

February 19, 2019

Approved Minutes

Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting

Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor

Vernon, Connecticut

February 19, 2019- 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
19 MAR 13 PM 4:05

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

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Steve Wakefield, Thomas DiDio, Brian Motola, Mike Wendus, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Ann Letendre, Jim Tedford, and Ralph Zahner

Absent: Pauline Schaefer, Julie Clay and Steve Peterson

Entered During Meeting: None.

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Recording Secretary Cassandra Minor

C) CITIZENS FORUM

None.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

7:32PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion to go into Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (2) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND INVITES TOWN ADMINISTRATOR MICHAEL J. PURCARO, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DAWN MASELEK TO ATTEND.

7:55PM Executive Session ended.

No action taken.

E) PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)

None.

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

1. Congratulations to the men and women of the Vernon Police Department for organizing and holding eleven events in 2018 to benefit the *Special Olympics of Connecticut* organization. In total the Department raised \$22,562.00 and came in 4th place overall in the State of Connecticut Law Enforcement Category. Special Thanks go to Detective Chuck Hicking and Officer Steven Langlais for leading the charge on behalf of Special Olympics.

2. *Fire Department Awards Ceremony* – invitations have been sent to you via email and are included in your Town Council packets this evening. Please consider attending to support the brave men and women of the Vernon “All Volunteer” Fire Department. The Awards Ceremony will be held at Rockville High School Auditorium, Monday, February 25, 2019 beginning at 7:15PM (Doors Open 6:30 with Refreshments from 6:30-7:00 PM).

3. Wicked Good News – we have a new publisher for our Town of Vernon Magazine. Wicked Good News, the vendor for Ellington and other area towns has agreed to publish our magazine, allowing us to provide on-going

February 19, 2019

community engagement, keeping our residents informed. The new name will be the *Vernon Connection*. The first issue is planned to be mailed in early April and will be published quarterly.

4. The North Central District Health Department in conjunction with the Town of Vernon is planning a *Point of Dispensing (POD) Facility Set Up Drill in April, 2019* at the Vernon Center Middle School. Vernon's Emergency Management Office along with the Vernon Police Department, Vernon School District and North Central District Health Department will participate in a facility drill for the dispensing of medicine. This training will prepare all involved to act quickly should a POD facility be needed in an emergency. Thank you to all those participants constantly working to keep Vernon residents safe and prepared. It should be noted that the Exercise will NOT include actual dispensing of medicine.

G) **ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:**

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Council Member DiDio pulled Consent #4. Motion to move C-1-C3 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 February 6, 2019 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES TWO (2) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$8,158.92 AND FIFTEEN (15) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$10,510.62 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 6, 2019.

- C 2. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Karen Roy-Guglielmi, (U), 66 Indian Trail, Vernon, Connecticut as a member of the Housing Authority of the Town of Vernon, said term to commence March 1, 2019 and expires December 31, 2024.** (A copy of Ms. Roy-Guglielmi's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF KAREN ROY-GUGLIELMI, (U), 66 INDIAN TRAIL, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF VERNON, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON MARCH 1, 2019 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2024.

- C 3. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendment requests #9, #10, and #11 for FY 2018-2019 as outlined in the budget amendment forms included in the packet.** (See budget amendment forms in the Council packet as provided by Finance Officer Jeffrey O'Neill.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #9, #10 AND #11 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY FINANCE OFFICER JEFFREY O'NEILL.

February 19, 2019

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

- C 4. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #12 for FY 2018-2019 as outlined in the budget amendment forms included in the packet.** (See budget amendment forms in the Council packet as provided by Finance Officer Jeffrey O'Neill.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL, HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #12 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER JEFFREY O'NEILL.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Request #12 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 as outlined in the Budget Amendment Form provided by Finance Officer Jeffrey O'Neill. Discussion ensued. Director of Public Works, Robert Kleinhans spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

I) **PENDING BUSINESS**

1. **Discussion relative to a request by Council Member Ralph Zahner regarding the review of the Town of Vernon Charter.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF FIVE VERNON RESIDENT VOTERS TO REVIEW THE PRESENT TOWN OF VERNON CHARTER AND REPORT TO THE COUNCIL ANY AREA NEEDING MODIFICATIONS WHICH MAY BE APPLICABLE TO THE TOWN OF VERNON TODAY.

Council Member Zahner, seconded by Council Member DiDio made a motion to hereby approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of five Vernon resident voters to review the present Town of Vernon Charter and report to the Council any area needing modifications which may be applicable to the Town of Vernon today. Discussion ensued. Motion failed with 1 in favor, 1 abstention and 7 opposed: Council Members Motola, Wendus, Wakefield, Bush, Campbell, Tedford and Letendre.

J) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council authorize the following modification of the scope of Ordinance #299 – Road Reconstruction and Improvements.** (See attached resolution submitted by Finance Officer Jeffrey A. O'Neill and memorandum dated February 14, 2019 by Robert J. Kleinhans, Director of Public Works relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

HEREBY RESOLVED, AS OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019, THE TOWN COUNCIL MODIFIES THE SCOPE OF ORDINANCE #299 – ROAD RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS, BY ADDING GROUP ONE AND GROUP TWO AS LISTED ON THE ATTACHMENTS TO THE FEBRUARY 19, 2019 RESOLUTION, TO THE PROJECT; AND FURTHER, REMOVING THE LISTED ROADS TO BE POTENTIALLY DELAYED AS PER THE SAME FEBRUARY 19, 2019 RESOLUTION ATTACHMENTS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to modify the scope of Ordinance #299- Road Reconstruction and Improvements, by adding group one and group two as listed on the attachments to

February 19, 2019

the February 19, 2019 Resolution, to the project; and further, removing the listed roads to be potentially delayed as per the same February 19, 2019 Resolution attachments. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council in accordance with the requirements for the Small Cities, Community Development Block Grant Program, adopt the *Fair Housing Policy Statement for the Town of Vernon.* (A copy of the amended policy is included in the agenda packet.)**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY WAIVES THE READING OF AND ADOPTS THE AMENDED *TOWN OF VERNON FAIR HOUSING POLICY STATEMENT*, AUTHORIZES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SERVE AS FAIR HOUSING OFFICER AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE TO EXECUTE THE DOCUMENT ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to waive the reading of and adopt the Amended Town of Vernon Fair Housing Policy Statement, authorizes Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to serve as Fair Housing Officer and further authorizes Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to execute the document on behalf of the Town of Vernon. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the meeting dates for 2019-2020 Budget deliberations. (See memorandum to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor, Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and the Vernon Town Council from Diane Wheelock, Executive Assistant dated February 12, 2019 relative to same.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2019; MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2019; THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 AND MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019, ALL WITH A START TIME OF 7:00 PM, AND SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 AND SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019 WITH A START TIME OF 9:00 AM. PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2019 BEGINNING AT 9:05 AM AND THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2019 AT 7:05 PM TO HEAR COMMENTS AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2019-2020 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 Tedford made a motion to schedule the following Budget Meeting dates for Budget Deliberations as follows: Thursday March 21, 2019; Monday, March 25, 2019; Thursday, March 28, 2019 and Monday April 1, 2019, all with a start time of 7:00PM and Saturday March 23, 2019 and Saturday March 30, 2019 with a start time of 9:00AM. Public Hearings will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 beginning at 9:05AM and Thursday March 28, 2019 at 7:05PM to hear comments and answer questions relative to the 2019-2020 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. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER VI "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2019 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN

February 19, 2019

MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2019-2020 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 23, 2019 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 that pursuant to Charter, Chapter VI "Annual Town Meeting", the Town Council hereby schedules, Tuesday, April 23, 2019 as the Annual Town Meeting and final Public Hearing, to hear comment and answer questions relative to the 2019-2020 Town of Vernon Budget. The April 23, 2019 Public Hearing and Annual Town Meeting will be held at the Rockville High School Auditorium, Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, Connecticut beginning at 7:00PM. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal of fixed assets for the Vernon Public Schools and the Rockville Public Library as disclosed on the fixed asset disposal request forms.** (See the fixed asset forms in the Council packet for your review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL REQUEST FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve the disposal of fixed assets for the Vernon Public Schools and Rockville Public Library as disclosed on the Fixed Asset Disposal Request forms. Finance Officer, Jeffrey O'Neill and Town Administrator, Michael J. Purcaro spoke and answered questions. Motion carried unanimously.

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 INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

O) ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to approve and waive the minutes of the Regular Town Council Meeting on February 5, 2019 with the correction to Section B, Roll Call to reflect Council Members Pauline Schaefer and Julie Clay were absent. Motion to approve the amended minutes passed unanimously.

February 19, 2019

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

1. Invitation from Chief Steve Eppler to the **Vernon Fire Department Awards Night**, Monday, February 25, 2019 at Rockville High School Auditorium. Doors open at 6:30PM; Ceremony begins at 7:15PM.

Q) ADJOURNMENT (8:11pm):

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

Received: February 26, 2019
Approved: March 5, 2019

Respectfully submitted,



Cassandra Minor
Recording Secretary.