

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
April 17, 2007**

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

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, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Jason L. McCoy, Brian R. Motola, Pauline A. Schaefer; 10.

Absent: Council Members Mary A. Oliver, Connie Simon; 2.

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Mary A. Oliver (8:45 p.m.); 1.

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

Mayor Marmer called for a Moment of Silence for the Virginia Tech shootings.

The Mayor reminded all of the upcoming Town Meeting on April 24, 2007 at Center 375, 7:00 p.m. and also the Tuesday, May 1, 2007 referendum.

She also stated that Consent Business Item #5 was identical to #10 and would be crossed off the agenda.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Council Member Schaefer announced that the Rockville High School Robotics Team came in First Place in their division and Fourth Place nationwide.

Catherine Rebai, 42 Neill Road, Board of Education Chair, spoke regarding the Board of Education budget. She also questioned the unfunded balance portion of the budget.

No other citizens wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:37 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Bob Holdsworth from the Holdsworth Pelton Companies was present to give a report on ambulance services.

-Informational.

David Wheeler, Town Assessor was present to give a report on tax assessment and revaluation.

-Informational.

Council Member Oliver entered the meeting (8:45 p.m.)

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO EXTEND CURFEW UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

Mayor Marmer requested, with the Council's indulgence, to move up N.B. 3.

N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator to seek §8-24 review from the Planning and Zoning Commission relative to the sale of properties on Chestnut Street, Kevin Drive, and Miller Road. (Taken out of Order.)

Christopher Clark Town Administrator was available for questions and comments.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE §8-24 REVIEW FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AS IT APPLIES TO THE SALE OF PROPERTIES ON CHESTNUT STREET, KEVIN DRIVE, AND MILLER ROAD. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

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 MARCH 20, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver and Pauline Schaefer voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Member Etre abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Champagne, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, and Pauline Schaefer voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Member Oliver abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF MARCH 22, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver and Pauline Schaefer voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Champagne, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver and Pauline Schaefer voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Member Etre abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF MARCH 29, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver and Pauline Schaefer voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Member Etre abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver and Pauline Schaefer voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Champagne, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Daniel A. Anderson, George F. Apel, Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver and Pauline Schaefer voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current Fiscal Year.
2. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Ross Gepfert as a representative of the Vernon Area Cable Advisory Council.
3. Request the Town Council to approve the reappointment of Fred Nowsch as a regular member of the Board of Ethics.
4. Town Council Resolution authorizing Christopher Clark to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Transportation for the River Street Bridge.
- ~~5. Town Council Resolution authorizing Christopher Clark to enter into and execute a grant contract with the State of Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism.~~
6. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement in order for the Town of Vernon to participate in the *Summer Nutrition Program*.
7. Request the Town Council to approve the reappointment of Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor to the Board of Directors of the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority.
8. Request the Town Council to approve the disposal of fixed assets-obsolete and irreparable technology equipment.
9. Request the Town Council to approve the "List of Appointed and Elected Officials" as provided by the Town Clerk.
10. Request Town Council to authorize Christopher Clark to enter into a grant contract with the State of Connecticut for the preparation of a predevelopment study of the Kindergarten Building.
11. Request the Town Council to direct the Town Administrator to seek §8-24 review from the Planning and Zoning Commission as it applies to the granting of easements at 4 Park Street.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

Council Member Campbell pulled C.N.B. 8 and 9 for discussion.

Council Member Motola pulled C.N.B. 10 for discussion.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B 1 THROUGH 4 AND 6, 7, 11 AS FOLLOWS:

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES EIGHT (8) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,245.89 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED APRIL 12, 2007 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 Ross Gepfert (R), 28 Scott Drive, to serve as a member of the Vernon Area Cable Advisory Council

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF ROSS GEPFERT (R) TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE VERNON AREA CABLE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Fred Nowsch (D), 11 Sunrise Drive, to serve as a member of the Board of Ethics, said term to expire November 30, 2011.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF FRED NOWSCH TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 30, 2011.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council to adopt the motion to authorize Christopher Clark to enter into an agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation for the construction of the River Street Bridge.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES TO AUTHORIZE CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE RIVER STREET BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

C.N.B. 5. (See Consent New Business #10)

C.N.B. 6. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to enter into a formal agreement with the State Department of Education for the "Summer Nutrition Program" within the State Department of Education.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FORMAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ALLOWING THE TOWN OF VERNON TO BECOME A "SPONSOR" ORGANIZATION FOR THE SUMMER NUTRITION PROGRAM WITHIN THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

C.N.B. 7. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Ellen L. Marmar, Mayor (D), 276 Merline Road, to serve as a member of the Board of Directors, Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to expire November 11, 2007.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ELLEN L. MARMAR TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 11, 2007.

C.N.B. 11. Request the Town Council to direct Town Administrator Clark to seek §8-24 review from the Planning and Zoning Commission as it applies to easements at 4 Park Street.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO SEEK CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE §8-24 REVIEW FROM THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION AS IT APPLIES TO THE GRANTING OF EASEMENTS AT 4 PARK STREET

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

NEW BUSINESS TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):

C.N.B. 8. Request the Town Council to approve the disposal of fixed assets pursuant to a request from Mary Pippin, Network Administrator.

Mary Pippin, Network Administrator available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE AND IRREPARABLE TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

C.N.B. 9. Request the Town Council to approve the "List of Appointed/Elected Officials" as provided by the Town Clerk.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RATIFIES THE "LIST OF APPOINTED/ELECTED OFFICIALS" AS PROVIDED BY THE TOWN CLERK.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO APPROVE THE FORMAT OF THE OFFICIALS LIST. The amendment was moved 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

The main motion, as amended, was moved 9 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members Champagne and McCoy abstained.

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

C.N.B. 10. Request the Town Council to authorize Town Administrator Christopher Clark to enter into and execute a grant contract for the preparation of a predevelopment study of the historic Kindergarten Building.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY RESOLVES TO AUTHORIZE CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO ENTER INTO AND EXECUTE A GRANT CONTRACT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE CONNECTICUT COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND TOURISM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,251.00 FROM THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ACT FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PREDEVELOPMENT STUDY OF THE HISTORIC KINDERGARTEN BUILDING IN VERNON CENTER CONNECTICUT. The motion was carried 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Phase in the real property assessment increase pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 12-62m over a term of not less than three years. Further, consistent with Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-62c (d) the Town Council directs the Mayor to notify OPM of such phase in not later than 30 days from the date of the Town Council action.

By unanimous consent, A.A.I. 1. was added to the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion of "Rental/Labor Fees For Use of Town Buildings 2006/2007".

Discussion took place.

A rental format will be taken up at the next regular Town Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

N.B. 1. Request for Town Council to approve the Budget Amendments for fiscal year 2006-2007 as outlined in the Budget Amendments 25-26.)

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS #25-26 AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER.

James Luddecke was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 9 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members Champagne and Etre abstained.

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

N.B. 2. Request for Town Council to approve the Budget Amendments for fiscal year 2006-2007 as outlined in the Budget Amendment #27-36.)

James Luddecke was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006-2007 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS #27-36 AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER.

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

(A copy of the memoranda are appended to these minutes and marked as "Appendix D.")

N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to authorize the Town Administrator to seek §8-24 review from the Planning and Zoning Commission relative to the sale of properties on Chestnut Street, Kevin Drive, and Miller Road. (Taken out of order.) See page 377.)

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

Request for Town Council to schedule a Public Hearing regarding Ordinance entitled "An Ordinance Amending the Vernon Code so as to Permit a Reduction of the Assessment of Certain Rehabilitated Buildings and to Provide Notice to the Tax Assessor of the List of Vacant Buildings".

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 A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING "AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE VERNON CODE SO AS TO PERMIT A REDUCTION OF THE ASSESSMENT OF CERTAIN REHABILITATED BUILDINGS AND TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE TAX ASSESSOR OF THE LIST OF VACANT BUILDINGS" TO BE HELD BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL ON TUESDAY, MAY 1, 2007, AT 7:35 PM, AT THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

A.A.I. 1. Phase in the real property assessment increase pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 12-62m over a term of not less than three years. Further, consistent with Connecticut General Statutes Section 12-62c (d) the Town Council directs the Mayor to notify OPM of such phase in not later than 30 days from the date of the Town Council action.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Motola, moved to POSTPONE A.A.I. 1. TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED REGULAR MEETING TO TAKE PLACE ON MAY 1, 2007. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver and Schaefer voting yes and Council Member Champagne voting no.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from Board of Education meeting of March 12 and March 26, 2007.
2. Copy of Department of Social Services quarterly newsletter, spring 2007, monthly report from Alan Slobodien, Director Vernon Youth Services Bureau.
3. Copy of Community Voice Channel program list April 2007.
4. Copy of announcement from Fitton Hose Company, celebrating their 125 anniversary.
5. Copy of letter from George Barton who has resigned from the Cable Television Advisory Council.
6. Letter from Town Council member George Apel resigning from the School Building Advisory Commission.
7. Informational list for Town Council members.
8. Copy of letter that was received by the Department of Social Services.

ADJOURN:

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Received: April 24, 2007
Approved: May 1, 2007
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary