

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

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Tuesday, February 15, 2011 – 7:00 PM

Mayor Jason L. McCoy called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Judy Hany, Marie Herbst, James Krupinski, Brian R. Motola, Pauline Schaefer, Michael A. Winkler

Absent: Council Members Mark Etre, Sean O'Shea, Harry D. Thomas

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

C) CITIZEN'S FORUM

There were no speakers at Citizen's forum

Citizen's forum closed at 7:08 PM

D.) PUBLIC HEARINGS

E.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Presentation from the Talcottville Mill Group. Laura Knott Twine, Project Manager, and Al Pedimonti, owner will be present for the discussion. Also in attendance will be Economic Development Coordinator Marina Rodriguez.

Ms. Twine presented information regarding the Talcottville Mill project.

Mayoral Proclamation for Patricia "Patty" Noblet, retiring Republican Registrar.

Patty has served the Town of Vernon in many volunteer capacities as well as Registrar from January 2, 1992 until January 1, 2011.

Mayor McCoy presented the mayoral proclamation to Patricia Noblet. He thanked her for her service.

Recess 7:37 PM

Reconvene 8:00 PM

Presentation to the Town Council by Mayor Jason L. McCoy on a variety of topics.

- The Flood and Erosion Control Board will meet to discuss any flooding concerns due to melting snow.
- Mayor McCoy is meeting with the PMBC to determine triggers to deal with snow/snow removal in the future.
- Administration signed an agreement with the Dept of Correction to clear snow away from hydrants. Aaron Nash created an app for Android phones to help citizens find their hydrants.
- Mayor McCoy thanked all the volunteers who helped with the snow removal.

- Geo TMS and Smart search are fully implemented and Term tracker and ordinance tracker are being "tweaked"
- Network Engineering: the fiber will be spliced by the end of February
- Mayor McCoy met with Sullivan and LeShane to discuss legislation that may impact the Town
- Administration is working on an ordinance change to allow for the electronic filing of personal property.
- Finance is wrapping up the budget
- Board of Education budget came in .15% less
- Building Department fees are down
- Cemetery Association is advertizing to sell more plots
- Warrant collections include: \$253,000 in Motor Vehicle Taxes and 1.7 million in Real Estate taxes owed.
- Munis is ending it's current version and implementing the latest version
- Going out to bond on March 1st
- Cruisers and asphalt pavers contract awarded
- CDBG funds will be used to fix Vernon roads
- The Planning and Zoning Commission is drafting their revised by-laws. They will be presented at the next meeting
- Refuse collection is up to date
- WPCA exploring options for odor control
- 500,000 sq feet of snow and 20 million lbs of snow were removed from Vernon buildings since 2/5/2011
- The Firehouse has re-opened
- There is an additional agenda item concerning snow removal costs.
- Mayor McCoy acknowledged all the volunteers who helped with snow removal and donations from local restaurants to help feed the volunteers.

F.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Council Member Herbst pulled consent agenda item #'s 5 and 6 for discussion. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1, 2, 3, and 4 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 February 7, 2011 is included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$4,426.44 AND TWELVE (12) FOR THE CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$ 9,746.74 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO JOHN D. WARD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED FEBRUARY 7, 2011.

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 approve Mayor Jason L. McCoy's re-appointment of Charles E. Bettinger (R), 15 Kingsbury Avenue Vernon, Connecticut as regular member of the Traffic Authority. Said term effective February 22, 2011 to February 21, 2014.** (A copy of Mr. Bettinger'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 MCCOY'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CHARLES E. BETTINGER (R), 15 KINGSBURY AVENUE VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 22, 2011 TO FEBRUARY 21, 2014.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to reappoint Charles E. Bettinger as a regular member of the Traffic Authority for a term of 2/22/2011 through 2/21/2014. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Jason L. McCoy's re-appointment of Robert J. Kleinhans, 375 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon, Connecticut as regular member of the Traffic Authority. Said term effective February 21, 2011 to February 20, 2014.**

PROPOSED MOTION:

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CODE, ARTICLE II, SECTIONS 13-16 AND 13-17; THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR MCCOY'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J. KLEINHANS, 375 HARTFORD TURNPIKE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2011 TO FEBRUARY 20, 2014.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to reappoint Robert J. Kleinhans as a regular member of the Traffic Authority for a term of 2/21/2011 through 2/20/2014. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Jason L. McCoy's re-appointment of Jon-Paul Roden, (R), 105 #35 Maple Avenue Vernon, Connecticut as regular member of the Traffic Authority. Said term effective February 21, 2011 to February 20, 2014.** (A copy of Mr. Roden'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 MCCOY'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JON-PAUL RODEN, (R), 105 #35 MAPLE AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY. SAID TERM EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 21, 2011 TO FEBRUARY 20, 2014.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to reappoint Jon-Paul Roden as a regular member of the Traffic Authority for a term of 2/21/2011 through 2/20/2014. Motion carried unanimously.

- G.) IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**
Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Krupienski made a motion to add additional item #1 to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- H.) PENDING BUSINESS**
None

- I.) **NEW BUSINESS**
None
- J.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**
None
- K.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCE(S) PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**
None
- L.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS, PULLED CONSENT ITEMS FROM F) AND PULLED ITEMS FROM O) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, ETC**

Additional Agenda Item #1:

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion for the following resolution:

WHEREAS AT ITS SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2011, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL FOUND THAT THE DELAY IN APPROPRIATING THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE SNOW REMOVAL ACCOUNT DUE TO SNOW AND ICE ACCUMULATION ON THE TOWN STRUCTURES WOULD AFFECT THE LIVES, HEALTH OR PROPERTY OF THE CITIZENS OF VERNON;

WHEREAS THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO SAID EMERGENCY WAIVED THE REQUIREMENT OF A PUBLIC HEARING, AS OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY CHAPTER TWELVE (12) SECTION EIGHT (8) OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER;

WHEREAS THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO SAID EMERGENCY, RESOLVED TO AD AN APPROPRIATION OF FUND BALANCE TO THE SNOW REMOVAL ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$90,000.00);

WHEREAS THE COMPLETE ESTIMATE OF THE COSTS RELATED TO SAID EMERGENCY, AS AVAILABLE ON FEBRUARY 15, 2011, AMOUNTS TO A SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND (\$250,000.00), EXCEEDING THE ORIGINAL ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION AMOUNT OF NINETY THOUSAND (\$90,000.00);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL AMENDS THE FEBRUARY 5, 2011 MOTION TO APPROVE THE ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION OF FUND BALANCE TO THE SNOW REMOVAL ACCOUNT FROM THE AMOUNT OF NINETY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$90,000.00) TO A TOTAL SUM OF TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$250,000.00), AS INDICATED IN THE BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUEST #13.

Discussion took place. Council Member Schaefer requested a breakdown of expenses. The information was disseminated to Town Council Members prior to the meeting. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

C 5. Request the Town Council approve two bid waivers for the emergency hiring of snow removal contractors to remove snow from Town of Vernon buildings. (A copy of a memorandum from John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated February 10, 2011 to Mayor Jason L. McCoy and the Vernon Town Council is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION 1:

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE BID PROCEDURE FOR THE EMERGENCY HIRING OF SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTOR **FRESH START REMODELING AND CONSTRUCTION**, 122 OAKLAND ST, MANCHESTER, CT 06042, FOR THE EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES PROVIDED, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$105,000.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve the bid waivers for the emergency hiring of *Fresh Start Remodeling and Construction* to remove snow from Town of Vernon buildings. Discussion took place. Council Member Krupienski requested the \$7200.00 in outstanding taxes owed to the Town of Vernon by Fresh Start Remodeling and Construction be off set against this invoice. Motion carried, Council Member Schaefer abstained.

PROPOSED MOTION 2:

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE BID PROCEDURE FOR THE EMERGENCY HIRING OF SNOW REMOVAL CONTRACTOR **A-PLUS INSTALLATION LLC**, OF 150B PARK AVENUE, EAST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT FOR THE EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES PROVIDED, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$67,000.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Champagne made the above motion to approve the bid waivers for the emergency hiring of *A-Plus Installation, LLC* to remove snow from Town of Vernon buildings. Motion carried, Council Member Schaefer abstained.

PROPOSED MOTION #3:

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE BID PROCEDURE FOR THE EMERGENCY HIRING OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR SILVA ENGINEERING OF 332 MAIN STREET, BUILDING 2 2ND FLOOR, WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT, FOR THE EMERGENCY STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT SERVICES PROVIDED, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Champagne made a motion to approve the bid waivers for the emergency hiring of Silva Engineering for emergency structural assessment services. Discussion took place. Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion for an amendment to remove the dollar amount from the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued.

The following amended motion carried, Council Member Schaefer abstained:

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE BID PROCEDURE FOR THE EMERGENCY HIRING OF STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR SILVA ENGINEERING OF 332 MAIN STREET, BUILDING 2 2ND FLOOR, WILLIMANTIC, CONNECTICUT, FOR THE EMERGENCY STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT SERVICES PROVIDED.

9:12 PM Council Member Champagne left the table

PROPOSED MOTION #4:

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER 12, SECTION 9, DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE TOWN TO WAIVE THE BID PROCEDURE FOR THE EMERGENCY HIRING OF CONNECTICUT NATIONAL GUARDSMEN, FOR THE EMERGENCY SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES PROVIDED, IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$17,600.00

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Krupienski made the above motion to approve the bid waivers for the emergency hiring of the Connecticut National Guard for emergency snow removal services. Discussion took place. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve and authorize the execution of all required documents related to the Master Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement Number BL01327.** (A copy of a memorandum from Finance Officer and Treasurer, James M. Luddecke dated February 8, 2011 to John D. Ward, Town Administrator is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

RESOLVE THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES AND AUTHORIZES THE ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS RELATED TO MASTER EQUIPMENT LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT NUMBER BL01327, DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2011, WITH CALIFORNIA FIRST NATIONAL BANK, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$106,412.00, FOR THE ACQUISITION OF THREE (3) POLICE CRUISERS AND ONE (1) ASPHALT RECLAIMER BOX.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made the above motion to approve and authorize the execution of all required documents related to master equipment lease purchase agreement number BL01327. Discussion took place. Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Winkler made a motion to divide the question.

9:20 PM Council Member Champagne returned.

Discussion continued. Council Member Herbst withdrew her motion. Discussion continued. Motion carried unanimously.

9:23 PM Council Member Herbst left the table

M.) ADOPTION OF MINUTES

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2011 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Campbell made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the February 1, 2011 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried, Council Member Anderson abstained.

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EMERGENCY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2011 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Champagne made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the February 5, 2011 special emergency Town Council meeting. Discussion took place. Council Member Champagne was not at the meeting and requested to be listed as absent on the minutes. Discussion continued, Council Member Motola withdrew his motion. The minutes will be reflected on the next Town Council agenda meeting.

9:26 PM Council Member Herbst returned

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

1. January 2011 Building Department monthly activity report, as submitted by B. Peter Hobbs, Building Official.
2. January 2011 EMS monthly activity report, as submitted by Jean Gauthier, EMS Coordinator.
3. Vernon Senior Centers *Senior Moments* Newsletter for February 2011.
4. Thank you letter dated February 7, 2011 from Jim Gage, Treasurer of the Northern Connecticut Land Trust to Mayor Jason L. McCoy relative the Mayor's endorsement and the Council's approval of a recent donation of \$5000.00.
5. Resident Thank you forwarded through Principal Eric Bain, Rockville High School relative to the students participation in our recent snow removal project.
6. Building Roof Collapses and Issues Reported as of February 9, 2011 from the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

Adjourn (9:28 PM)

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary