

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
March 7, 2006**

Senior Center 2nd Floor Conference Room, 20 Park Place, Vernon, CT

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

Present: Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer, Connie Simon, Christy N. Vale; 10.

Absent: Council Members Mark S. Etre, Jason L. McCoy; 2.

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

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. announced that the Fidelco Bowling Tournament trophy had been won back by Vernon.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Chief Rudolph Rossmly, 228 Risley Road, 725 Hartford Tnpk, announced the 3rd Citizen's Police Academy to begin on Wednesday March 22, which will run for 10 consecutive Wednesday evenings 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. An overview of functions of the Vernon Police Department would be discussed including firearms training, traffic enforcement, DUI enforcement, search and rescue, domestic violence, CSI, dispatch and the canine unit. Applications can be obtained at the police department. Officer Rooney and Sergeant Kelley will be the contacts and can be reached at the police department.

Council Member Pauline Schaefer updated the Council and public as to the RAGE Team. The Team took first place at the UTC scrimmage on February 18, 2006. They will be at the Hartford Convention Center at the UTC Regional Meet on March 10 – 12, Philadelphia March 30 – April 1st and in ~~Jordan~~* at the end of April. *Georgia

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:35 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer presented a proclamation declaring 2006 through 2016 as the "Decade of Languages". In attendance were Jaya Vijayasekar, Coordinator of World Languages at Rockville High School, students Lacey LaHaie, Maham Chowhan, and Megan Sawyer. All were invited to the "Taste of Languages 2006" to be held on March 20, 2006 from 6-8:00 p.m. at the Vernon Center Middle School.

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 FEBRUARY 21, 2006, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote.

*Jordan replaced with Georgia

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**New Business Items:**

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current Fiscal Year
2. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Vishnu R. Khade as a member of the School Building Advisory Commission.
3. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Kathleen Porter as a member of the Board of Directors, North Central District Health Department.
4. Request the Town Council to approve the reappointment of Alfred A. Caudullo as a member of the Board of Directors, North Central District Health Department.
5. Request Town Council authorize the Mayor to execute Department of Transportation grant to receive funding.
6. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary paperwork to make application for and receive Police and Youth funds from the State Office of Policy and Management.
7. Request the Town Council to appoint Scully and Wolf, LLP as auditors to audit the books of the Town of Vernon for fiscal year 2006 audit.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 1 THROUGH AND INCLUDING C.N.B. 7 AS FOLLOWS:

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

THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE TEN (10) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,527.78 AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED MARCH 1, 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 the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Vishnu R. Khade, Ph.D., (D) 125 Merline Road, as a member of the School Building Advisory Commission, said term to expire on June 30, 2006.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF VISHNU R. KHADE (D), TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE SCHOOL BUILDING ADVISORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2006.

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Kathleen Porter (D), 214 Merline Road as a member of the Board of Directors for the North Central District Health Department, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Christal Petrone said term to expire on December 31, 2006.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF KATHLEEN PORTER (D) TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2006.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Alfred A. Caudullo, ECHN, 71 Haynes Street, Manchester, Connecticut, as a member of the Board of Directors, Northe Central District Health Department, said term to expire on February 5, 2009.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF ALFRED A. CAUDULLO TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 5, 2009.

C.N.B. 5. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute Department of Transportation grant to receive funding.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED "STATE MATCHING GRANT FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORTATION".

C.N.B. 6. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary paperwork to make application for and receive Police and Youth funds from the State Office of Policy and Management in an amount of \$9,999.00.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR ELLEN L. MARMER M.D. TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE POLICE AND YOUTH FUNDS FROM THE STATE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$9,999.00.

C.N.B. 7. Request the Town Council to extend Contract #685 for two additional years and appoints the firm of Scully & Wolf, LLP as auditors to audit the books for the Town of Vernon for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY EXTENDS CONTRACT #685 FOR TWO ADDITIONAL YEARS AND APPOINTS THE FIRM OF SCULLY & WOLF, LLP, OF 2670 MAIN STREET, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT AS AUDITORS TO AUDIT THE BOOKS AND ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2006; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO EXECUTE CONTRACT #685 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$43,000.00 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2006 AUDIT.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Request Town Council approval to designate funds for the planning and study of pool repairs, Horowitz Pool.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER XII, SECTION 10, SUBSECTION (f), HEREBY APPROVES AN AUTHORIZATION OF AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION INTO THE 2005-2006 BUDGET YEAR, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 TO SPECIFICALLY CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE DETERIORATING CONDITIONS AT THE HOROWITZ POOL. SAID RESOLUTION HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE MAYOR.

THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTS A RESOLUTION ENTITLED "2005-2006 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION HOROWITZ POOL STUDY."

Parks and Recreation Director Bruce Dinnie was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Campbell, moved TO ADD A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE MOTION TO REPLACE THE WORDS "IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00" TO THE WORDS "*NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00*" IN LINE 4 OF THE MOTION.

The motion was carried 8 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Anderson and Vale voting no.

The motion now reads, "THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER XII, SECTION 10, SUBSECTION (f), HEREBY APPROVES AN AUTHORIZATION OF AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION INTO THE 2005-2006 BUDGET YEAR, NOT TO EXCEED THE

AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 TO SPECIFICALLY CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE DETERIORATING CONDITIONS AT THE HOROWITZ POOL. SAID RESOLUTION HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED BY THE MAYOR.

THE TOWN COUNCIL ADOPTS A RESOLUTION ENTITLED "2005-2006 ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION HOROWITZ POOL STUDY."

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

No additional agenda items were presented.

NEW BUSINESS:

N.B. 1. Request for Town Council to adopt a resolution entitled "Anniversary Celebration Fund".

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Fox, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY ADOPTS THE RESOLUTION ENTITLED "ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FUND".

Committee members Carl Schaefer and Dick Bowman were available for question and comment.

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

N.B. 2. Request the Town council to authorize the Town Administrator to seek proposals for the transfer of tax liens for 200 West Main Street and West Main Street.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH ORDINANCE #217 AND ORDINANCE #231, AUTHORIZES THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK PROPOSALS FOR THE TRANSFER OF TAX LIENS FOR 200 WEST MAIN STREET AND WEST MAIN STREET.

Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer was available for questions and comments.

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

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

No additional agenda items were presented.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer and Council Member Herbst exited the meeting and the building at 8:43 p.m. Council Member Vale would be taking over the remainder of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Champagne, moved that CONSISTENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY VOTES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LITIGATION AND INVITES JOSEPH COURTNEY, TOWN ATTORNEY, JAMES LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER, AND MICHAEL COLLINS, ESQ., TO ATTEND. The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 8:47 p.m.

Present at the Executive Session were Joseph Courtney, Town Attorney, James Luddecke, Finance Officer, Michael Collins, Esq. and Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Motola, Oliver, Schaefer, Simon and Vale.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO GO OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION. The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote. The meeting came out of Executive Session at 9:26 p.m.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL ACCEPT THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL IN THE PATRIZZ V. TOWN OF VERNON LITIGATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE SETTLEMENT TERMS PROPOSED BY U.S MAGISTRATE WILLIAM GARFINKEL AND AGREED TO BY MIRMA. The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the Board of Education meeting of February 27, 2006, minutes from the Inland Wetlands Commission meeting of September 27, 2005, and minutes from the Vernon Traffic Authority meeting of January 12, 2006.
2. Inspection report from the Permanent Municipal Building Committee for the Public Safety Building.
3. Letters from State Representative Claire Janowski, State Senator Tony Guglielmo, and Mayor Ellen L. Marmer M.D., relative to the Governor's proposal to eliminate the car tax.
4. Informational material from David Wheeler, Assessor regarding "Revaluation 2004, Town of Vernon."
5. Memo from Laurence Shaffer, Town Administrator regarding Contract #785 along with supporting documentation.

ADJOURN:

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

The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

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

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary