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

February 21, 2012 – 7:30 PM

Mayor George Apel called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Bill Campbell, Thomas DiDio, Virginia Gingras, Judy Hany, Marie Herbst, John Kopec, Brian Motola, Steven Peterson, Thomasina Russell, Daniel Sullivan, Adam Weissberger, and Michael Winkler

Absent:

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Mayor George Apel, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Cheryl McMullen, 564 Bolton Road spoke in favor of a dog nuisance ordinance.

Shawn Duperry, 2 Carol Drive spoke about the new policy regarding recycling pick up after a holiday and issues with his sewer line that collapsed last year because of the road conditions. He requested information regarding the Town of Vernon recycling policies and to have his recycling picked up the following day.

Citizen's forum closed at 7:46 PM

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion to go into executive session:

MOTION

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 PENDING LITIGATION RELATIVE TO 21 TERRACE DRIVE AND INVITES JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR; AND HAROLD CUMMINGS, TOWN ATTORNEY TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion:

MOTION:

THE TOWN ATTORNEY IS AUTHORIZED TO INITIATE SUCH ACTIONS HE DEEMS NECESSARY AND PROPER TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF THE TOWN OF VERNON WITH RESPECT TO ITS PROPERTY TO THE REAR OF TO 21 TERRACE DRIVE.

Motion carried unanimously.

E.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

F.) **PRESENTATIONS**

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

- Mayor Apel held a moment of silence for Sgt. Dan Morris
- Department budgets are being worked on and cuts have been discussed with Department heads
- Administration will have the budget to Town Council members on or before 3/15/2012
- The Adhoc Committee for mayoral compensation report is in the council packet for review
- The Board of Education budget is in the packet for review by Town Council members
- Coach Wheelock is a finalist for national baseball coach of the year.

Brief presentation from the Rockville Community Alliance relative to the upcoming Miss Greater Rockville Pageant. Morgan Amerone, *Miss Connecticut* will also be present.

Pamela DiDio, member of Rockville Community Alliance and Morgan Amerone presented information regarding the upcoming Miss Greater Rockville Pageant which takes place on March 17, 2012 at 6:00 PM.

G.) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Council Member Herbst pulled consent agenda item #3 for discussion. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1, 2, 4, 5 as presented.

- C 1.** **Request for Tax Refunds for Current Year.** (A copy of a memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue, to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated February 13, 2012 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ELEVEN (11) OVERPAYMENTS OF THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6730.37 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 13, 2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Winkler made the above motion to approve the request for tax refunds for current year. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 2.** **Request the Town Council authorizes Mayor George F. Apel to sign any and all documents relative to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant Program.** (This is an amendment of the Council's original motion on October 4, 2011, with a change of authorization from Mayor Jason L. McCoy to Mayor George F. Apel.)

AMENDED RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE TOWN OF VERNON MAY ENTER INTO WITH AND DELIVER TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY

MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WHICH IT DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT GEORGE F. APEL, AS THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF VERNON IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF VERNON AND TO DO AND PERFORM ALL ACTS AND THINGS WHICH HE DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Winkler made the above motion to authorize Mayor Apel to sign any and all documents relative to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant Program. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor George F. Apel's appointment of Lisa Ouellette (D), 57 Hany Lane, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Arts Commission for a term to commence on February 22, 2012 and continuing indefinitely.** (A copy of Ms. Ouellette's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 09-21-76 AMENDED ON 09-21-1982 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR GEORGE F. APEL'S APPOINTMENT OF LISA OUELLETTE (D), 57 HANY LANE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON ARTS COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON FEBRUARY 22, 2012 AND CONTINUES INDEFINITELY.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Winkler made the above motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of Lisa Ouellette as a regular member of the Vernon Arts Commission for a term beginning 2/22/2012. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 5. Request the Town Council 1985 Rescue Truck – Sale (disposal of Town Property) and expending the \$11,500.00.** (A memorandum dated February 15, 2012 from James Luddecke, Finance Director to John D. Ward, Town Administrator is included in the Council Packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S R141 – 1985 FORD RANGE RESCUE TRUCK, AND TO SELL IT TO TOLLAND AUTOMOTIVE OF EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT FOR A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF \$11,500.00; AND FURTHER, TO APPLY THE PROCEEDS TO EQUIPPING THE REPLACEMENT RESCUE TRUCK AND OTHER ITEMS AS DISCLOSED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT NUMBER EIGHTEEN.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Winkler made the above motion to approve the request for disposal of town property by disposing of the 1985 rescue truck. Motion carried unanimously.

H.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- C 3.** Request the Town Council approve budget amendments # 12 - #22 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 # 12 - #22 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 Winkler made the above motion to approve budget amendments #12-22 for FY 2011-2012. Discussion took place. Council Member Herbst requested a list of allocations in the contingency account since it began on July 1, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

- I.) **PENDING BUSINESS**
None

J.) **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. Request the Town Council adopt the suggested schedule of 2012-2013 budget hearings and designated public hearings. (See memorandum dated February 13, 2012 from Diane Wheelock, Executive Assistant to Mayor George F. Apel, Town Administrator John D. Ward and Vernon Town Council re: same)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the following motion:

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS: (list the four selected day/dates/times). THE FIRST OF TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON (day/date) SAID PUBLIC HEARING WILL BEGIN AT (time) AND THE SECOND WILL BE HELD ON (day/date), SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO BEGIN AT (time). SAID PUBLIC HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO HEAR COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE 2012-2013 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. ALL BUDGET HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Discussion took place. Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion for an amendment to hold the budget meetings and public hearings on March 24 and 31, 2012 at 9:00 AM with the public hearings at 9:10 AM. Discussion took place. Motion failed, Council Members Campbell, Hany, Kopec, Motola, Peterson, Sullivan and Weissberger opposed.

Recess 8:33 PM
Reconvene 8:36 PM

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Peterson made a motion made a motion for an amendment to hold the budget meetings on March 22 7:30 PM, March 24, 9:00 AM with the public hearing at 9:05 AM, March 28 7:30 PM, April 4 7:30 PM and April 9 7:30 PM with the public hearing at 7:35 PM. Discussion took place. Motion carried, Council Member Herbst opposed.

Original motion as amended passed, Council Member Herbst opposed.

MOTION AS AMENDED:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS: MARCH 22, 2012 7:30 PM, MARCH 24, 2012 9:00 AM, MARCH 28, 2012 7:30 PM, APRIL 4, 2012 7:30 PM AND APRIL 9, 2012 7:30 PM. THE FIRST OF TWO PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 24, 2012 SAID PUBLIC HEARING WILL BEGIN AT 9:05 AM AND THE SECOND WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 9, 2012, SAID PUBLIC HEARING TO BEGIN AT 7:35 PM. SAID PUBLIC HEARINGS ARE SCHEDULED TO HEAR COMMENTS RELATIVE TO THE 2012-2013 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. ALL BUDGET HEARINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO CHARTER, CHAPTER VI, "ANNUAL TOWN MEETING," THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES, APRIL 24, 2012 AS THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND FINAL PUBLIC HEARING, TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2012-2013 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE APRIL 24, 2012 PUBLIC HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT 06066 BEGINNING AT 7:00 PM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above motion to approve the date of April 24, 2012 for the annual town meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

2. **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 January 31, 2012 attached for Council review.)

NO MOTION REQUIRED

Discussion took place.

3. **Request the Town Council accept ownership of and responsibility for the Maxwell "family burial ground", as reference in the Last Will and Testament of J. Alice Maxwell dated March 28, 1941 and adopt the following motion.** (See memorandum from Town Attorney Harold R. Cummings dated February 15, 2012 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator relative to same.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT ON THE PAYMENT OF 50% OF THE BALANCE ON HAND IN THE MAXWELL CEMETERY TRUST, BUT NOT LESS THAN THE SUM OF \$125,000 TO TOWN OF VERNON THEN, EFFECTIVE UPON SUCH PAYMENT, THE TOWN OF VERNON HEREBY ACCEPTS OWNERSHIP OF THE MAXWELL "FAMILY BURIAL GROUND" LOCATED WITHIN THE GROVE HILL SEMETERY, AND, FURTHER ASSUMES FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CARE, MAINTENANCE AND CONTROL OF SAID MAXWELL "FAMILY BURIAL GROUND" LOCATED WITHIN SAID CEMETERY INCLUDING THE MARKERS, MONUMENTS, TREES, SHRUBBERY, WALL, BRIDGES, PATHS, AND OTHER STRUCTURES AND VEGETATION THEREON.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Weissberger made the above resolution to accept ownership of and responsibility for the Maxwell "family burial ground",

as referenced in the last will and testament of J. Alice Maxwell. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

K.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
None

L.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**
None

M.) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**
Discussion took place regarding informational item #5

N.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

O.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**
THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012 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 February 7, 2012 Regular Town Council meeting. Council Member Hany requested Don Bellingham be added to the minutes as a recipient of the Parks and Recreation Outstanding Service Award. Motion carried unanimously.

P.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Monthly Activity Report – January, 2012 for the Building Departments as submitted by Harry Dan Boyko, Building Official.
2. Monthly Report - January, 2012 for the Youth Services Bureau as submitted by Alan Slobodien, Director.
3. Monthly Report - January, 2012 for the Town Clerk’s Office as submitted by Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk.
4. Monthly Report EMS – January , 2012 as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.
5. Organizational Chart for Town of Vernon Administration.
6. Administration Function listing.
7. Ad Hoc Committee Report – Mayor’s Compensation as submitted by Michael Winkler, Chairman.

Adjourn (9:09 PM)

Council Member Weissberger, seconded by Council Member Hany made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary