RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
16 APR 25 PM 4:20

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

April 19, 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, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, and Ann Letendre
Absent: Council Members Michael Winkler, Kim Appleyard and Steve Peterson
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, pointed out that Rockville/Vernon is listed as one of the top performing cities at SeeClickFix; the town is closing/responding to many issues. He also spoke of the need for a graffiti ordinance.

7:34 PM Council Member Gingras entered the meeting.

Ken Kaplan of 200 West Main Street, commended the public works department on SeeClickFix and spoke of all the hard work done by Rockville Volunteer Services Group cleaning graffiti and trash around town.

Citizen's Forum was suspended at 7:40 PM

E.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:40 pm)

*PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED **"AN ACT CONCERNING PANHANDLING"***

- *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*

A Notice from the Rockville Downtown Association was read into the record, requesting the Town Council approve the proposed panhandling ordinance.

David Howie, a Vernon resident, spoke that he has been legitimately panhandling since October due to unforeseen circumstances that left him homeless and without means of supporting himself. He thanked everyone who generously contributed and will be resuming employment.

Mike Wendus of 91 Village Street, is a Connecticut Transit bus driver and knows of David Howie's situation, and also of many others that come into Vernon, panhandling for wrong reasons.

Dan Waskiewicz, owner of 21 West Main Street, spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance, as panhandling has been a problem in front of the shops.

Mary McCarthy of 18 Legion Drive, spoke of panhandlers in the K-Mart plaza being rude and aggressive.

Joe Tarsi of 155 West Main Street is in favor of the ordinance if it targets aggressive panhandlers, not passive, legitimate ones.

Ken Kaplan of 200 West Main Street, spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance, as he has offered jobs to panhandlers, and no one has accepted. He and his team are trying to clean up Rockville to give it a better image.

Council Members asked questions.

- *MAYOR CHAMPAGNE DECLARED THE PUBLIC HEARING ADJOURNED AT 7:57 PM*
- *RETURNED TO THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA*

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED ***"AN ACT CONCERNING PANHANDLING".***

Council Member Wakefiled seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the Ordinance entitled "An Act Concerning Panhandling". Motion carried unanimously.

Citizen's Forum resumed at 7:59 PM

Susan Reudgen of 61 East Street, doesn't support a graffiti ordinance, but supports the Rockville Volunteer Services cleaning graffiti with the owner's permission.

Mike Wendus of 91 Village Street, supports a graffiti ordinance or anything that can be done to clean up Rockville. As there are out of state landlords that don't take care of their properties, he would be in favor of giving Rockville Volunteer Services authority to clean up those areas.

Citizen's Forum closed at 8:03 PM

F.) PRESENTATIONS

Presentation of the Mayor's Trophy to the Town of Vernon Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Robert Sigan, Director of Information Technology, for the Fidelco Bowling Tournament held earlier this year. Presentation was made by John Garapolo, Chairman, of 2 trophies, the "Mayor's Trophy" and the "Chief's Trophy", led by Chief Jim Kenny and Chief Bill Call.

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

- Little League opening day is Saturday, April 23rd at Legion Field at 10:00 AM.
- First Responder Training in sign language and deafness orientation will be Saturday, April 23rd. Thank you to Michael Purcaro and the Board of Education for organizing this training.
- The Annual Town Meeting is Tuesday, April 26th at Rockville High School Auditorium at 8:00 PM.
- Mother's Day Dash is May 8th at Henry Park. There is still time to sign up with the Parks and Recreation Department.
- The Fishing Derby is at Valley Falls Park beginning at 8:00 AM on April 30th. The Derby is a free event for all to participate. The main sponsor of the day is JT's Fly Shop.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

The Mayor pulled consent agenda item # 2. Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented # C1, and C3-C5. 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 April 6, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUND FOR PRIOR YEAR TOTALLING $37.28 AND FOUR (4) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR TOTALLING $255.85, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED APRIL 6, 2016.

C **3. Request the Town Council approved budget amendments #21, #22, #23, #24, #25 and 26# 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 AMENDMENT REQUESTS #21, #22, #23, #24, #25 AND #26 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER.

C **4. Request the Town Council approve the tax abatements of town owned properties outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated March 30, 2016.** (A copy of same is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE TAXES FOR 18 CHESTNUT STREET UNIQUE ID #40-0109-0046A, 5 BROOKLYN STREET UNIQUE ID #41-0119-00001, AND 104 EAST MAIN STREET UNIQUE ID #40-0117-00006 AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED MARCH 30, 2016.

C **5. Request the Town Council approve the placement of properties totaling $187,364.01 on the Suspense Tax Ledger as listed on the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated April 6, 2016.** (A copy of same is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING $187,364.01 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED APRIL 6, 2016.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS
None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

1. **Update on agenda item from the December 1, 2015 Town Council agenda (New Business #1) and April 5, 2015 Town Council agenda (Pending Business #2) 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 the same.** (See attached memorandum dated April 15, 2016 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same. Also included are "Eversource Business Procedure", "Agreement for Service Under Rate 117 – Partial Street Lighting Service", and the "Purchase and Sale Agreement", for your review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PROPOSED POLE AGREEMENT, THE PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENTT AND AGREENMENT FOR SERVICE UNDER RATE 117.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the pole agreement, the purchase and sale agreement and agreement for service under rate 117. Public Works Director, Robert Kleinhans, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried with 8 in favor and one opposed, Council Member Schaefer.

J.) NEW BUSINESS (See below for Additional Agenda Item, New Business #4)

1. **Request the Town Council approve the job description for the *part time DPW Mechanic Laborer* as recommended by Assistant Town Administrator, Dawn Maselek.** (A copy of the new job description is 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 ***PART TIME DPW MECHANIC LABORER*** IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to adopt the job description of part time DPW mechanic laborer in the public works department. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Tedford.

2. **Request the Town Council approve conveyance of parcel from 343 Hartford Turnpike LLC to the Town of Vernon, Old Dobson Road.** (See memorandum from David A. Smith, Town Engineer dated March 30, 2016 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE ACQUISITION AND CONVEYANCE OF LAND FROM 343 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, LLC TO THE TOWN OF VERNON, OLD DOBSON ROAD AS OUTLINED IN THE QUIT CLAIM DEED AND SCHEDULE A AND HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO FILE RECORD OF THIS LAND ACQUISITION WITH THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the acquisition and conveyance of land on Old Dobson Road from 343 Hartford Turnpike LLC. Town Engineer, David Smith, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council consider the request of Jose Correia for an Easement located at 95 & 87 Trout Stream Drive.** (See memorandum dated April 14, 2016 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council as well as a history of documents relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY GRANTS THE EASEMENT AS REQUESTED BY JOSE CORREIA LOCATED AT 95 & 87 TROUT STREAM DRIVE WITH THE FOLLOWING PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION LIMITATIONS, ***"THE EASEMENT BE UNRESTRICTED AND UNLIMITED ACCESS TO THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE PUBLIC, AND THAT A SIGN WHICH SAYS "TOWN OF VERNON PUBLIC ACCESS" BE PLACED IN A CONSPICUOUS LOCATION ON THE SUBJECT PROPERTY".*** THE TOWN COUNCIL FURTHER AUTHORIZES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO FILE SAID EASEMENT WITH THE TOWN CLERK.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to grant the easement requested by Jose Correia located at 95 and 87 Trout Stream Drive. Town Planner, Marina Rodriguez, spoke. It was determined that the Town of Vernon will pay for the sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to add an additional agenda item, New Business #4. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **The Town Council approved budget amendments #27 and #28, 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 AMENDMENT REQUESTS #27 AND #28, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve budget amendments #27 and #28 for fiscal year 2015-2016. Fire Chief, William Call, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
None

M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.
See above, New Business #4.

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 **APRIL 5, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 5, 2016 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET – SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 31, 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 the special budget Town Council meeting of March 31, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report for March, 2016 for the Vernon Police Department as submitted by John Kelley, Captain.
2. Monthly Report for March, 2016 for the Vernon Town Clerk as submitted by Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.

Council Member Schaefer thanked the Rockville Downtown Association for the planting of daffodils around the Rockville sign.

Adjourn (8:27 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