

May 19, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
TELECONFERENCE CALL IN NUMBER: 1-929-205-6099
MEETING ID 967 5064 0235: PASSWORD: 0519
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020 - 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
20 JUN 25 PM 4:17

Mayor Daniel Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:31PM.

A.) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B.) ROLL CALL

Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Thomas DiDio, Linda Gessay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Pauline Schaefer, Jim Tedford, Steve Wakefield and Michael Wendus

Absent:

Entered During Virtual Regular Meeting: Michael Wendus, Pauline Schaefer

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Maryanne Levesque, 183 Bolton Road, spoke on the Town of Vernon committees.

Karen Roy-Guglielmi, 66 Indian Trail, Chairperson of the Vernon Housing Authority Board of Commissioners spoke regarding the Vernon Housing Authority commission

7:39PM Mayor Champagne recessed the regular agenda until the end of the Public Hearings

E.) PUBLIC HEARINGS

PUBLIC HEARING #1 (7:35PM)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE "NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT SUBMISSIONS FOR 2020".

7:39PM – Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called the Public Hearing to order to receive comments and questions.

Clerk/Recording Secretary read the legal notice into the record

No comments from the public were made

7:42PM – Mayor Daniel A. Champagne adjourned Public Hearing #1.

PUBLIC HEARING #2 (7:45PM)

PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE NO. PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON", AMENDING ORDINANCE #233 ENTITLED "ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON", AND "ORDINANCE #232

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ENTITLED "ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE REMOVAL OF DOG FECES WITHIN THE TOWN" (A copy of the proposed new Ordinance has been included in the Council packet.)

7:42PM – Mayor Daniel A. Champagne called Public Hearing #2 to order to receive comments and questions.

Clerk/Recording Secretary read the Public Hearing Notice into the record.

No comments from the public were made.

7:45PM – Mayor Daniel A. Champagne adjourned Pubic Hearing #2

7:45PM – Returned to the Virtual Regular Meeting

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM (Continued)

Attorney Michael Wrona of Halloran Sage, spoke regarding the Vernon Housing Authority Commission.

Mayor Champagne pulled Consent Agenda items C4 and C5 for one month to review with Town Attorney and stated that any commission appointments previously approved by the Town Council will not be changed.

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Champagne asked Town Administrator and Director of Emergency and Risk Management, Michael J. Purcaro to deliver updates on the Town of Vernon's COVID-19 recovery and response operations:

- The Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee, established by Mayor Champagne, held their first meeting this week. This committee is led by Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator and the Town of Vernon Local Recovery Officer, and included several town departments, agencies, appointed council members and local business owners. This is a coordinated effort to provide guidance and support for businesses to open safely and successfully while following current public health science and guidelines. There is a simple application process being coordinated in the Building Department.
- In partnership with the American Red Cross, a blood drive has been scheduled for Friday, May 29th at the Town of Vernon Senior Center, located at 135 Bolton Road, from 8:30am-6:00pm. All slots are filled for this blood drive due to a positive response. Another drive will be scheduled in the near future.
- The Town of Vernon partnered with ShopRite of Tri-City Plaza to offer a COVID-19 Care Packages to members of the community offering a safe way to purchase essential household and food supplies at Rockville High School every Tuesday and Thursday at Rockville High School from 11:00am-1:00pm in a touchless drive-thru service after the participants call and order the package directly with ShopRite.
- The Town of Vernon is announcing a faith-based partnership with St Bernard's Church to offer walk-up testing clinic, performed in partnership with Priority Urgent Care of Ellington, in the church parking lot on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 from 10am-3:00pm and every Tuesday thereafter to address additional access concerns for those in the community who don't have transportation. No one will be turned away regardless of ability to pay or insurance status, however telehealth screening is encouraged in advance.

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- The Town Administration along with the Vernon Public Schools and Superintendent Macary are discussing options in efforts to plan a safe and special graduation ceremony for the graduating seniors. Additional details will be announced in the near future.
- The Town as acquired thousands of critical supplies and PPE through the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for first responders and essential employees, as well as volunteers and town staff. Recently, items have been received for our local businesses and are being distributed. Additional information will follow.

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne presented information to the Town Council on the following topics:

- May 17 to 23, 2020 is the 46th Annual National EMS Week which celebrates EMS practitioners and the role they play – especially in this time of COVID-19 as all workers selflessly answer the call knowing they could contract the virus. Mayor Champagne thanked all EMS workers on behalf of everyone in Vernon.
- The Memorial Day parade and events have been cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Mayor Champagne is asking that everyone display an American flag in their home. At 11am on Memorial Day ring bells for 30 seconds in remembrance of the fallen, and Fire Chief Eppler of the Vernon Fire Department and Mayor Champagne will join with the department sirens. Thank you to the American Legion and our veterans for their service to our country.
- A reminder to everyone to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire.

Council Member Motola spoke regarding his concerns that he was not aware of The Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee and asked when the next meeting would take place, if it would be a public meeting and if there would be meeting minutes distributed. Town Administrator Purcaro responded that communication would be distributed regarding these meetings.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Champagne pulled Consent Agenda item C3. Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque made a motion to move the Consent Agenda less items C3, C4 and C5. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

- 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 May 11, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) PRIOR YEAR TAX REFUND TOTALING \$64.42 AND TWO (2) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$235.43 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 11, 2020.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Tim Poloski, (D), 38 Risley Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Buildings Committee, said term to commence on May 20, 2020**

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and expires June 30, 2022. (A copy of Mr. Poloski's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 7, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF, TIM POLOSKI, (D) 38 RISLEY ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO BEGIN MAY 20, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON June 30, 2022.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #17 and #18, for fiscal year 2019-2020 as provided by Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill on the budget amendment forms attached.** (See budget amendment forms with explanation attached to this agenda.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #17 AND #18 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 AS PROVIDED BY JEFFREY A. O'NEILL, FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER, ON THE ATTACHED BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Letendre made a motion to move Consent Agenda item C3. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote with one abstention (Levesque).

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Request the Town Council endorse the application for Neighborhood Assistance Act 2020 application by the Exchange Club Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse of CT, Inc., d/b/a/ KIDSAFE CT.** (See memorandum from Michelle Hill, Interim Director of Social Services included in the Town Council packet dated May 12, 2020.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ENDORSES THE APPLICATION FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT 2020 BY THE EXCHANGE CLUB CENTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE OF CT, INC., D/B/A/ KIDSAFE CT.

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Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to endorse the application for Neighborhood Assistance Act 2020. Mayor Champagne spoke. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

2. **Request the Town Council approve the application of the Vernon Fire Department for the 2020 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program in the amount of \$7,701.30.** (See the memorandum from Fire Chief Stephen Eppler dated May 13, 2020 to Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE ***2020 FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT.***

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Bush made a motion to authorize the application and acceptance of the 2020 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant. Mayor Champagne spoke. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

K.) INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

None

L.) ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED

Ordinance entitled "Ordinance No. , An Ordinance Pertaining to the Control of Dogs, Livestock and Poultry within the Town of Vernon" , Amending "Ordinance #233 entitled "Ordinance Pertaining to the Control of Dogs within the Town of Vernon" and "Ordinance #232 entitled "Ordinance Pertaining to the Removal of Dog Feces within the Town". (A number will be assigned to the amended Ordinance once the Ordinance has passed Town Council vote.) (The Ordinance as amended is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 & 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, HEREBY MOVES TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED "***ORDINANCE NO.____, AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON***", AMENDING "***ORDINANCE #233 ENTITLED "ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON" AND "ORDINANCE #232 ENTITLED "ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE REMOVAL OF DOG FECES WITHIN THE TOWN"***".

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Gessay made a motion to approve the Ordinance entitled "***ORDINANCE NO.____, (number to be assigned later) AN ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON***" amending Ordinance #233 entitled "***ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON***" and Ordinance #232 entitled "***ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO THE REMOVAL OF DOG FECES WITHIN THE TOWN"***". Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

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M.) IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

None

N.) DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

O.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **MAY 5, 2020** 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 minutes of the virtual regular Town Council meeting held on May 5, 2020. Motion carried unanimously with voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL VIRTUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **APRIL 28, 2020** 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 minutes as amended of the Special Virtual Town Council meeting held on April 28, 2020. Mayor Champagne spoke and stated that the Pledge of Allegiance needed to be added. Motion carried unanimously with voice vote.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE VIRTUAL SPECIAL BUDGET TOWN COUNCIL MEETING ON **MARCH 26, 2020; MARCH 28, 2020; MARCH 30, 2020; APRIL 2, 2020; APRIL 4, 2020 AND APRIL 6, 2020** 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 minutes of the Virtual Special Budget Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 26, 2020, March 28, 2020, March 30, 2020, April 2, 2020, April 4, 2020 and April 6, 2020. Council Member Gessay spoke regarding the minutes of March 26, 2020. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously with voice vote.

8:20PM Council Member Tedford left the meeting.

Mayor Champagne called for Executive Session and stated that only Town Council members be on the virtual call alone and asked that all other participants leave the call.

8:23PM – Council Member Shaefer joined the call

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:25PM Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made the following motion to go into Executive Session:

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 A POTENTIAL SETTLEMENT RELATED TO **TEDFORD V VERNON FILE #0140578 AND #0140579** AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND ATTORNEY RICHARD BARTLETT OF THE LAW FIRM MCGANN, BARTLETT AND BROWN TO ATTEND.

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Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote.

8:49PM Executive Session ended.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion that the Town Council hereby agrees to the full and final settlement as presented in the matter of Tedford V Town of Vernon File#0140578 and #0140579 to resolve said claim. Once the settlement is executed, it will become public. Motion carried with roll call vote with one (1) opposed (DiDio) and two (2) abstentions (Levesque,Wendus).

P.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION
None

Q.) ADJOURN (8:51PM)

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Received: May 29, 2020

Approved: June 2, 2020

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary