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

January 17, 2012 – 7:30 PM

Mayor George Apel called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:
Present: Council Members Bill Campbell, Thomas DiDio, Virginia Gingras, Marie Herbst, John Kopec, Brian Motola, Steven Peterson, Thomasina Russell, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Weissberger, and Michael Winkler
Absent: Judy Hany
Entered During Meeting:
Also Present: Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Lance Chernack, 50 Cubles Dr. – spoke about board nominations on the agenda; he also spoke about his concerns with the PCZ regulation changes being taken up by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Thursday. He requested the Mayor pull the application.

Anne Letendre, 29 Gottier Dr – Spoke about the Council teamwork and transparency. She also spoke about her concerns with the application for regulation changes to the PCZ. She requested the Mayor pull the application.

Edie Chernack, 50 Cubles Drive - spoke about the nominations to the Planning and Zoning Commission. She also spoke about her concerns with the application for regulation changes to the PCZ. She requested the Mayor pull the application.

Cheryl McMullen, 564 Bolton Road - She spoke about her concerns with the application for regulation changes to the PCZ. She requested the Mayor pull the application.

7:47 PM - Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to extend citizen's forum. Motion carried unanimously.

Sarah Olson, 6 Tunnel Rd. – requested the Mayor pull the application to change the PCZ regulations and stated her concerns with the revised regulations. She requested a letter from Jennifer Roggi be put on file.

Maryanne Levesque, 183 Bolton Rd - requested the Mayor pull the application to change the PCZ regulations and stated her concerns with the revised regulations.

James Krupienski, 50 Deerfield Dr. – Spoke in favor of new business #3 regarding the redistricting. He stated concerns with the revised PCZ regulations.

Jean Merz, 144 Phoenix St. - requested the Mayor pull the application #PC 2011-17 to change the PCZ regulations.

Michael Winkler, 20 Gottier Dr. – Spoke about the incessant dog barking ordinance requests.

Citizen's forum closed at 8:02 PM.

D) EXECUTIVE SESSION
None

E) PUBLIC HEARING
None

F) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor George F. Apel to make a presentation to the Town Council on various topics.

- Spoke about the list of liaison appointments an stated there are more to come.
- Created an Ad-Hoc Committee of Council Members Winkler, Gingras, and Campbell to discuss mayoral compensation. No changes to the mayoral compensation will take place until after 11/2013
- Council Members Campbell, Peterson, and DiDio met to discuss labor agreements set to expire in June
- Council Members Motola, Herbst, and Kopec met to discuss candidates to interview for the Assistant Town Administrator position.
- Mayor Apel did not renew the 2012 lobbyist contract and the Mayor's office no longer has an intern working for them. However, he is in discussion with the University of New Haven for an unpaid internship with a student interested in local government.
- The After Action Report for Storm Alfred is included under informational materials. The Emergency Management Director will meet with the Mayor tomorrow and discuss recommendations, make revisions to the report and bring any policy recommendations to the Town Council.
- The majority of the 2 year plans from Department heads has been received and is under review. Town Council Members are welcome to review them.
- The Finance Department will issue forms to Department Heads for discussions regarding the 2012-2013 budget.
- Mayor Apel will be participating in several different ribbon cutting ceremonies over the next 6-8 weeks.

G.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Mayor Apel pulled Consent Agenda item #12 from the agenda. Council Member DiDio pulled consent agenda item #7 for discussion. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and11 as presented.

C. 1. **Request for Tax Refunds for Prior and Current Years.** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated January 10, 2012 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIX (6) OVERPAYMENTS FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF $14,714.53 AND NINE (9) OVERPAYMENTS OF THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF $165,788.43 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JANUARY 10, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the tax refunds for prior and current years. Motion carried unanimously.

C 2. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor George F. Apel to execute documents relative to the *Memorandum of Understanding Regional Use of Bus Drivers for Senior Services.*** (See memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator to Mayor George F. Apel and the Vernon Town Council dated January 11, 2012.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE REGIONAL USE OF BUS DRIVERS FOR SENIOR SERVICES.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to authorize Mayor Apel to execute documents relative to the Memorandum of Understanding Regional Use of Bus Drivers for Senior Services. Motion carried unanimously.

C 3. **Request the Town Council approve budget amendments #8-11 for fiscal year 2011-2012, as provided by Finance Officer James Luddecke.** (A copy of budget amendment forms are attached for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #8-11 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011-2012 AS OUTLINED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER, JAMES LUDDECKE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve budget amendments #8-11 for fiscal year 2011-2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C 4. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of Peter F. Olson (R), 39 Tolland Avenue, Rockville, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority, said term to commence on March 1, 2012 and expires on February 28, 2017.** (A copy of Mr. Olson'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 GEORGE F. APEL'S REAPPOINTMENT OF PETER F. OLSON, (R), 39 TOLLAND AVENUE, ROCKVILLE, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO BEGIN MARCH 1, 2012 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28, 2017.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Peter Olson as a regular member of the Vernon Housing Authority for a term of 3/1/2012 through 2/28/2017. Motion carried unanimously.

C 5. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of E. Mason Thrall, III, (U), 172 Irene Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority, said term to commence on February 21, 2012 and expires on February 20, 2015.** (A copy of Mr. Thrall's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S REAPPOINTMENT OF E. MASON THRALL, III (U), 172 IRENE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON TRAFFIC AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2012 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 20, 2015.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of E. Mason Thrall, III as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority for a term of 2/21/2012 through 2/20/2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C 6. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of James L. Kenny, Vernon Police Chief, 725 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority said term to commence on February 21, 2012 and expires February 20, 2015.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JAMES L. KENNY, VERNON POLICE CHIEF, 725 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 21, 2012 AND EXPIRES FEBRUARY 20, 2015.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of James L. Kenny as a regular member of the Vernon Traffic Authority for a term of 2/21/2012 through 2/20/2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C 8. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's reappointment of Victor Antico, 189 Great Pond Road, South Glastonbury, Connecticut (Owner of Holiday Inn Express) as the Town's representative to the Greater Hartford Regional Tourism District, said term to commence on January 18, 2012 and expires on December 31, 2015.** (A copy of Mr. Antico's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF VICTOR ANTICO (R), 189 GREAT POND ROAD, SOUTH GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT TO THE GREATER HARTFORD REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT TO A TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AND EXPIRING ON DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Victor Antico as the Town's representative to the Greater Hartford Regional Tourism District for a term of 1/1/82012 through 12/31/2015. Motion carried unanimously.

C 9. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Carol S. Nelson, (R), 419 Lady Bug Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on January 18, 2012 and expires April 3, 2014.** (A copy of Ms. Nelson's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (TOWN CODE SEC. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CAROL S. NELSON, (R), 419 LADY BUG LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 3, 2014.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Carol S. Nelson as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission for a term of 1/18/2012 through 4/3/2014. Motion carried unanimously.

C 10. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Gail L. Bernaiche (D), 40 Eleanor Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission, said term to commence on January 18, 2012 and expires on April 3, 2012.**(A copy of Ms. Bernaiche's resume is included for Council review.) (Ms. Bernaiche is completing the balance of Ms. Nelson's term).

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (TOWN CODE SEC. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORE F. APEL'S, APPOINTMENT OF GAIL L. BERNAICHE (D), 40 ELEANOR DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AND EXPIRES ON APRIL 3, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Gail Bernaiche as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission for a term of 1/18/2012 through 4/3/2012. Motion carried unanimously.

C 11. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Qilin "Elizabeth" Yang, (U), 70 Old Town Road, Unit 336, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to commence on January 18, 2012 and expires on December 31, 2012 .** (A copy of Ms. Yang's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 3; AND CHARTER CHAPTER XII, SEC. 4, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF QILIN "ELIZABETH" YANG, (U), 70 OLD TOWN ROAD, UNIT 336, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID APPOINTMENT TO COMMENCE ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Qilin "Elizabeth" Yang as a regular member of the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term of 1/18/2012 through 12/31/2012. Motion carried unanimously.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

C 7. **Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Daniel E. Anderson, (R), 29 Oxbow Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of**

the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to commence on January 18, 2012 and expires December 31, 2015. (A copy of Mr. Anderson's resume is included for Council review.) (Mr. Anderson is completing the first alternate position vacated by William E. Roch).

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 1 & 6, AND CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES SEC. 8-4a & b, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL E. ANDERSON, (R), 29 OXBOW DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT TO ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR A TERM COMMENCING ON JANUARY 18, 2012 AND EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2015.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Daniel Anderson as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission for a term of 1/18/2012 through 12/31/2015. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Members Russell, DiDio, Herbst, and Gingras opposed and Council Member Winkler abstained.

I.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

J.) NEW BUSINESS

1. **Discussion relative to the Year to Date Budget figures as presented by James Luddecke, Finance Officer.** (See General Fund Budget and Expenditure Report for the period ended December 31, 2011 attached for Council review.)

NO MOTION REQUIRED

Discussion took place.

2. **Request the Town Council approves the resolution for acceptance of a street known as Correia Way as a Town of Vernon road.** (See memo from Planning to the Town Council; Overall Plan Showing Correia Way; Resubdivision Plan cited (two sheets); Warranty Deed and Certificate of Title attached for Council review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO ACCEPT THE WARRANTY DEED FROM CORREIA & SON BUILDERS AND DEVELOPERS, LLC FOR A CERTAIN PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND SITUATED IN THE TOWN OF VERNON, COUNTY OF TOLLAND AND STATE OF CONNECTICUT, BEING THAT ROAD DESIGNATED AS "CORREIA WAY" ON A CERTAIN MAP OR PLAN ENTITLED "RESUBDIVISION PLAN CORREIA WAY TROUT STREAM DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT MAP 20 BLK 18 LOT 4V & 4VVV ZONE: R-27 & AQUIFER PROTECTION AREA OWNER/APPLICANT JOSE D. CORREIA, 47 SMITHBROOK TERRACE, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT J.R. RUSSO & ASSOCIATES LAND SURVEYORS & PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, 1 SHOHAM ROAD, EAST WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT 06088 (860) 623-0569 FAX: (860) 623-2485 BY TAC/LF SCALE 1" – 40' DATE: 4-11-07 SHEET 4 OF 12, SHEET 5 OF 12 CHECKED JRR NO. 2006-104 REV. 1 5-22-07 ADDT'L WETLANDS, WATER COMPANY COMMENTS REV. 2 6-07-07 CLARIFY EASEMENTS, AREA W/IN 200',

CLOSURE ERROR REV. 3 7-26-07 ELIMINATE EASEMENT, REVISE LOT 1 & OPEN SPACE REV. 4 10-27-07 METES AND BOUNDS, CURVE DATA "

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above resolution to accept a street known as Correia Way as a Town of Vernon Road. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request from the Registrar of Voters that the Town Council consider redistricting of the current Voter Districts.** (See memorandum from Judith Beaudreau and Cynthia Madden, Registrars of Voters dated January 10, 2012; and redistricting maps.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES AS PRESENTED THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED ***"Resolution Establishing Voting Districts in the Town of Vernon",*** with the understanding that Ordinance #37 ***"An Ordinance Establishing Voting Districts in the Town of Vernon",*** will be amended within the next ninety (90) days to conform to said resolution.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Gingras made the above resolution to approve the redistricting of the current voter districts. Judy Boudreau, Democratic Registrar and Cynthia Madden, Republican Registrar answered questions from Town Council Members. Registrar Boudreau shared a revised version of the voting districts and a proposed updated resolution with Town Council Members. Registrar Boudreau recommended rescinding the ordinance because section 9-169 gives the Mayor the authority to change the districts via resolution and an ordinance is not needed. Mayor Apel has asked the ordinance committee to review. All information regarding the proposed districts is available on the website. Discussion took place.

9:07 PM – Recess
9:13 PM – Reconvene

Motion Failed, Council Members Campbell, DiDio, Gingras, Herbst, Kopec, Motola, Peterson, Russell, Sullivan, and Weissberger opposed.

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 REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2011 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 20, 2011 Regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF DECEMBER 23, 2011 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the December 23, 2011 Special Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Town of Vernon – ***Storm Alfred After Action Report***, as submitted by Michael Purcaro, Emergency Management Director.

2. Quarterly Newsletter ***"Senior Moments",*** as submitted by Paula Claydon, Senior Center Director.

3. Monthly Activity Report – November, 2011 for the Building Department as submitted by Harry Dan Boyko, Building Official.

4. Monthly Report for October/November, 2011 for the Youth Services Bureau as submitted by Alan M. Slobodien, Director.

5. Memorandum relative to the Town Council Liaison Assignments from Mayor George F. Apel, dated January 4, 2012.

6. Invitation to the CCM Newly Elected Workshop Series "READY TO LEAD" Critical Tools for Newly Elected Local Legislators.

7. Memorandum from Shaun Gately, Economic Development Coordinator to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to upcoming Grand Opening slated for Vernon in the next few months.

8. Monthly Report for December, 2011 for EMS, as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.

Adjourn (9:15PM)

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary