

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
16 JUN 28 PM 12:51

June 21, 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, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson and Virginia Gingras

**Absent:** Michael Winkler, Kim Appleyard and Ann Letendre

**Entered During Meeting:**

**Also Present:** Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Wendy Padula, 23 Eliot Drive, spoke about the crumbling foundation issue and praised the Mayor for mailing letters to the residents concerning this problem. The town's website could possibly be linked to the Consumer Protection/State of Connecticut Crumbling Foundations website to help potential victims find information. Could the town possibly donate space in which to hold meetings of the Connecticut Coalition of Crumbling Basements and have a town representative present at said meetings.

Leo Luciani, 36 Westwood Drive, asked if the town could direct calls regarding the foundation issue to the state.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:39 PM

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**F.) PRESENTATIONS**

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

- The Vernon Fireworks is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 7<sup>th</sup>. The two viewing locations are Henry Park and Central Park.
- The Fitness Trail dedication is scheduled for July 2<sup>nd</sup> with a rain date of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact the family if planning to attend.

7:40 PM Council Member Motola left the meeting; 7:41 PM Council Member Motola returned.

- There are two ribbon cutting ceremonies this month: the first, Hartford Health Care has moved into the old Adam's Supermarket space, and the second, Farmington Bank has made a new home of the old Blockbuster Video Store near Taco Bell on Route 83. Retired Boston

Red Sox player, Tim Wakefield, will be at Farmington Bank on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 11:30 am to meet and greet the public.

- The Parks and Rec and Youth Service Departments are in full swing with their summer programs. There is still room in the camps and swimming lessons – contact Parks and Rec. Free summer lunch is again available – contact Youth Services.
- ECHN acquisition by Prospect Medical Holdings has received approval. We will keep you informed as information becomes available.
- The Governor's "Second Chance Legislation" failed to win approval. The Governor has proposed an additional \$20 million cut to municipalities. The exact impact is still unknown.

#### 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 – C5. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request for the approval 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 June 9, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

##### **PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$4733.52 AND (2) TWO CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF \$715.25, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JUNE 9, 2016.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #46, #47, #48, #49, #50, #51, #52, and #53 for fiscal year 2015-2016 as provided by Finance Officer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached to this agenda.** (See budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

##### **PROPOSED MOTION - JIM TO PROVIDE THURSDAY**

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #46, #47, #48, #49, #50, #51, #52, AND #53 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jason Cormier, (D), 36 Lawrence Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence on June 22, 2016 and expires on June 30, 2011.** (A copy of Mr. Cormier's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Cormier is replacing the term limited member James Ferguson. )

##### **PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2 & 6; THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JASON CORMIER, (D), 36 LAWRENCE STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JUNE 22, 2016 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2011.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of William Francis, (R), 41 Pinnacle Road, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Said term to commence on June 22, 2016 and expires on June 30, 2020.** (A copy of Mr. Francis' resume is included for Council review. Mr. Francis is filling the unexpired term of Mr. Cormier.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM FRANCIS, (R), 41 PINNACLE ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON JUNE 22, 2016 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2020.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Norine Edwards, (U), 19 Tolland Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cemetery Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2016 and expires on June 30, 2019.** (A copy of Ms. Edwards' resume is included for Council review. Ms. Edwards' is replacing term limited Scott Brown.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19A-296; CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 10, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF NORINE EDWARDS, (U), 19 TOLLAND AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2016 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2019.

**H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**

None

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**J.) NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council approve job description for the Fire Chief, as recommended by Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek.** (A copy of the new and old job descriptions are included for Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 4.1 (B) ENTITLED "JOB DESCRIPTIONS", HEREBY ADOPTS THE JOB DESCRIPTION OF *FIRE CHIEF* AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the job description of Fire Chief. Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 7 in favor and 2 abstentions, Council Members Gingras and Schaefer.

2. **Request the Town Council approve a bid waiver for the purchase of refuse and recycling carts for condominium complexes.** (See memorandum dated June 15, 2016 relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

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 SEALED BID REQUIREMENTS FOR COSTS INVOLVING THE ACQUISITION OF REFUSE AND RECYCLING CARTS FROM CESCO, LOCATED AT AMITY STATION, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22588.00; 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 Bush, made a motion to approve the bid waiver for the purchase of refuse and recycling carts from CESCO in the amount of \$22,588. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the modification to the Michael Shea Fitness Trail Bid Waiver from \$25,000.00 to \$28,506.16 previously approved on April 5, 2016 Town Council agenda.** (See agenda item from April 5, 2016 attached for your review. Also included is an explanation from Interim Director of Parks Steve Krajewski to update the Council.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MODIFIES THE APRIL 5, 2016 BID WAIVER AS FOLLOWS: 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 INTERIM DIRECTOR STEPHEN KRAJEWSKI OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, TO PURCHASE SAID EQUIPMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR AN AMOUNT OF \$21,606.16, AND INSTALLATION OF SAME FOR \$6900.00 FOR A TOTAL WAIVER NOT TO EXCEED \$28,506.16.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the bid waiver for equipment for the Mikey Shea Fitness Trail from Ultiplay Parks and Playgrounds for an amount of \$21,606.16 plus installation of \$6,900 for a total not to exceed \$28,506.16. The Mayor spoke on the subject. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the bid waiver for the purchase of AED's for the Parks and Recreation Department.** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated June 16, 2016 to the Vernon Town Council and Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

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 SIX (6) AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED'S) FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FROM PHYSIO-CONTROL, INC., REDMOND, WASHINGTON FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ELEVEN THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$11,200) AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR JOHN D. WARD TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SUCH PURCHASE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to approve a bid waiver for obtaining 6 AED's for the Parks and Recreation Department from Physio-Control, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$11,200. The Mayor spoke on the subject. Interim Parks and Rec director, Steve Krajewski, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. **Request the Town Council authorize a general wage increase of 1.5% effective July 1, 2016 for all non-union employees and permanent part-time non-union employees.** (See memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor to the Vernon Town Council dated June 15, 2016.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 5.2, HEREBY AUTHORIZES THAT ALL NON-UNION EMPLOYEES AND PERMANENT PART-TIME NON-UNION EMPLOYEES BE GIVEN A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OF ONE AND ONE HALF PER CENT (1.5%), EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson, made a motion to authorize the payment to all non-union employees and permanent part-time non-union employees of a general wage increase of 1.5% effective July 1, 2016. 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

**O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 7, 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 June 7, 2016 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Schaefer commented the work by the Mayor and herself with the Exchange Club, serving over 250 dinners to the seniors of Vernon, Ellington and Tolland on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. A fantastic time was had by all. A big shout out to The Exchange Club who works with the town on the carnival, and donates most of its fundraising to KidSafe.

Council Member Wakefield informed all that the Summer Days Carnival is scheduled to run July 20<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Much work is done by Mr. Wakefield and Mrs. Schaefer.

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

1. Monthly Report for May, 2016 for the Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain John Kelley.
2. REMINDER: Invitation to the Dedication Ceremony of the "Mike Shea Fitness Trail" July 2, 2016 rain date July 3, 2016 at the Dart Hill Park at 1:00 PM. Please rsvp to Administration by June 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Adjourn ( 8:12 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