

March 7, 2017

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

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
17 MAR 24 AM 10:05

March 7, 2017 - 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, Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Kim Appleyard, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras

**Absent:**

**Entered During Meeting:**

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

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Frank Melanson, 27 High Street, inquired about this year's town budget and the funds coming from the State regarding cost sharing.

Citizen's Forum ended at 7:32 PM

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

7:32 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200, (6) (D), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING LITIGATION REGARDING 19 GROVE STREET AND INVITES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND TOWN ATTORNEY LOU SPADACCINI, OF THE LAW FIRM BLACKWELL & SPADACCINI, LLC., TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

7:40 PM Executive Session ended.

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COMMENCEMENT OF A TAX LIEN FORECLOSURE ACTION AGAINST THE OWNERS OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS 19 GROVE STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Motion carried unanimously.

7:41 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2:

March 7, 2017

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES §1-200, (6 ) (A ) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER, AND INVITES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND JAMES M. LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

8:02 PM Executive Session ended. No action taken.

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING**

None

**F.) PRESENTATIONS**

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

- The Fidelco Guide Dog Annual Bowling Tournament was held on Saturday, March 3, 2017. The Town of Vernon returned with both of the trophies again this year. Congratulations to all the participants.
- There was a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening last week for Theroem Crossfit located on Naek Road. We welcome another new business to town and a new Tolland County Chamber of Commerce member.

**G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda item. Motion carried to pass C#1, with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Motola.

**C 1. Request for the Town Council to approve 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 February 22, 2017 is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$173.10 AND TWENTY-ONE (21) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$29,480.32, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2017.

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

None

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**J.) NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council approve the 2017-2018 Budget Meeting Schedule as presented.** (See memorandum dated February 22, 2017 from Diane Wheelock,

March 7, 2017

Executive Assistant to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator John D. Ward and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 2017; MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2017; THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017, AND APRIL 3, 2017 WITH A START TIME OF 7:30 PM, AND SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2017 WITH A START TIME OF 9:00 AM. PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2017 BEGINNING AT 9:05 AM AND THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 2017 AT 7:35 PM TO HEAR COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2017-2018 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. ALL BUDGET MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 budget meeting dates and times listed above. Council Member Clay, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to amend the original motion to change all 7:30 PM meetings to 7:00 PM and the public hearing time on March 30, 2017 to 7:05 PM. The maker accepted the friendly amendment. Motion, as amended, carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER VI "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, APRIL 25, 2017 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2017-2018 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 25, 2017 PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Tedford made a motion to schedule the Annual Town Meeting and Public Hearing relative to the 2017-2018 Town of Vernon budget to be held April 25, 2017 at the Rockville High School Auditorium, Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut beginning at 7:00 PM. Mayor Champagne spoke on the timing change allowed by the State with regard to passing the town's budget. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the resolution designated as "Property Acquisition – Senior Center Project", dated March 7, 2017.** (See resolution provided by James M. Luddecke, Finance Officer and Treasurer dated March 7, 2017 included in this agenda.)

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE RESOLUTION DESIGNATED AS "PROPERTY ACQUISITION – SENIOR CENTER PROJECT"; AND DATED MARCH 7, 2017.

March 7, 2017

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the resolution designated as Property Acquisition – Senior Center Project. Finance Director, James Luddecke, spoke on the \$5,000 deposit for the purchase of the property and same would be included within the bond authorization. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #18 for fiscal year 2016-2017 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment form attached.** (See the budget amendment form with explanation attached to this agenda.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #18 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion to approve budget amendment #18 for fiscal year 2016-2017. No discussion took place. 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 FEBRUARY 21, 2017 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Appleyard, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the February 21, 2017 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried with 11 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Schaefer.

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

Mayor Champagne added that the Fire Department awards banquet was held, including distribution of life saving awards, in connection with the East Street explosion. Council Member Bush also attended, stating that she was proud of the men and women who served to protect their community, with some members having served up to 45 years on the force. Council

March 7, 2017

Member Motola stated that awards of valor were presented in connection with the East Street explosion, with Fire Fighter Harrison receiving said valor award for the third time.

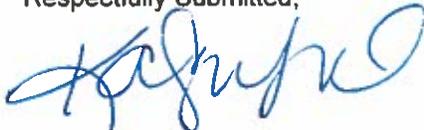
**Adjourn ( 8:13 PM)**

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

Received: March 9, 2017

Approved: March 21, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary