

**REGULAR MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
March 6, 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 Bill F. Campbell, Daniel A. Champagne, Mark S. Etre, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Jason L. McCoy, Brian R. Motola, Mary A. Oliver, Pauline A. Schaefer; 9.

Absent: Council Members Daniel E. Anderson, Connie Simon; 2.

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

Mayor Marmer reminded the Council of the upcoming budget meeting dates.

Emergency Management Director Michael Purcaro passed out informational flyers regarding the 2007 Fireman's Fund Grant Award and the Public Siren System announcement.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Rockville High School language students invited all to their third annual "Taste of Languages" evening to be held on Thursday, March 22, 2007 from 6-8 p.m.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:34 p.m.

The Regular meeting was closed at 7:34 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the public hearing to order at 7:34 p.m. to receive comments and recommendations relative to the ordinance entitled: "Ordinance Pertaining to Land Use Application Fees."

The legal notice was advertised in the Journal Inquirer on February 28, 2007 and posted on the Town Hall bulletin board on February 23, 2007.

Neil Pade, Town Planner and Hal Cummings, Town Attorney were available for questions and comment.

Mr. Pade read into the record a letter from Lester Finkle chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission in favor of the proposed ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No residents wished to speak and the Public Hearing was closed at 7:37 p.m.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:37 p.m.

MAYOR RECOMMENDED ACTION ON THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES THE ADOPTION OF THE ORDINANCE ENTITLED "ORDINANCE PERTAINING TO LAND USE APPLICATION FEES".

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried unanimously 8 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Etre abstained.

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

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 FEBRUARY 20, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED AS AMENDED. The motion was carried unanimously 8 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Fiscal Year(s).
2. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Matthew A. Larson as a regular member of the Board of Ethics.
3. Request the Town Council to approve salary adjustment for the Registrars of Voters.
4. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary paperwork in order to receive Youth Service Bureau funds from the CT Youth Services Association.

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

Council Member Etre pulled C.N.B. 3 for discussion.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 1, 2 & 4 AS FOLLOWS:

C.N.B. 1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Year(s).

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THIRTEEN (13) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,650.65 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2007 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

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

C.N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Matthew A. Larson (R), 76 Merline Road, to serve as a member of the Board of Ethics, due to the resignation of Carlos Cruz, said term to expire November 30, 2007.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW A. LARSON TO SERVE AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON NOVEMBER 30, 2007.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council authorize the Mayor to make application for Youth Services Bureau funds from the CT Youth Services Association.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES ELLEN L. MARMER, M.D., MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY PAPERWORK TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE YOUTH SERVICE

BUREAU FUNDS FROM THE CT YOUTH SERVICES ASSOCIATION IN AN AMOUNT UP TO \$8,000.00.

The motion was carried unanimously 8 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member McCoy abstained.

NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council approve a salary adjustment for the Registrars of Voters/Elections.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REQUESTED SALARY ADJUSTMENT OF THE TWO (2) REGISTRARS OF VOTERS/ELECTIONS SUPERVISORS BY BUDGETING AN ADDITIONAL \$2,500.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008 FOR A TOTAL OF \$22,500.00. FURTHER, IT BE THE INTENT OF THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2,500.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 TO \$25,000.00.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Motola, moved to AMEND THE MOTION BY TAKING OUT THE LAST SENTENCE, "FURTHER, IT BE THE INTENT OF THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE AN ADDITIONAL \$2,500.00 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009 TO \$25,000.00. " The motion failed 2 to 5 with Council Members McCoy and Etre voting yes and Council Members Fox, Herbst, Motola, Oliver and Schaefer voting no. Council Members Campbell and Champagne abstained.

The original motion passed 8 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola, Oliver and Schaefer voting yes and Council Member Etre voting no.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

N.B. 1. Request for Town Council to approve the Budget Amendments for fiscal year 2006-2007 as outlined in Budget Amendments #12-24.

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 #12-24 AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER.

James Luddecke Finance Officer was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 5 to 3 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Fox, Herbst, Oliver and Schaefer voting yes and Council Members Etre, McCoy and Motola voting no. Council Member Champagne abstained.

Council Member McCoy requested that any future Police Department budget amendments be separated in order to allow Council Member Champagne to vote without abstaining.

(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 redesignation of available funds in reserve.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES THE RE-DESIGNATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS IN THE RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING ACCOUNT AS FOLLOWS: ANIMAL CONTROL VAN - \$7,112.00 AND REFUSE TRUCK - \$9,488.80. THE COMBINED TOTAL OF \$16,600.80 IS TO BE DESIGNATED FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DUMP TRUCK AND PLOW FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Finance Officer James Luddecke was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

A recess was taken at 9:10. The meeting reconvened at 9:13 p.m.

The motion was carried 8 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Motola and Schaefer voting yes and Council Member Oliver voting no.

N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to submit an application to the State of Connecticut Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP) for a grant in the amount of \$50,000.00.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LOCIP) FOR A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00 TO BE EXPENDED FROM THE RESERVE FOR CAPITAL AND NON-RECURRING EXPENDITURES ACCOUNT FOR RENOVATIONS TO THE TOP FLOOR OF THE 55 WEST MAIN STREET BUILDING; AND TO AMEND THE TOWN'S SIX-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO INCLUDE THIS PROJECT.

Finance Officer James Luddecke was available for questions and comment.

Discussion took place.

The motion was carried 7 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, Oliver and Schaefer voting yes and Council Members McCoy and Motola voting no.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES:

None.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from Board of Education budget meetings of February 12, 2007.
2. Monthly report from Alan M. Slobodien, Director, Youth Services Bureau for January 2007.
3. Letter of from Christal Petrone, resigning from the Board of Ethics.
4. Letter from Jaya Vijayasekar, World Languages Department announcing the third annual "Taste of Languages" event to be held on Thursday, March 22.

ADJOURN:

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Received: March 13, 2007
Approved: March 20, 2007
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary

