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Minutes
Vernon Town Council- Regular Meeting
Town Hall- 14 Park Place- 3rd Floor
Vernon, Connecticut
May 21, 2019- 7:30PM

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

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: None

Entered During Meeting: Steve Peterson at 7:59PM

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

C) CITIZENS FORUM

None.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

1. DATES TO REMEMBER:

VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL AWARD NIGHT, THURSDAY, MAY 23, 2019 BEGINNING AT 6:00 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS. Everyone is invited.

TALCOTTVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH – MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2019, 8:30 AM.

TOWN OF VERNON ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – MONDAY, MAY 27, 2019, 10:00 AM NORTHEAST SCHOOL. Come join the fun. Council Members if you plan to march please let Administration know.

VERNON REGIONAL ADULT EDUCATION GRADUATION – JUNE 6, 2019 6:30 PM, Rockville High School Auditorium.

ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – JUNE 12, 2019 - 6:00 PM, RHS Courtyard.

SUMMER DAYS CARNIVAL - JULY 24-27th. The Carnival is held on the old Golf Land property.

MAYOR’S CONCERT SERIES – Thursday, August 1: 102nd Army Band; Thursday, August 8: Cover2Cover; Thursday, August 15: Coyote River Band; and Thursday, August 22: Nightshift. The Concerts are all held at Henry Park weather permitting. Should the weather not cooperate the concerts are held at the old Senior Center.

ELKS 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – JULY 27, 2019, 12 Noon – 10:00 PM. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the Elks Lodge upon request.

7:35PM Recess Regular Town Council Meeting.

E) PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)

7:35PM Mayor Daniel A. Champagned called the Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting to order.

Clerk read the Legal Notice.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called for nominations for Moderator. Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to nominate Kristy Vale for Moderator. Motion carried unanimously.

7:36PM Mayor Daniel A. Champagne closed nominations for Moderator.

Moderator Kristy Vale explained that the Special Town Meeting will serve as a Public Hearing for comments on the question "A Resolution regarding an additional appropriation for the general government in the amount of \$250,000.00."

Public Comment:

Council Member Schaefer inquired of Union Street sidewalks and the disrepair of Grove Street sidewalks.

Council Member DiDio spoke in favor of the project, especially from a public safety standpoint.

Council Member Letendre questioned the content of the legal notice.

Council Member Zahner spoke in favor of the project but questioned if this project should be a budget item.

Council Member Motola spoke in favor of the project and commented favorably on the asphalt sidewalks, despite it being a temporary repair.

Council Member Wakefield questioned the start date of the project.

Council Member Bush spoke in favor of the project, for public safety reasons and as a way to encourage healthy walks for families.

Robert Kleinhans, Director of Public Works, along with Mayor Daniel Champagne, spoke and answered questions.

Moderator Kristy Vale closed the public hearing at 7:46PM.

Moderator Kristy Vale explained the voting requirements as follows: to be eligible to vote at this town meeting, any person who is an elector in Vernon and any citizen of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally is liable to Vernon for taxes assessed against him or her on an assessment of not less than \$1,000.00 as reported on the last completed Grand List of the Town, may vote at this public hearing.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made the following motion as read by Moderator Kristy Vale: MOVE TO AUTHORIZE AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE GENERAL GOVERNMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$250,000.00 TO COMPLETE THE REPLACEMENT OF FAILED CONCRETE SIDEWALKS ON UNION STREET AND MAPLE STREET. Motion carried unanimously.

7:48PM Adjourn Public Hearing and Special Town Meeting.

7:48PM Return to the Regular Town Council Meeting.

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)

We were honored this afternoon to present the Town of Vernon in WFSB's segment on "20 TOWNS IN TWENTY DAYS", broadcast today from Fox Hill Tower. WFSB visited our new Senior Center, Rails to Trails, Rein's Deli, and town center among other locations in advance of the broadcast. The traditional \$1000.00 check

was awarded to "Opportunity Works" and the Rockville High School Band came to entertain. This was a wonderful event and excellent opportunity to showcase everything Vernon has to offer our citizens now and in the future.

TOWN OF VERNON HOSTED, PRESENTED AND COLLABORATED WITH CCM – Connecticut Conference of Municipalities on a statewide workshop, on the practical application of "Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems", the event was well received with over 40 attendees. This is the third workshop offered by the Town of Vernon in conjunction with CCM. The workshop drew municipal officials as far away as Stamford and Greenwich. The presenters for the workshop were Town of Vernon Police Officers, Sgt.. Robert Marra, Sgt.. Todd Thiel, and Town Administrator Michael Purcaro

NORTHEAST SCHOOL THIRD GRADE STUDENTS paid a visit to the Mayor's Office last week, we gave them a tour of our beautiful building and the students participated in a "mock town council meeting".

G) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA:

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion to move C1-C3 carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve Tax Refunds for Current Year.** (See copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated May 8, 2019 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTTALLING \$2754.09 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 8, 2019.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve the placement of properties totaling \$132,220.45 on the Suspense Tax Ledger.** (See memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated May 8, 2019 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator and a copy of the properties reflected on the Suspense Tax Ledger are included for Councilreview.

PROPOSED MOTION

BY THE AUTHORITY GRANTED IN CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-165, ENTITLED "MUNICIPAL SUSPENSE TAX BOOK", THE TOWN COUNCIL APROVES THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERTIES TOTALING \$132,220.45 CONTAINED ON THE SUSPENSE TAX LEDGER REPORT AS PROVIDED BY TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, DATED MAY, 2019.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve the tax abatements of Town owned properties as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated May 9, 2019 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator regarding same.** (A copy of the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue is included in the Council packet for review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT STATE STATUTE 12-81 MOVES TO ABATE THE TAXES FOR 19 GROVE STREET UNIQUE ID #41-0122-00037, 11 OGDENVIEW DRIVE UNIQUE ID #25.0021-03a39, AND 38 PARK STREET UNIQUE ID #40-0108-00007 AS PRESENTED IN THE MEMORANDUM DATED MAY 9, 2019

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)

Presentation was made by Allison Maynard, Director of Social Services regarding the "Vernon Communications Study Outreach Report". Discussion ensued. Allison Maynard, Director of Social Services, spoke and answered questions.

7:59PM Council Member Peterson entered the meeting.

H) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None.

I) PENDING BUSINESS

None.

J) NEW BUSINESS

None.

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 OF MAY 7, 2019 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the Regular Town Council Meeting of May 7, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

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

None.

Q) ADJOURNMENT (8:02pm):

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

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Minor
Recording Secretary.