

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
February 7, 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, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 11.

Absent: Council Members Jason L. McCoy; 1.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Jason L. McCoy (7:33 p.m.); 1.

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

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

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

James M. Hoover, 155 Trout Stream Drive, President, Taxpayers Association, spoke regarding Contract #785-9/15/05 Supplying and Installing three (3) Dump Truck Bodies and Snow Plow Frames to the Department of Public Works. The Taxpayers Association felt "we have a concern and we suspect that there has been some contract fixing" and that there has been "rigging of a specific contractor." He also spoke regarding the Town engineer and felt that he acted irresponsibly without a license and should be personally charged for all costs paid by the Town.

Ellen M. Byrne, 1170 Hartford Turnpike, reminded Council Member McCoy that Town Council meetings begin at 7:30 and felt he was not interested in what the public had to say during Citizen's Forum. She also spoke against the Visiting Nurses and Rockville Public Library's budgets.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:42 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

The Town of Vernon presented Certificates of Recognition for Increasing Participation Summer Food Service Program-2005. The following people accepted Certificates: Mike Cunningham, Manager of Food and Nutrition at Rockville General Hospital, April Gothberg, Senior Director of Hospital Services and Site Manager at Rockville General Hospital, Alan Slobodien, Director of Youth Services, and Bruce Watt from the Parks and Recreation Department.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

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 to approve the appointment of David H. Herrmann as an alternate member of the Board of Ethics.
4. Request the Town Council to approve the reappointment of Rudolf Rossmly as a member of the Traffic Authority.
5. Request the Town Council to approve the reappointment of E. Mason Thrall as a member of the Traffic Authority.
6. Request the Town Council to approve appointment of Diane Wheelock as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals.
7. Request the Town Council to adopt a motion authorizing additional monies for Police Station Central Dispatch System.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

Council Member Fox requested that C.N.B. 7 be voted on separately.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 1 THROUGH 6 AS FOLLOWS:

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

THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE FOURTEEN (14) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,645.21 AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2006 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

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

THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,677.00 AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED FEBRUARY 1, 2006 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of David H. Herrmann, (D) 521 Bolton Road, as an alternate member of the Board of Ethics, said term to expire on November 30, 2009.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF DAVID H. HERRMANN (D), TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS, SAID COMMISSION TO EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 30, 2009.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Rudolf Rossmly, Police Chief, as a member of the Traffic Authority, said term to expire on February 20, 2009.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF RUDOLF ROSSMY TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 20, 2009.

C.N.B. 5. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's reappointment of E. Mason Thrall, (U) 172 Irene Drive, as a member of the Traffic Authority, said term to expire on February 20, 2009.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF E. MASON THRALL (U) TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE TRAFFIC AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 20, 2009.

C.N.B. 6. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's Council's appointment of Diane Wheelock, (R) 132 Tallwood Drive, as a member of the Board of Assessment Appeals to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Joseph M. Tringali, said term to expire on June 30, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER IX, SECTION 3, HEREBY APPOINTS DIANE WHEELOCK (R) OF 132 TALLWOOD DRIVE, TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS, TO FILL A VACANCY DUE TO THE RESIGNATION OF JOSEPH M. TRINGALI, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 8, 2006 AND EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2008.

The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote. A correction was made to C.N.B. 6 striking *MAYOR'S* and being replaced by *COUNCIL'S* to line 1 of the request.

NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):

C.N.B. 7. Request the Town Council authorize an additional \$467.27 to the police station central dispatch system project.

Council Member Oliver, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES AN ADDITIONAL \$467.27 TO THE POLICE STATION CENTRAL DISPATCH SYSTEM PROJECT, FOR A TOTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$466,149.27. AS RECOMMENDED BY THE POLICE CHIEF, THE ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE TO COME FROM THE STATE ASSET FORFEITURE ACCOUNT. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Fox requested that all future police business be separated on the agenda due to the conflict of interest of Council Member Champagne being on the police force.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Presentation by the Town of Vernon Open Space Task Force to discuss the *Open Space System Report* dated August 14, 1998 and revised October 12, 2005. The issue of identification of priority parcels and those specific parcels themselves will be the subject of Executive Session.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. requested that the Town Council adopt the following motion:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADDS AN ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM TO ALLOW FOR THE PRESENTATION BY THE VERNON OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE. FURTHER, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THAT PRESENTATION, CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE TOWN COUNCIL SHALL GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PARCELS. THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT SECTION 6, SUBSECTION D, STATES IN PART "DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE SELECTION OF A SITE OR THE LEASE SALE PURCHASE OF REAL ESTATE BY A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE WHEN PUBLICITY REGARDING SUCH SITE, LEASE, SALE, PURCHASE OR CONSTRUCTION WOULD CAUSE A LIKELIHOOD OF INCREASED PRICE UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ALL OF THE PROPERTY HAS BEEN ACQUIRED... MAY BE THE TOPIC OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

N.B. 1. Request for Town Council to approve the budget amendments for fiscal year 2005-2006 as outlined in the Budget Amendment #7-10 or additional amendments as provided by the Finance Officer at the meeting.

Council Member Fox requested that #9 be pulled for a separate vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST(S) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS #7, 8, and 10 AND/OR ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT FORMS AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER AT THE MEETING. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORM #9 AND/OR ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT FORMS AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER AT THE MEETING. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Champagne abstained.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Presentation by the Town of Vernon Open Space Task Force to discuss the *Open Space System Report* dated August 14, 1998 and revised October 12, 2005. The issue of identification of priority parcels and those specific parcels themselves will be the subject of Executive Session.

Ann Lentendre and Karl Hasel made a presentation which included:

- Discussion of the benefits associated with open space.
- The process for parcel selection.
- The open space and the goals for the Town of Vernon.
- Open Space protection methodologies.

Discussion took place.

Finance Officer James Luddecke was available for questions and comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY VOTES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INVITES ANN LETENDRE, KARL HASEL, GINNY GENGRAS, GEORGE ARTHUR, MARY POLO, AND AMY PATERSON FROM THE OPEN SPACE TASK FORCE, SHERYL MCMULLEN AND TOM OUELETTE FROM THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, AND JEANINE GELINEAU AND NEIL PADE, ASSISTANT TOWN PLANNER & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR TO ATTEND. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m.

Present at the Executive Session were Ann Letender, Karl Hasel, Ginny Gengras, George Arthur, Mary Polo, Amy Paterson, Sheryl McMullen and Tom Ouellette, Jeanine Gelineau, Neil Pade, Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 9:25 p.m.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY VOTES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AND INVITES STEPHEN CULLINAN, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ATTORNEY DON STRICKLAND, AND CATHERINE REBAI, CHAIR, BOARD OF EDUCATION, PEGGY JACKLE AND ANNE FISCHER, BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR LAURENCE R. SHAFFER TO ATTEND. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 9:26 p.m.

Present at the Executive Session were Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Stephen Cullinan, Superintendent of Schools, Attorney Donald Strickland, Catherine Rebai, Board of Education Chair, Peggy Jackle and Anne Fischer, Board of Education members and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting came out of Executive session at 9:30 p.m.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO AFFIRM THE SUCCESSOR CONTRACT BETWEEN THE VERNON BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE VERNON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AS OUTLINED BY ATTORNEY STRICKLAND. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY VOTES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING INVESTIGATIONS AND INVITES POLICE CHIEF RUDOLF ROSSMY, OFFICER CHARLES HICKING AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR LAURENCE R. SHAFFER TO ATTEND. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 9:55 p.m.

Present at the Executive Session were Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Police Chief Rudolf Rossmly, Officer Charles Hicking and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 10:30 p.m.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO EXTEND CURFEW UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO RETURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING INVESTIGATIONS AND INVITES POLICE CHIEF RUDOLF ROSSMY, OFFICER CHARLES HICKING AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR LAURENCE R. SHAFFER TO ATTEND. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting went back into Executive Session at 10:31 p.m.

Present at the Executive Session were Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Police Chief Rudolf Rossmly, Officer Charles Hicking and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale. Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 11:05 p.m.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY VOTES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting went into Executive Session At 11:06 P.M.

Present at the Executive Session were Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting came out of Executive Session at 11:08 p.m.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE EXTENSION OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S CONTRACT, DATED MARCH 22, 2002, AND AUTHORIZES THE EXTENSION OF SAID CONTRACT UNTIL JUNE 30, 2006. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the Board of Education meeting of January 9, 2006, minutes from the Permanent Municipal Building Committee meeting of January 11, 2006, and minutes from the Vernon Traffic Authority meeting of November 10, 2005.
2. Monthly reports from Penny Rand, Senior Center Director for December 2005, Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk for December 2005, and Alan Slobodien, Director of Youth Services for December 2005.
3. Letter of resignation from J. Mark Silhavy from the Economic Development Commission.
4. Letter from the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding the reappointment of Terri Goldich.
5. *Certificate of Appreciation* to the Town of Vernon in recognition of generous support from the Central Conservation District.
6. Inspection reports from the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.

ADJOURN:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO ADJOURN.

The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 p.m.

Received: February 14, 2006
Approved: February 21, 2006
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary