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

April 5, 2016 - 7:30 PM

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, Michael Winkler, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford and Steve Peterson
Absent: Council Members Kim Appleyard, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras
Entered During Meeting:
Also Present: Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

McLean Oakeson of Glastonbury, the Board President of the Vernon Chorale, invited the council members to attend their 35th anniversary concert this Saturday at St. Bernard's Church, entitled Dona Nobis Pachem. The Vernon Chorale will be performing with a string orchestra and the Rockville High School choir.

Andy Maragliano of 13 Juniper Lane, supports the motion to add the additional Bolton Lakes roads to the paving project.

Joe Tarsi of 155 West Main Street, spoke of the linking of Vernon's trail system to Ellington's, and his suggestion for extending Vernon's existing trail to downtown Rockville.

Lisa Brooks of 21 Beechwood Road, near the Bolton Lakes area, spoke of the condition of her street and surrounding ones with regard to filling potholes.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:41 PM

Council Member Bush, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to add two additional agenda items, an Executive Session and Pending Business #2. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION (As an Additional Agenda Item)

Entered Executive Session at 7:43 PM

Council Member Wakefield, 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 §1-200 (6) (B) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION, TOWN OF VERNON V POULIOS DOCKET NO. CV14-6008030-S AND INVITES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TOWN ATTORNEY BETH FORAN AND ANDY MARCHESE, TOWN OF VERNON ZONING OFFICER TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 8:12 PM

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

THE TOWN OF VERNON, TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES TO ENTER INTO THE PROPOSED STIPULATED AGREEMENT IN THE MATTER OF TOWN OF VERNON V POULIOS DOCKET NO. CV14-6008030-S, UPON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. ONCE ALL PARTIES ACCEPT AND FORMALLY ENTER INTO SAID AGREEMENT, THE DOCUMENT SHALL BE MADE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

Motion carried unanimously.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING
None

F.) PRESENTATIONS

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

- Vernon, in partnership with the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce, hosted a regional forum on economic development. Among the discussions were initiatiatives to fuel job growth in Connecticut and new business and municipal resources for economic development.
- John Ward and I attended the ECHN/Prospect hearings at the Elks Club last week. Information was shared, questions answered and the process will continue.
- The Vernon Police Department held their annual awards night last week, with officers and residents being honored. We congratulate all honorees including officer Steven Langlais named Vernon's 2015 Officer of the Year, and officer Richard "Rick" Tedford who was promoted to Sargeant.
- I met with the North Central Health District's new director, Patrice Sulik, to discuss Vernon's public health needs. In the future, the District will come before the council with a presentation.
- The Mother's Day Dash is fast approaching. If anyone is interested in participating, contact the Vernon Parks and Recreation Department for advance registration.
- Administration met in March with Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman to discuss the issue of crumbling basements. This issue is being watched very closely by the Town of Vernon and is working to find a solution.

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. Motion carried unanimously.

C 1. **Request for the approval 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 March 22, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF $630.32 AND THREE (3) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF $1985.82, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 22, 2016.

C 2. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Richard J. Quinn, (D), 110 Main Street, Talcottville, Connecticut as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on April 6, 2016 and expires on April 5, 2021.** (A copy of Mr. Quinn's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (TOWN CODE SEC. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF RICHARD J. QUINN, (D), 110 MAIN STREET, TALCOTTVILLE, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON APRIL 6, 2016 AND ENDS ON APRIL 5, 2021.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS
None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS (See below for Additional Agenda Item, Pending Business #2)

1. **Follow up information relative to the Information Technology VOIP Project.** (See memorandum from Robert Sigan, Director of Information Technologies dated March 23, 2016 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

Town Administrator, John Ward, spoke and well as Director of Information Technology, Robert Sigan, who answered questions. Discussion took place. No action taken.

J.) NEW BUSINESS

5. **Request the Town Council approve the resolution adding roads for inclusion into the Road Bond.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same. Also included is the resolution relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APRIL 5, 2016 RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE SCOPE OF ORDINANCE #299 – ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS, BY ADDING RESERVOIR ROAD, FISH AND GAME ROAD, PHOENIX STREET, JUNIPER LANE, SUNNINGDALE LANE, MILLER ROAD, ANCHORAGE ROAD, BEECHWOOD ROAD, SYCAMORE ROAD, CUBLES ROAD,

GARTH LANE, BEVERLY ROAD, AND FOXCROFT ROAD TO THE PROJECT.

FURTHERMORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO THE TERMINOLOGY OR PHRASING OF THIS RESOLUTION AS RECOMMENDED BY BOND COUNSEL, EXCEPTING CHANGES TO THE SCOPE OF ROADS BEING ADDED TO THE PROJECT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, proposed the above resolution to modify the scope of Ordinance #299 as stated above. Director of Public Works, Robert Kleinhans, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Jim Tedford.

1. **Request the Town Council approve a bid waiver for the Town's Health Insurance.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated March 29, 2016 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII) SECTION NINE (9) OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO (1) WAIVE THE TRADITIONAL SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING HEALTH INSURANCE SERVICES, AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES ***CONNECTICUTCARE, INC.***, FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT, TO SERVE AS HEALTH INSURANCE PROVIDER TO THE TOWN OF VERNON AND; (2) AUTHORIZES THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD AS THE MAYOR'S DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE ANY INSTRUMENT (S) TO THAT EFFECT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, proposed that the Town approve a bid waiver and authorize ConnectiCare Inc. to serve as health insurance provider to the Town of Vernon and John D. Ward as the Mayor's designee to execute any instruments on behalf of the Town of Vernon. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the Non-Emergency Interagency Agreement relative to cross-jurisdictional swearing in between the Towns of Manchester, South Windsor and Vernon Police Departments.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE NON-EMERGENCY INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWNS OF SOUTH WINDSOR, MANCHESTER AND VERNON FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND POLICE SERVICES, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the Non-Emergency Interagency Agreement relative to cross-jurisdictional swearing in between the Towns of Manchester, South Windsor and Vernon Police

Departments. Police Chief, James Kenny, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve a bid waiver for establishment of a new Fitness Trail in memory of Mikey Shea, with funds donated by his mother Lauren Lalancette.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Vernon Town Council dated March 29, 2016. Also included is a drawing of the trail for your review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER TWELVE (XII) SECTION NINE (9) OF THE TOWN CHARTER, THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE TRADITIONAL SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING FITNESS EQUIPMENT FOR PLACEMENT ON THE MIKEY SHEA FITNESS TRAIL, FROM ***ULTIPLAY PARKS AND PLAYGROUNDS***, AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT STEPHEN KRAJEWSKI TO PURCHASE SAID EQUIPMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $25,000.00.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, proposed a resolution that the Town approve a bid waiver for establishment of a new Fitness Trail in memory of Mikey Shea, with funds donated by his mother, Lauren Lalancette and equipment obtained from Ultiplay Parks and Playgrounds. The Mayor spoke and discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request approval from the Town Council to abate property taxes on leased computer equipment.** (See memorandum from James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated March 30, 2016 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12-81t OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, TO ABATE THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES ON THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT TO BE LEASED FROM VAR TECHNOLOGY FINANCE PERTAINING TO THE EQUIPMENT INCLUDED IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA CLUSTER, AS PROVIDED BY GovCONNECTION, INC. PER CONTRACT NUMBER 1072. THIS ABATEMENT IS FOR 100% OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE FIVE-YEAR TERM OF THE LEASE AGREEMENT. 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 Peterson made a motion to abate personal property taxes on leased computer equipment for IT from Var Technology Finance. Finance Officer, James Luddecke and IT Director, Robert Sigan, answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

1. **Request the Town Council consider the proposed ordinance entitled "An Act Concerning Panhandling", and scheduling a public hearing for same.** (See memorandum dated March 29, 2016 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same. Copy of the Ordinance is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO A PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ACT CONCERNING PANHANDLING," ON APRIL 19, 2016, AT 7:40 PM, THIRD FLOOR, MEMORIAL BUILDING, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to schedule a public hearing to hear comments and answer questions relative to a proposed ordinance entitled "An Act Concerning Panhandling" on April 19, 2016 at 7:40 PM, Third Floor, Memorial Building, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. Police Chief, James Kenny answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS. (Pending Business #2)

2. **Update on agenda item from the December 1, 2015 Town Council agenda (New Business #1) relative to the purchase of streetlight fixtures from Eversource, the conversion to LED Streetlights at a cost of $912,462, contracting a vendor and financing of same.** (See minutes from December 1, 2015 and memorandum dated April 5, 2016 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council and final contract documents as attached.)

Town Administrator, John Ward, updated the council on the purchase of streetlight fixtures from Eversource and the conversion to LED streetlights. Discussion took place. No action 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 **MARCH 15, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.
THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 19, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 22, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 24, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 26, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 28, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 29, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the March 15, 2016 regular Town Council meeting and the special budget Town Council meetings dated March 19, March 22, March 24, March 26, March 28, and March 29, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report – February, 2016 for the Vernon Town Clerk, as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.

Adjourn (8:50 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary