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

May 17, 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, Kim Appleyard, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson and Ann Letendre
Absent: Council Member Steve Wakefield
Entered During Meeting: Council Member Virginia Gingras
Also Present: Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Joe Tarsi of 155 West Main Street, spoke about the sidewalk on Union Street in dire need of repair.

7:33 PM Council Member Gingras entered the meeting.

Susan Reudgen of 61 East Street, read a letter from Rockville Volunteer Services being sent to the Public Works Department commending them for the repairs and improvements made to the Rockville section of town through seeclickfix.com. This area is looking well maintained and has assisted in the Rockville Volunteer Services accomplishing as much as they do.

Maryann Levesque of 183 Bolton Road, wants to volunteer her time to the town. She has completed training and submitted an application for the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:36 PM

E.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:36 pm)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED ***"ORDINANCE NO. ____ AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITATION PROCEDURES AND FINES FOR ZONING VIOLATIONS"; " ORDINANCE NO. ___ AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED"; AND "ORDINANCE NO. ____ AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 3-4 VACANT AND BLIGHTED BUILDINGS".*** *(Ordinances will be taken in the order listed for comments and questions.)*

- *MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS*
- *CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE INTO THE RECORD*
- *MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED COMMENTS*

Joe Tarsi of 155 West Main Street stated that the amendment to the blight ordinance was a good idea.

Town Administrator, John Ward, spoke of the modification to the ordinance amending the International Property Code to reflect stylistic changes for better ease of reading. There were several sections labeled "reserved for future use" that were deleted.

- *MAYOR CHAMPAGNE DECLARED THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 7:39 PM*
- *RETURNED TO THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA*

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

ACTION: ORDINANCE #1

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED ***"ORDINANCE NO. AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITATION PROCEDURES AND FINES FOR ZONING VIOLATIONS".***

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to approve the Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Establishing Citation Procedures and Fines for Zoning Violations". Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: ORDINANCE #2

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED ***"ORDINANCE NO. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE AS PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED".***

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to approve the Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending the International Property Maintenance Code as Previously Adopted". Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: ORDINANCE #3

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED ***"ORDINANCE NO. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CODE SEC. 3-4 VACANT AND BLIGHTED BUILDINGS".***

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending Code Sec. 3-4 Vacant and Blighted Buildings". Discussion took place. Town Administrator, John Ward, spoke on the ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Entered Executive Session at 7:43 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 § 1-200(6) (B), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS TAX APPEAL SETTLEMENT ***DOCKET #CV-15-6031279-S JANAKI CORPORATION INC., DBA DAYS INN*** VS TOWN OF VERNON AND INVITES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; AND DAVID WHEELER, TOWN ASSESSOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 8:01 PM

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made the following motion:

"To authorize the Town Attorney to settle the Personal Property tax appeal, Docket #CV-15-6031279-S, captioned "JANAKI CORPORATION, INC. DBA DAYS INN vs. TOWN OF VERNON ET AL, FOR REAL ESTATE TAXES ON THE GRAND LISTS OF OCTOBER 1, 2012, 2013 & 2014. The property address is commonly known as 451 Hartford Tpke., Vernon, CT. The 2012 Assessment shall be $42,090; the 2013 Assessment shall be $42,257; the 2014 Assessment shall be $45,486. The Town Assessor shall execute a Certificate of Correction and the Town Tax Collector to adjust each respective grand list year and refund Janaki Corporation, Inc. the total amount due of $16,441.07 without interest applied. Motion carried unanimously.

F.) PRESENTATIONS

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

- Rockville High School graduation is Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 6 PM.
- The Vernon Regional Adult based education graduation is Thursday, June 2, 2016.
- The Memorial Day Parade is Monday, May 30, 2016. If you are interested in or know a veteran who is interested in participating, call my office.
- This Saturday, May 21, 2016, we will dedicate the flags being installed at the Veterans Monument area of Central Park, at 11:00 AM for anyone who would like to attend.
- Maple Street School is holding their Spring Fling this Saturday, beginning at 10:00 AM.
- Department of Public Works is sponsoring their Community Day this Saturday from 9:00 – 1:00.

- This weekend, I will be attending the Boys Eagle Scout Court of Honor and the Girls Scouts Bronze, Silver and Gold Ceremony. 5 young men receive their Eagle Scout award and 25 girl scouts receive their awards. It's very exciting for them and an honor for the Town of Vernon to host such an event.
- Connecticut Agricultural Fair brochures are on the council table for use. The Tolland County 4-H Fair is August 12-14th, which is one of the 39 fairs held in the State this year.
- I, along with many department heads and union representatives, met on Monday with Connecticut OSHA to review the results of a four day audit of the Town of Vernon. It was indicated that the town departments did very well as a whole. Most of the findings have already been addressed.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented # C1 – C4. Council Member Winkler pulled C-2. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve consent agenda items #C-1, C-3 and C-4. 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 May 9, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (3) THREE CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF $2982.80, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 9, 2016.

C 3. Request the Town Council approves the appointment of Joseph R. Miller, (R) 27 Tallwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Pension Board, said term to commence May 18, 2016 and expires on June 30, 2018. (A copy of Mr. Miller's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE TOWN OF VERNON CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 9, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JOSEPH R. MILLER, (R), 27 TALLWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PENSION BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MAY 18, 2016 AND ENDS ON JUNE 30, 2018.

C 4. Request the Town Council approves Request the Town Council approves the appointment of Jennifer Holt, (D), 30 King Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission, said term to commence May 18, 2016 and expires on December 31, 2018. (A copy of Ms. Holt'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 JENNIFER HOLT, (D), 30 KING STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MAY 18, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2018.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

C **2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, #39 and #40 for fiscal year 2015-2016 as provided by Finance Officer James Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.** (See budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMEND REQUESTS **#33, #34, #35, #36, #37, #38, #39 AND #40**, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, 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
None

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
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 **MAY 3, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the the special Town Council meeting of April 26, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Adjourn (8:11 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary