

October 1, 2019

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

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK  
19 OCT 24 AM 11:24

**October 1, 2019 - 7:30 PM**

Mayor Daniel Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM

**A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**B) ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Council Members Pauline Schaefer, Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Julie Clay, Michael Wendus, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Steve Peterson, Ann Letendre, Ralph Zahner

**Absent:** Council Member Steve Wakefield

**Entered During Meeting:**

**Also Present:** Town Administrator Michael Purcaro, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

**F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- The Arctic Splash is coming on December 7<sup>th</sup> at Valley Falls Park. Proceeds benefit "Send-A-Kid to Camp Fund". Free t-shirts to those who register with Parks and Recreation by November 15<sup>th</sup>.

**E.) PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING (7:35PM)**

7:35 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion:

**TOWN COUNCIL MOVES TO GO INTO RECESS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THE PUBLIC HEARING/SPECIAL TOWN MEETING RELATIVE TO "A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT LAND ACQUISITION AND RELATED LAND IMPROVEMENTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,193,000.00." Motion carried unanimously.**

See Minutes from Special Town Meeting of October 1, 2019.

8:44PM Reconvened Regular Town Council Meeting

8:44 PM Council Member, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to recess. Motion carried unanimously.

9:01 PM Reconvened Regular Town Council Meeting

**C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM**

Carl Schaefer, 1a Fox Hill Drive, spoke on the WPCA building committee meetings, concerning membership consisting of only town employees and no citizens, and the money being spent on this project.

9:05 PM Citizen's Forum ended.

October 1, 2019

**F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (cont'd)**

Proclamation celebrating *National Fire Prevention Week*, October 6-12, 2019. Daniel Wasilewski, Vernon's Fire Marshal was present to receive the Proclamation from Mayor Champagne.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne made a presentation to the Town Council on various topics (cont'd)

- UCONN Fine Arts students will administer feasibility studies for a Performing Arts Center in the old Senior Center, holding public forums on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM at Rockville High School, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at Center Road School, and October 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 AM and 12:45 PM at the Senior Center. All are welcome.
- A crumbling foundation information meeting, October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Town Council Chambers. The Chief Elected Officials from Ellington, Stafford and Vernon, along with consultant, Peter Testa, will attend and is designed for applicants accepted, on the waiting list, and any residents interested in the program.
- The annual DPW Community Day and "Touch a Truck" was held last weekend and was well attended.
- Grand opening of the new Titanium Strength located on Route 83 was last week. Anyone interested in body building and strength training should check them out.
- Senior Center Updates: the professional services contract for the fitness program has gone out to bid; the outside game area including pickle ball, shuffle board, horseshoes and bocce are complete.
- Sustainable Community Update: Vernon's first electric car charging station is located in the Senior Center parking area at 135 Bolton Road.
- The Strong Family Pastures was returned to the Strong Family Farm and Connecticut Farmland Trust with a closing last week. Many private donors, a \$25,000 contribution by the Vernon Town Council, and the efforts of Anne Letendre made this possible.
- On September 20<sup>th</sup>, Moody's Investors Service published the Annual Issuer Comment Report regarding the Town of Vernon. The town's rating of Aa2 is a solid financial position, especially as preparations are underway for final bonding of road improvements.
- The Interim Funding Obligation for the Waste Treatment Upgrade project in the amount of \$47,819,947.51 was signed on September 18<sup>th</sup>. The first reimbursement in the amount of \$6,076,680.58 was received on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Assistance from DEEP, WPCA, the town Finance Department, and the project consultants is appreciated.
- Vernon's police officers and Town Administrator will be participating in the "No Shave November" fundraiser. This statewide event supports 3 local individuals fighting cancer, 2 children and a police officer. Go to [www.noshavenovemberct.org](http://www.noshavenovemberct.org) to support this cause.
- The Mayor's Office and Rockville Public Library are providing a safe area for trick or treating on Halloween. Children up to twelve years of age are invited to visit to get candy and goodies.

**G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA**

October 1, 2019

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

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Prior and Current years.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated September 24, 2019 included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SEVEN (7) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$1,469.00 AND FIFTY-FIVE (55) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$15,205.33 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED SEPTEMBER 24, 2019.

**D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION**

See M.) below for Adoption of Additional Agenda Items.

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

None

**I.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**J.) NEW BUSINESS**

None

**K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**

None

**L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

None

**M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**PROPOSED MOTION**

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (B) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO ATTEND.

9:19 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

9:46 PM Executive Session ended. No action taken.

October 1, 2019

**O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **SEPTEMBER 17, 2019** 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 September 17, 2019 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried with 10 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member DiDio.

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

1. Monthly Report – August, 2019 Vernon Police Department as submitted by Captain John Kelley.

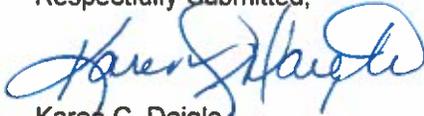
**Adjourn ( 9:47 PM)**

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

Received:       October 7, 2019

Approved:       October 15, 2019

Respectfully Submitted,



Karen C. Daigle  
Recording Secretary