

January 21, 2020

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

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
20 FEB 25 AM 9:15

January 21, 2020 - 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, Michael Wendus, Steve Wakefield, Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Jim Tedford, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque

Absent:

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Pauline Schaefer and Julie Clay

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARING

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

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

Update on the Sustainable CT Community Match Fund was given by Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator, and Leslie Campolongo, Grant and Project Coordinator.

7:34 PM Council Member Schaefer entered meeting.

Mr. Purcaro referenced a letter from Jeffrey Boulrice speaking for the Energy Improvement District Board.

Update on the Hartford Foundation Grants was given by Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro and Lt. William Meier, Vernon Police Department.

7:48 PM Council Member Clay entered meeting.

Youth Services Director, Michelle Hill, also spoke and answered questions.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:07 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, 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) (E) AND 1-210 (13), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO
EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A PENDING INVESTIGATION AND INVITES

January 21, 2020

MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

No action taken.

8:34 PM Council Member Wakefield, 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 (6) (D) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER; AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

No action taken.

9:02 PM Council Member Wakefield left Executive Session. Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #3:

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (C) HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SECURITY AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER TO ATTEND.

9:04 PM Council Member Wakefield returned to Executive Session.

No action taken.

9:16 PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #4:

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 POTENTIAL CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND STEVEN PRATTSON, BUILDING OFFICIAL TO ATTEND.

No action taken.

9:37 PM Executive Session ended. Council Member Clay was away from the table.

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION (continued)

- National Wreaths Across America Day was held in December, in Vernon and 2,100 other locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad. Thank you to Council Member Schaefer, Council Member Wakefield, the

January 21, 2020

Vernon Cemetery Commission, all volunteers and donors for their participation.

- On February 7th, the Town of Vernon is hosting and presenting a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) Sustainable CT Workshop, with discussions by Shaun Gately and Leslie Campolongo of remediating and redeveloping brownfield sites.

9:38 PM Council Member Clay returned.

- The Annual Vernon Fire Department Awards Ceremony is February 24th at Rockville High School Auditorium. This year Dick Bowman is honored as he retires after 50 years with the department.
- The Town Council is invited to a Regional Legislative Breakfast at Tolland High School on January 30th. The event is hosted by Tolland, Ellington and Vernon Public Schools along with Town Administrator, Michael Purcaro, and Michelle Arn from the Vernon Board of Education.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, 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 January 8, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE HUNDRED SIXTY (160) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$46,396.32 AND SEVENTEEN (17) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$2834.61 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JANUARY 8, 2020.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #5, #6 and #7 for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See budget forms with explanation attached to this agenda item.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #5, #6 and #7 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY O'NEILL FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Michael Guminiak, (R), 19 Duncaster Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Regulatory Commission, said term to commence on January 22, 2020 and expires December 31, 2022.** (A copy of Mr. Guminiak's resume is included for Council review.)

January 21, 2020

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL GUMINIAK, (R), 19 DUNCASTER LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 22, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2022.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Eva Perrina, (U), 73 Riverside Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Design Review Advisory Commission, said term to commence on January 22, 2020 and expires on December 31, 2022.** (A copy of Ms. Perrina's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE #268, TOWN CODE SEC. 10-105 - 10-108 THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF EVA PERRINA, (U), 73 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE DESIGN REVIEW ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 22, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON DECEMBER 31, 2022.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve the disposal of assets from the Finance and Public Works Departments.** (See memorandum dated January 15, 2020 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FOR THE FINANCE AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENTS AS DISCLOSED ON THE FIXED ASSET DISPOSAL FORMS.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve the IRS Mileage Reimbursement Rate.** (See memorandum dated January 14, 2020 from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE IRS RATE FOR AUTOMOBILE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS UNLESS ANOTHER RATE EXISTS IN A BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACT.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS
None

I.) PENDING BUSINESS
None

January 21, 2020

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of the new Town Planner.** (A copy of the candidate's resume and job description are included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO CHAPTER X, SEC. 3 AND CHAPTER XI, SEC. 1, 3, AND 13 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE K. MCGREGOR, TOWN PLANNER FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Campbell, made a motion to approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of George K. McGregor as Town Planner for the Town of Vernon. The Mayor, along with Council Members Campbell and Letendre, spoke and discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the plans for the Vernon Dog Park as presented.** (See the attached map for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THE PLANS FOR THE VERNON DOG PARK AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve plans for the Vernon Dog Park. Parks and Recreation Director, Marty Sittler, spoke and answered questions.

9:55 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to extend curfew until the close of business. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued. Motion carried with 8 in favor, 1 opposed, Council Member Schaefer, and 2 abstentions, Council Members Letendre and Levesque.

3. **Request the Town Council approve dates for 2020-2021 budget meetings.** (See memorandum dated January 21, 2020 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, the Vernon Town Council and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Diane Wheelock, Executive Assistant relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET DELIBERATIONS:

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020; MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020; THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2020 AND MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2020 WITH A START TIME OF 7:00 PM, AND SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020; SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020 WITH A START TIME OF 9:00 AM. PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020 BEGINNING AT 9:05 AM AND MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020 WITH A START TIME OF 7:05 PM TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2020-2021 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. ALL BUDGET MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE

January 21, 2020

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 above Budget Meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Motion carried unanimously.

PROPOSED MOTION #2

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER VI "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING", THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2020 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2020-2021 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 28, 2020 PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BEGINNING AT 7:00PM.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the scheduling of the Annual Town Meeting and final Public Hearing for Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 PM to be held at Rockville High School Auditorium. Said meeting is to hear comment and answer questions relative to the 2020-2021 Town of Vernon Budget. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council approve the auditors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.** (See memorandum dated January 21, 2020 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPOINTS THE FIRM OF MAHONEY SABOL OF 180 GLASTONBURY BOULEVARD, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT AS AUDITORS TO AUDIT THE BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020 AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT #2007 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,050.00 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 AUDIT.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to approve the appointment of Mahoney Sabol of 180 Glastonbury Boulevard, Glastonbury, as auditors to audit the books and accounts of the Town of Vernon for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020 and to authorize the Town Administrator to execute Contract #2007 in the amount of \$79,050 for the Fiscal Year 2020 audit. Finance Officer, Jeffrey O'Neill, answered questions. Discussion ensued. 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

January 21, 2020

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **JANUARY 7, 2020** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Monthly Report – December, 2019 for the Town Clerk's Office as submitted by Karen Daigle, Town Clerk.

Adjourn (10:24 PM)

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

Received: January 28, 2020

Approved: February 4, 2020

Respectfully Submitted,


Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary