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

February 16, 2016 - 7:30 PM

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Mayor Daniel Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B.) ROLL CALL:
Present: Council Members Brian Motola, Steve Wakefield, Steve Peterson, Virginia Gingras, Bill Campbell, Michael Winkler, Ann Letendre, Julie Clay, Kim Appleyard, Laura Bush, Jim Tedford
Absent: Council Member Pauline Schaefer
Entered During Meeting: None
Also Present: Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Christopher Prue

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Joe Tarzi of 155 West Main Street spoke in opposition of the new filming policy for Town Council.

John Kopec of 24 Jan Drive spoke about filming public meetings.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:34 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

No Executive Session

E.) PRESENTATIONS

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

- Vernon residents receiving threatening fraudulent phone calls about taxes
- Calls for budget meetings to be sure there is a quorum have been finished
- Vernon heart safe community designation renewed
- Events Magazine information

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the consent agenda items C1–C2. Motion to approve C1- C2 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 February 3, 2016 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES (4) FOUR PRIOR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING $744.43 AND (11) ELEVEN CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS FOR A TOTAL OF $8774.88, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 3, 2016.

C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Howard Steinberg, (R), 75 Meadowview Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence on February 17, 2016 and expires on June 30, 2017. (A copy of Mr. Steinberg's resume is included for Council review. Mr. Steinberg is completing the unexpired term of Marisa Roy, who moved to full member.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF HOWARD STEINBERG, (R), 75 MEADOWVIEW LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON FEBRUARY 17, 2016 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2017.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Connecticut Homeland Security Department relative to the FFY 2015 State Homeland Security Grant Program.** (See memorandum dated February 3, 2016 from Michael Purcaro, Emergency and Risk Management Director to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMAPGNE TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HOMELAND SECURITY DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO THE FFY2015

STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM AND FURTHER AGREES TO BE THE CUSTODIAL OWNER OF REGIONAL ASSETS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize Mayor Champagne to execute the above agreement. Emergency Management Director Mike Purcaro was available to answer questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council adopt a policy entitled "Town Council Policy on the Filming of Public Meetings".** (See memorandum dated February 10, 2016 from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE "TOWN COUNCIL'S POLICY ON FILMING OF PUBLIC MEETINGS", AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Wakefield made a motion to amend the proposed policy item #2 to remove the word northern. Motion carried with 8 members in favor and Winkler, Gingras, Letendre opposed.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to adopt the filming policy. Discussion took place. Motion carried with Council member Appleyard abstaining and Clay, Gingras, Letendre and Winkler opposed.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) 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 **FEBRUARY 2, 2016** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to accept the Minutes of the February 2, 2016 meeting. Motion carried with Council member Campbell abstaining.

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

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

Adjourn (8:37 PM)

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Christopher Prue
Recording Secretary