

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
April 18, 2006**

Senior Center 2nd Floor Conference Room, 26 Park Place, Vernon, CT

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, Bill F. Campbell, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Mary A. Oliver, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 8.

Absent: Council Members Daniel A. Champagne, Jason L. McCoy, Brian R. Motola, Pauline A. Schaefer; 4.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Daniel A. Champagne (7:32 p.m.), Jason L. McCoy (7:33 p.m.), Brian R. Motola (7:35 p.m.); 3.

Exited During Meeting: Council Member Jason L. McCoy (10:10 p.m.); 1.

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Council Member Champagne entered (7:32 p.m.)

Catherine Rebai, 42 Neill Road, spoke regarding the Board of Education Grant report that had been delivered to the Mayor's office prior to the April 6th budget meeting.

Council Member McCoy entered (7:33 p.m.)

John Leary, 26 Hany Lane, spoke regarding a bill in the State General Assembly entitled, "An Act Concerning Authorization Of State Grant Commitments For School Building Projects And Other School Construction Provisions". A copy of the entire bill was entered into the record.

Council Member Motola entered (7:35 p.m.)

Kyle Mansfield, 15 Deepwood Drive, thanked the Town Council and the Administration for their committed time and effort. He also spoke in favor of the proposed YMCA and felt that the public should be able to vote at referendum for or against it.

Thomas Walsh, 4 Gottier Drive, spoke in favor of the proposed YMCA and felt that the Council should approve the plan, therefore not having to go to referendum.

Deborah Wilson, 6 Liberty Street, spoke in favor of the proposed YMCA.

Edith Chernak, 50 Cubles Drive, spoke in favor of the proposed YMCA and that the voters, not the Council, should make the decision. She also felt that Hal Cummings being the Republican Committee Chair and a Vernon town attorney was a conflict of interest.

Jason L. McCoy, 216 Skinner Road, spoke regarding the proposed YMCA stating that Council Republicans did not vote against the proposed YMCA but the agreement concerning the YMCA.

Christy N. Vale, 100-3 Dobson Road, spoke regarding the proposed YMCA stating again that Council Republicans did not vote against the YMCA but the proposal and felt that there needed to be more information and open dialogue between the Administration and the Council concerning the project.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO EXTEND CITIZEN'S FORUM UNTIL ITS CONCLUSION. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Mary Oliver, 15 Dobson Commons, spoke in favor of having more open dialogue between the Council, the Public, and the Administration concerning the proposed YMCA.

Bill Campbell, 214 Tracy Drive, stated that he was not against the proposed YMCA but against the agreement. He felt that there needed to be a more "doable" plan concerning the project.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. announced that the YMCA proposal would be put on the agenda again for the May 2nd Town Council meeting.

Marie Herbst, 245 Brandy Hill Road, spoke regarding the proposed YMCA and reminded the Council that the first step of the project would be to send the proposed project to Planning and Zoning for a 8/24 Review.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 8:03 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer read a proclamation commemorating April 23 -29th National Volunteer Week.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL/BUDGET MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members McCoy and Vale abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried unanimously 8 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members Etre, McCoy and Vale abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL/BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members Etre and Fox abstained.

Council Member Fox requested that a vote on page 378 of the April 6, 2006 budget meeting be checked concerning the vote as follows: To increase by \$200. Tab 6 Page 24 Code 10230180 Police Object Code Firearm Supplies. The motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members Fox and Oliver abstained.

The vote should have read: The motion was carried unanimously 8 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Oliver abstained. (The minutes from April 6, 2006 will reflect the change.)

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

New Business Items:

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current Fiscal Year
2. Request for Tax Refunds – Prior Fiscal Year

3. Request the Town Council adopt a resolution entitled "Resolution-Connecticut Department of Social Services Replacement of Doors and Window at the Vernon Senior Center".

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B 1 THROUGH AND INCLUDING C.N.B. 3. AS FOLLOWS:

C.N.B. 1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current Year.

THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$188.79 AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED APRIL 12, 2006 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

(A copy of the memorandum is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix A.")

C.N.B. 2. Request for Tax Refunds – Prior Year.

THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE ONE (1) TAX REFUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$144.62 AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED APRIL 12, 2006 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

(A copy of the memorandum is appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix B.")

C.N.B. 3. Request Town Council to adopt a resolution entitled "Connecticut Department of Social Services Replacement of Doors and Window at the Vernon Senior Center, Project #6100-02-0256."

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS A RESOLUTION ENTITLED "CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES REPLACEMENT OF DOORS AND WINDOW AT THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, PROJECT #6100-02-0256".

The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Anderson requested a recess. The meeting recessed at 8:28 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ambulance data - updated information.

Fire Chief Kelly and Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer were available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

-Council Members requested a time-response report from Chief Kelly concerning the ambulance service.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO ADD:

A.A.I. 1. Memo from the Town of Coventry RE: REGIONAL YMCA ENDORSEMENT.

A.A.I. 2. Information 5 – Memorandum from Kevin Washington President/CEO YMCA of Greater Hartford and Suzanne Appleton, Executive Director, Indian Valley YMCA.

TO THE AGENDA. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.
Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO ADD:

A.A.I. 3. Budget related questions.

TO THE AGENDA. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Vale left the table for the discussion and vote due to a conflict of interest.

N.B. 1. Request the Town council to schedule a Public Hearing to discuss the changes in program income utilization.

Vernon Housing Authority members were present for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS THE CHANGES IN PROGRAM INCOME UTILIZATION ON TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006 AT 7:35 IN THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, 26 PARK PLACE, 2ND FLOOR, VERNON CONNECTICUT. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voce vote.

Council Member Vale returned to the table.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Request for Town Council to schedule Public Hearings regarding three proposed Ordinances entitled: "An Ordinance Concerning Indentification of Landlord", "An Ordinance Concerning Parking During Snow Removal and Construction of Public Works Improvements", and "An Ordinance Relating to the Removal of Snow and Ice."

Council Member Etre, Housing Code Procedure & Enforcement Task Force was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING IDENTIFICATION OF LANDLORD" TO BE TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006 AT 7:40 P.M., AT THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, SECOND FLOOR, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON CONNECTICUT. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Oliver, Schaefer and Vale voting yes and Council Member Motola voting no.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING PARKING DURING SNOW REMOVAL AND CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS IMPROVEMENTS" TO BE TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006 AT 7:45 P.M., AT THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, SECOND FLOOR, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE" TO BE TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006 AT 7:50 P.M., AT THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, SECOND FLOOR, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO CHOOSE DRAFT #2 ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE" RELATING TO THE LAST MOTION AND APPENDED TO THESE MINUTES AND MARKED AS "APPENDIX C". The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Memo from the Town of Coventry RE: REGIONAL YMCA ENDORSEMENT.

A.A.I. 2. Information 5 – Memorandum from Kevin Washington President/CEO YMCA of Greater Hartford and Suzanne Appleton, Executive Director, Indian Valley YMCA.

A.A.I. 1. and 2 were discussed together. Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy requested a recess. The meeting recessed at 9:55 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:58 p.m.

Council Member Vale requested a recess. The meeting recessed at 10:02 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 10:04 p.m.

An agreement was made stating that the Deputy Mayor, Jason L. McCoy and the Administration would discuss the details of the YMCA proposal.

A.A.I. 3. Budget related questions.

Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy exited the meeting (10:10 p.m.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the Board of Education meeting of March 27, 2006 minutes from the Design Review Committee meeting held on February 6, 2006.
2. Letter from Susan A. Shimer, resigning from the Economic Development Commission.
3. Letter from Karl M. Prewo regarding the YMCA project.
4. Letter to Mayor Marmer and Town Council members relative to the funding of the position of part-time "Zoning Code Compliance Officer".
5. Memorandum from Kevin Washington, President/CEO YMCA of Greater Hartford and Suzanne Appleton, Executive Director, Indian Valley YMCA along with attachments relative to the Town Council's decision not to recommend the purchase of land off exit 67 in order to build a community YMCA.

ADJOURN:

Council Member Champagne, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO ADJOURN.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Received: April 23, 2006
Approved: May 2, 2006
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary