

**SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
January 10, 2006**

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 Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer, Connie Simon; 7.

Absent: Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Jason L. McCoy, Christy N. Vale; 5.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Mark S. Etre (7:32 p.m.), Bill Fox (7:31 p.m.), Jason L. McCoy (7:43 p.m.), Christy N. Vale (7:32 p.m.); 4.

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

Council Members Fox (7:31 p.m.), Etre (7:32 p.m.) and Vale (7:32 p.m.) entered the meeting.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. requested that the Board of Education submit their budget in a format that was more easily understood by the community. The Mayor requested Board of Education budgets from similar size towns, i.e. Glastonbury, Enfield, Groton and Trumbull to use as a template. She formally requested the Board of Education to provide a line item budget for this year's budget season using Glastonbury's budget as a template, being the easiest to follow.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

J. David Batchelder, 198 Rainbow Trail, spoke regarding his disappointment in the failed reappointments of Terri Goldich (PZC) and Jane Seymour (IWC). He requested the Mayor to resubmit the appointments and asked the council Republicans to put aside personal perceptions and to rescind the previous vote. (A formal written letter was entered into the record.)

Jack Summers, 51 Lawlor Road, Tolland, spoke regarding his disappointment in the failed reappointments of Terri Goldich (PZC) and Jane Seymour (IWC).

Ellen M. Byrne, 1170 Hartford Tnpk, spoke against the failed reappointments of Terri Goldich and Jane Seymour and asked the Mayor to resubmit the reappointments.

Chief Rudolph Rossmly, 228 Risley Road, announced that Lt. Michael Grenier would be leaving the Vernon Police Department as of January 27, 2006. He also invited all to a farewell on the 27th at 10:00 a.m.

Council Member McCoy entered the meeting (7:43 p.m.).

Joe Grabinski, 623 Dart Hill Road, spoke in favor of a line item budget for the Board of Education and spoke in favor of reinstating a curfew and loitering ordinance. He felt that the ordinances would improve the quality of life in Vernon for citizens as well as investors. He also spoke in favor of having Walmart and Home Depot coming into the Town to provide jobs for the kids.

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

Joel Kendrick, 100.5 Talcott Avenue, spoke regarding the plowing of Talcott Avenue on New Year's Eve. Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. requested that he call the Mayor's office the following morning regarding the matter.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:54 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

None.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 20, 2005, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried unanimously 10 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 Sarah Iacobello as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
4. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Lester G. Finkle III as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
5. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Ralph E. Zahner as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 1. THROUGH AND INCLUDING C.N.B. 5 AS FOLLOWS:

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

THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE THIRTEEN (13) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,199.90 AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED DECEMBER 28, 2005 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 TWO (2) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,369.58 AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED DECEMBER 28, 2005 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

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

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Sarah Iacobello, (D) 6 Tunnel Road, as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to expire on December 31, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF SARAH IACOBELLO (D), TO SERVE AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2008.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Lester G. Finkle III, (D) 35 Miriam Drive, as a regular member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to expire on December 31, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF LESTER G. FINKLE III (D), TO SERVE AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2008.

C.N.B. 5. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Ralph E. Zahner (U) 142 Vernon Avenue #66, as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, said term to expire on December 31, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF RALPH E. ZAHNER (U), TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2008.

The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

N.B. 1. Request the Town Council to authorize the advance of \$12,800.00 for expenditures incurred by the Friends of Hockanum River Linear Park in relation to the construction of a trailside picnic area at the former Saxony Mill site; and in association, the \$3,200.00 local match of in-kind labor as provided by the Recreation Department and volunteers.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE ADVANCE OF \$12,800.00 FOR EXPENDITURES INCURRED BY THE FRIENDS OF HOCKANUM RIVER LINEAR PARK IN RELATION TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A TRAILSIDE PICNIC AREA AT THE FORMER SAXONY MILL SITE; AND IN ASSOCIATION, THE \$3,200.00 LOCAL MATCH OF IN-KIND LABOR AS PROVIDED BY THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND VOLUNTEERS. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to acknowledge that funding for the sewer system improvements anticipated by Ordinance #252 is not available through Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Clean Water funding and to further acknowledge that the cost to complete this project utilizing conventional funding is approximately \$9,000 additional per year.

Discussion took place.

David Ignatowicz, Director WPCA, and Town Administrator, Laurence R. Shaffer was available for comments and questions.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT FUNDING FOR THE SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS ANTICIPATED BY ORDINANCE #252 IS NOT AVAILABLE THROUGH CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION CLEAN WATER FUNDING. IT FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE COST TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT UTILIZING CONVENTIONAL FUNDING IS APPROXIMATELY \$9,000 ADDITIONAL PER YEAR. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on Roll Call vote.

N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to direct the Town Administrator to seek Connecticut General Statute §8-24 review from the Planning and Zoning Commission as it applies to the sale or the lease of the Citizen's Block.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Etre requested that the Town initially not have the caveats as not to limit the Town and give the most flexibility to the use of the building. The Mayor stated that it would be taken into consideration.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK CONNECTICUT STATUTE §8-24 REVIEW FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AS IT APPLIES TO THE SALE OR THE LEASE OF THE CITIZEN'S BLOCK. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

1. Request for Town Council to schedule a Public Hearing regarding proposed Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Establishing a Local Historic Properties Commission and Designating Historic Properties and Districts."

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

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH CHAPTER V OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, SECTION 6, ENTITLED "PUBLIC HEARING ON AND PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCES," HEREBY SCHEDULES THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A LOCAL HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION AND DESIGNATING HISTORIC PROPERTIES AND DISTRICTS" TO BE HELD BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2006, AT 7:35 PM, AT THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Schaefer brought up the fact that the Board of Education would be having a budget meeting to discuss the elementary school budgets next Tuesday, January 17th, the same evening as the Town Council meeting and felt that it was a conflict due to the fact that there are 2 Town Council liaisons to the Board of Education.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the Inland Wetlands Commission special meeting of October 13, 2005 and the regular meeting of November 22, 2005.
2. Minutes from the Conservation Commission meeting of December 14, 2005.
3. Monthly reports for October and November from Bernice K. Dixon, Town Clerk.
4. Letter from Dorine L. DeCarli resigning from the Cemetery Commission.

ADJOURN:

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Received: January 13, 2006
Approved: Vernon Town Council
January 17, 2006

Karin Z. Pike
Asst. Town Clerk/Recording Secretary

Appendix A

Appendix A (continued)

Appendix B

Appendix C

Appendix C (continued)

Appendix C (continued)

Appendix C (continued)