

June 2, 2020

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
TELECONFERENCE CALL IN NUMBER: 1-929-205-6099
MEETING ID: 831 1307 6432 PASSWORD: 0602
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020 - 7:30PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
20 JUN 22 PH 4:12

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

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:

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

C.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

None

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

E.) PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

F.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Champagne presented the following to the Town Council:

- Due to COVID-19, July in the Sky fireworks and the Summer Days Carnival is cancelled for 2020.
- A video of remembrance from this past Memorial Day is posted on the Town of Vernon website and will air on the Community Voice Channel during calendar segment and intermittently during the regular programming for the month of June. Many thanks to everyone who worked on the video.
- Mayor Champagne thanked everyone who participated at the recent Town of Vernon regional American Red Cross Blood Drive - over 60 pints were collected.

Town Administrator and Director of Emergency and Risk Management, Michael J. Purcaro presented the following updates to the Town Council on the Town of Vernon's COVID-19 recovery and response operations:

- Due to the 100% turnout at the Town of Vernon sponsored regional American Red Cross blood drive held on May 29th, based on the overwhelming success a second blood drive has been scheduled for June 26, 2020 at the Vernon Senior Center at 135 Bolton Road at the request of the American Red Cross.

June 2, 2020

- The weekly COVID-19 walk-up testing continues every Tuesday at St Bernard Church and the drive-thru testing continues every Thursday at the Vernon Senior Center. There have been 315 tests administered to date, not including June 2, 2020. Additional announcements regarding potential testing expansion are forthcoming.
- The Local Recovery and Reopening Advisory Committee held a second meeting this past week receiving overall positive feedback regarding the one page permitting process that allows the land use departments to help businesses get up and running while ensuring compliance with the current guidance. As a result of the discussion, Administration has committed to follow up with the State regarding feedback from businesses who have employees that receive unemployment benefits and choose to not return to work.
- The Parks and Recreation summer camps will not be opening based on the current public health guidance.
- The two public pools will remain closed this summer based on the current public health guidance. Beaches and parks will remain open, however additional restrictions will be required for the beaches that will be shared with the community.
- The Joint Coordination Center continues to receive calls from our residents. In addition to providing information regarding town services, a database is being created to provide the community creative and alternative solutions and resources for parents/guardians for our youth, as well as possible resources initiated by a community group focusing on helping senior citizens in the community.
- The CERT team, as a result of the Mayor's Declaration of Public Health and Civil Preparedness Emergency in March, and the subsequent activation order through the Commissioner of Homeland Security, has been deployed to the Town of Enfield to help with a mask distribution on Thursday June 4, 2020.
- The Vernon Public Schools has donated 3000 gallons of unused diesel fuel to the Town of Vernon Public Works department for usage, which demonstrates the collaborative partnership and shared services within the Town of Vernon,

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 item C-2. Motion carried to approve items C-1, C-3 and C-4 unanimously by roll call vote.

- 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 26, 2020 included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SEVEN (7) CURRENT YEAR TAX REFUND TOTALING \$2445.18 AS REFERENCED IN THE LETTER FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MAY 26, 2020.

- C-3 Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Ellen Eybel (U), 63 East Street, Rockville, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority Board, said term to commence on June 3, 2020 and expires on February 28, 2022.** (A copy of Ms. Eybel's resume is included for Council review.)

June 2, 2020

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 8, SECTION 5 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF ELLEN EYBEL, (U), 63 EAST STREET, ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JUNE 3, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 28, 2022.

- C-4 **Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Susan V. Bannon, (I), 9 Hillside Manor Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority Board, said term to commence on June 3, 2020 and expires on February 28, 2023.** (A copy of Ms. Bannon'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 APPOINTMENT OF SUSAN V. BANNON, (I), 9 HILLSIDE MANOR AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JUNE 3, 2020 AND EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 28, 2023.

H.) **DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEM(S)**

- C-2 **Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #19, #20, #21 and #22, 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 #19, #20, #21 AND #22 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 Bush made a motion to move Consent Agenda item C-2. Public Works Director Dwight Ryniewicz and Mayor Champagne answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**

None

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council authorize the Bond Authorization request from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer and Treasurer.** (See memorandum dated May 28, 2020 to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro

June 2, 2020

and Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek from Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ON JUNE 2, 2020 HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$21,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS FOR PAYMENT IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF THE OUTSTANDING PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST AND ANY CALL PREMIUM ON THE TOWN'S \$3,755,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2011, \$34,685,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS, ISSUE OF 2012, AND \$6,130,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, ISSUE OF 2015, AND RELATED COSTS.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque made a motion to authorize the issuance of not exceeding \$21,000,000 refunding bonds for payment in whole or in part of the outstanding principal of and interest and any call premium on the town's \$3,755,000 general obligation bonds, issue of 2011, \$34,685,000 general obligation refunding bonds, issue of 2012 and \$6,130,000 general obligation bonds, issue of 2015, and related costs. Finance Officer and Treasurer, Jeffrey O'Neill spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

- 2. Request the Town Council authorizes a general wage increase of one percent (1%) effective July 1, 2020.** (See memorandum dated June 2, 2020 from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTIONS 3.7, 3.19 AND 5.3 (B) (3), HEREBY AUTHORIZES THAT ALL NON-UNION FULL TIME, PERMANENT PART TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYEES BE GIVEN A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OF ONE PERCENT (1.0%), EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020.

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to authorize that all non-union full-time, permanent part time and part time employees be given a general wage increase of one percent (1.0%) effective July 1, 2020. Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried by roll call vote with one abstention (Wendus).

- 3. Request the Town Council endorse the establishment of the Gene Pitney Memorial Park to be located at 19 Grove Street.**

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ENDORSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF "GENE PITNEY MEMORIAL PARK", AT 19 GROVE STREET.

June 2, 2020

Council Member Wakefield, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to endorse the establishment of "Gene Pitney Memorial Park" at 19 Grove Street. Mayor Champagne spoke. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

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 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 19, 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 virtual regular Town Council meeting held on May 19, 2020. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

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

1. Monthly Report for April 2020, Town Clerk's Office, as submitted by Karen C. Daigle, Vernon Town Clerk.
2. Monthly Report for April 2020, Police Department, as submitted by Captain John Kelley, Vernon Police Department.

Q.) ADJOURN (8:11PM)

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

Received: June 11, 2020

Approved: June 16, 2020

Respectfully Submitted.



Kathleen Minor
Recording Secretary