nine to five. Discussion took place. Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to move to postpone the proposed motion until the next Town Council meeting. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 2 opposed.

- K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
- L.) ACTION OF ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
- M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS
- N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to move to add the additional agenda item as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

- 1. Request the Vernon Town Council adopt a resolution relative to the Main Street Investment Fund Grant Award in the amount of \$400,000.00.** (See memorandum dated January 20, 2015 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to said resolution.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE RECEIPT OF \$400,000 IN **MAIN STREET INVESTMENT FUNDS** GRANTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE THE MAIN STREET INVESTMENT FUND AWARD NOTICE, ANY AMENDMENTS, DECISIONS, AND REVISIONS THERETO, AND TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the receipt of \$400,000 in Main Street Investment Funds granted through the Department of Housing and further authorize John D. Ward, Town Administrator to execute the Main Street investment fund award notice, any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Vernon. Motion carried unanimously.

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **DECEMBER 16, 2014** 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 December 16, 2014 Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL MOVES **RECONSIDERATION OF THE VOTE** TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON **OCTOBER 21, 2014** TAKEN AT THE NOVEMBER 18, 2014.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to move to reconsider the vote to approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting held on October 21, 2014 taken at the November 18, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL MOVES TO **CORRECT** THE MINUTES OF **OCTOBER 21, 2014** TO REFLECT THE **VOTE COUNT** AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO 10 AFFIRMATIVE, 1 NEGATIVE AND 1 ABSTENTION.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Kopec made a motion to correct the minutes of October 21, 2014, to reflect the vote count after executive session to 10 affirmative, 1 negative and 1 abstention. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report – EMS December, 2014, as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.
2. Monthly Report – Town Clerk, December, 2014, as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
3. Monthly Report – Police Department, December, 2014 as submitted by Captain Stephen

Q.) ADJOURNMENT

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

Adjourned: 9:40 PM

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Forand
Recording Secretary