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

November 1, 2016 - 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, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras
Absent: Kim Appleyard
Entered During Meeting: Virginia Gingras
Also Present: Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM
None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of John LaBossiere as Building Official for the Town of Vernon.** (Attached please find a copy of the job description and Mr. LaBossiere's resume.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1,3 AND 20 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JOHN LABOSSIERE AS BUILDING OFFICIAL FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the appointment of John LaBossiere as Building Official for the Town of Vernon. Mr. LaBossiere addressed the council.

7:34 PM Council Member Gingras entered the meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Chrystine Longley, as Director of Social Services.** (See attached job description and resume for Ms. Longley.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER XI, SECTION 3, "APPOINTMENTS", AND CHAPTER XI, SECTIONS 1,3, AND 15, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL

A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF CHRYSTINE LONGLEY AS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the appointment of Chrystine Longley as Director of Social Services for the Town of Vernon. Ms. Longley addressed the council. Motion carried unanimously.

7:38 PM Recess; 7:47 PM Reconvened

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:48 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into executive session:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SECTION 1-200(2) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE FOLLOWING BARGAINING UNITS, ***THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SUPERVISORS REPRESENTED BY LOCAL 818 OF COUNCIL 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO,*** AND INVITES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO ATTEND: JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND LABOR COUNSEL ATTORNEY RYAN O'DONNELL, OF THE LAW FIRM SIEGEL, O'CONNOR, O'DONNELL AND BECK.

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 8:07 PM.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made the following motion:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO ENTER INTO THE NEGOTIATED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SUPERVISORS REPRESENTED BY LOCAL 818 OF COUNCIL 4, AFSCME, AFL-CIO, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2015 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019 ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRESENTED. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 against, Council Member Campbell.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING
None

F.) PRESENTATIONS

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

- The town has hired quite a few new employees and thanks the council members who have assisted in this task.
- A grand opening of Fiesta Americana on Route 30 was held this month.
- The Historical Society had their anniversary celebration on October 22nd. We thank the Society for their many years of tireless support maintaining the Town of Vernon historical records.
- Through a generous donation, a bench was dedicated to Gene Pitney at the Fox Hill Tower. Take a drive to Henry Park to see it.

- Beginning November 15th the Veterans Administration will offer office hours at the Senior Center every Tuesday between 9:00 and 3:30. A VA representative will be available to answer questions and offer guidance. An appointment can be made by calling 860-563-8800.
- Parks and Recreation had their "Boo Bash" which was well attended and offered a wonderful time for the children.
- The Town of Vernon sent a beautiful orchid plant to the memorial service for Rosetta Pitkat, who generously donated funds for the restoration of the Cogswell Fountain. We thank Rosetta for her generosity and offer her family our sympathy.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented # C1 – C2. Council Member Clay pulled C-2. Motion carried unanimously to pass C-1.

C 1. Request for the Town Council to approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Year . (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated October 14, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SEVEN (7) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF $714.95 AND FORTY-EIGHT (48) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF $5656.99, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED OCTOBER 14, 2016.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8 for fiscal year **2016-2017** as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms. (See budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS **#2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 and #8** FOR FISCAL YEAR **2016-2017** AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Motola, made a motion to approve consent agenda items #C-2. Finance Director, James Luddecke, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS
None

J.) NEW BUSINESS (continued)

3. **Request the Town Council approve the Acceptance Agreement between the Town of Vernon and the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation.** (See agreement attached for Property File 171-394-1.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ACCEPTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE TOWN OF VERNON REFERRED TO AS FILE 171-394-1. THE TOWN COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR THIS PURPOSE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the acceptance agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation referred to as File 171-394-1. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal or sale at public auction of items from Lake Street School and Northeast School, as listed on the fixed asset disposal forms attached to this agenda.** (See forms provided by Finance Director James M. Luddecke.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION OF ITEMS FROM LAKE STREET SCHOOL AND NORTHEAST SCHOOL, AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET FORMS AND ATTACHMENTS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the disposal or sale at public auction of items from Lake Street School and Northeast School. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Request the Town Council approve the wage range adjustment for the position of Assistant Building Official.** (See the memorandum dated October 28, 2016 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE WAGE RANGE ADJUSTMENT FOR THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT BUILDING OFFICIAL. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, SAID RANGE WILL BE $57,838.56 TO $73,586.24 AS RECOMMENDED BY TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the wage range adjustment for the position of assistant building official. Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek, spoke. 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

Council Member Campbell made a motion directing the Town Clerk to notify Council Members by email of any Board of Education contracts that are filed in the Town Clerk's Office. Discussion took place. Council Member Campbell withdrew his motion. Mayor Daniel A. Champagne directed the Town Clerk to notify Council Members by email when any Board of Education contracts are filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **OCTOBER 4, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION
None

Adjourn (8:40 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary