

May 16, 2017

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

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
17 JUN -8 PM 3: 13

May 16, 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, Kim Appleyard, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Ann Letendre and Virginia Gingras

Absent: Council Members Julie Clay, Steve Wakefield and Steve Peterson

Entered During Meeting:

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Betty Turgeon, 7A Pine Street, and Nancy Salminen, 16 Pleasant Street, spoke about the poor condition of Pine Street and the necessary steps required for said street to become a town road. There is also State owned land on one side of Pine Street where trees are beginning to rot and possibly become a safety hazard.

7:35 PM Citizen's Forum ended.

F.) PRESENTATIONS

Proclamation Presentation by Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to Stacey Shorts for her Gold Medal in the 2017 Winter Special Olympics World Games. Her mother, Linda Shorts, was in attendance as the Town Council gathered around Stacey and the Mayor read the proclamation.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

7:39 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 SECTION 1-200(2) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGY AND NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE FOLLOWING BARGAINING UNIT, LOCAL 1471 OF COUNCIL 4 OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO, AND INVITES THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO ATTEND: JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND LABOR COUNSEL ATTORNEY RYAN O'DONNELL, OF THE LAW FIRM SIEGEL, O'CONNOR, O'DONNELL AND BECK.

Motion carried unanimously.

7:58 PM Executive Session ended.

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO ENTER INTO THE NEGOTIATED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND LOCAL 1471, COUNCIL 4 OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019 ON THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS PRESENTED.

Motion carried with 8 in favor; Council Member Tedford was away from the table at the time of the vote.

7:59 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES § 1-200 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS STRATEGIES AND/OR NEGOTIATIONS WITH RESPECT TO NON-UNION EMPLOYEES AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, JOHN D. WARD AND ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK TO ATTEND.

8:04 PM Executive Session ended.

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO INCREASE THE NON-UNION CONTRIBUTION RELATIVE TO THE HSA/HRA AND DENTAL PREMIUM CO-SHARE TO 6% EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2017.

Motion carried unanimously.

E.) PUBLIC HEARING
None

F.) PRESENTATIONS (continued)

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

- Northeast School Third Graders visited town hall this past week. They spent time at the G.A.R. Museum and then attended a mock town council meeting in council chambers. The tour and meeting were very well received by our visitors; the children were attentive and very well behaved.
- 135 Bolton Road is now owned by the Town of Vernon. Plans are moving forward for senior citizen input in the use and activities on the parcel. We will keep you posted.
- The Vernon Explorer's held their annual dinner at the Elks Club. We are very thankful for their assistance and continued commitment to our community.
- The Town will hold an "Employee Benefit Fair" for Board of Education and Town employees. Various vendors will be in attendance, answering questions and holding presentations. Thank you to our Human Resource Department for scheduling this event.

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- The Mother's Day Dash was held last weekend. The event hosted over 250 runners for the 5K race and 10 runners in the first annual 1K race. Donations from the proceeds go to Send-A-Kid to Camp Fund, Vernon Teen Center, Police Explorers and the Robert J. Bonadies Scholarship Fund. The Town would like to thank the many sponsors for this event.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- 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 May 4, 2017 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUND TALLING \$302.49 AND FOUR (4) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TALLING \$5899.77, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 4, 2017.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment # 34 and #35 for fiscal year 2016-2017 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer James M. Luddecke on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See the budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS, #34 and #35 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES M. LUDDECKE.

- H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS**
None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute any and all documents to make application for and receive the 2017 -2018 School Readiness Grant & School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$321,439.00.** (See documents provided by Michelle Hill, Director of Vernon Youth Services Bureau.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE BE AUTHORIZED BY THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY FORMS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL READINESS GRANT AND SCHOOL READINESS QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$321,439.00

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush proposed a resolution that authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne execute the necessary application to receive the

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2017-2018 School Readiness Grant and School Readiness Quality Enhancement Grant Funds in the amount of \$321,439. Youth Services Director, Michelle Hill, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2) Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute any and all documents to become a "sponsor" organization for the Summer Nutrition Program.** (See documents included by Michelle Hill, Director of the Youth Service Bureau.)

PROPOSED MOTION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL AGREEMENT ALLOWING THE TOWN OF VERNON TO BECOME "SPONSOR" ORGANIZATION FOR THE SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAM WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush proposed a resolution that authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to enter into a formal agreement allowing the Town of Vernon to become a "Sponsor" organization for the summer nutrition program with the State of Connecticut, Department of Education. Youth Services Director, Michelle Hill, answered questions. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- 3) Request the Town Council approve the May 16, 2017 Resolution, to modify the scope of the Road Reconstruction and Improvement Ordinance by adding the section of South Street from Vernon Avenue to Route 30 to the project.** (See Resolution relative to same in the Town Council packet.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAY 16, 2017 RESOLUTION TO MODIFY THE SCOPE OF ORDINANCE #299 – ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS, BY ADDING THE SECTION OF SOUTH STREET, FROM VERNON AVENUE TO ROUTE 30, TO THE PROJECT.

FURTHERMORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES ANY SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO THE TERMINOLOGY OR PHRASING OF THIS RESOLUTION DUE TO DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS AND DEBT COVENANTS, AS RECOMMENDED BY BOND COUNSEL, EXCEPTING CHANGES TO THE SCOPE OF THE ROADS BEING ADDED TO THE PROJECT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush proposed a resolution to modify the scope of Ordinance #299 – Road Reconstruction and Improvements, by adding the section of South Street, from Vernon Avenue to Route 30, to the project. The town council authorizes any subsequent changes to the terminology or phrasing of this resolution due to disclosure requirements and debt covenants, as recommended by the bond counsel, excepting changes to the scope of the roads being added to the project. Mayor Champagne spoke on this matter. Finance Director, James Luddecke, answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES
None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED
None

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M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS.

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

J.) NEW BUSINESS (continued)

4) Request the Vernon Town Council approve the Waiver of the Demolition Permit Fee for 723 Talcottville Road, Vernon, CT

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to waive the demolition permit fee for 723 Talcottville Road. Mayor Champagne spoke on the matter. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

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 18, 2017** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Appleyard.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MAY 2, 2017** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the May 2, 2017 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried with 8 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Appleyard.

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

None

Adjourn (8:28 PM)

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

Received: May 22, 2017

Approved: June 6, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary