

**REGULAR MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
May 1, 2007**

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, Brian R. Motola, Pauline A. Schaefer, Connie Simon; 10.

**Absent:** Council Members Jason L. McCoy, Mary A. Oliver; 2.

**Entered During Meeting:** Council Member Jason L. McCoy (7:39 p.m.); 1.

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

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Stephen Marcham, 29 Sutton Drive, gave an overview of the Downtown Rockville revitalization. (informational handout entered into the record)

Council Member McCoy entered the meeting (7:39 p.m.)

James Webb Wilson, 300 South Street, questioned the Deputy Mayor's position and felt that all the Town Council members should have equal authority.

Jeff Hutton, 28 Hale Street Ext, gave an overview of the RDA's accomplishments over the last 7 years and spoke in support of the RDA funding.

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

Tom Didio, 112 Box Mountain Drive, suggested the Council look to "long term" solutions concerning the budget. He also felt that phasing in the revaluation should be looked at carefully before any decisions be made.

Cliff Edwards, 2 Fern Street, spoke regarding the RDA and believes in "bringing back life" to downtown Rockville and would like to honor former Rockville resident Gene Pitney in a museum located in Rockville.

Catherine Rebai, 42 Neill Road, Chair Board of Education, stated that she requested information from the finance officer/administration, never received a response and questioned the appropriate way to get answers from the administration. She also stated that the Board of Education budget turned in to the Mayor/Town Council was different than what was delivered from the Board of Education. Mrs. Rebai also felt that communication between the Town and Board of Education is not open and cooperative. She also questioned the use for the 3 million dollar surplus account.

Brian Flint, 4 Longview Street, RDA past president, spoke in favor of the RDA and requested the Council's support. He also announced that on Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup> the "National Day of Prayer" would be taking place at the Fox Hill Tower at 11:50 a.m.

Rosemarie Mezriou, 12 Oak Street, Rockville Block Watch, spoke regarding the revitalization of Rockville and making it a safer place to live.

Steve Taylor, 172 Merline Road, read a letter into the record from Lance Chernak, 50 Cubles Road regarding the budget.

Daniel Anderson, 29 Oxbow Drive, thanked the RDA for coming to this evening's Council meeting, making their presentations and providing information concerning the revitalization of downtown Rockville.

Council Member Schaefer presented the opening day baseball thrown out by Mayor Marmer.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 8:08 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D. called the Public Hearing to order at 8:08 p.m. to receive comments and recommendations relative to "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."

The legal notice was advertised in the Journal Inquirer on April 24, 2007 and posted on the Town Hall bulletin board on April 24, 2007.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

James Webb Wilson, 300 South Street, Apt C1, reminded the Council that an ordinance needs 7 affirmative votes to be passed.

Jason McCoy, 216 Skinner Road, spoke in favor of the ordinance.

Mayor Marmer announced that the budget referendum had failed- 900 yes/ 2246 no.

No other residents wished to speak the public hearing was closed at 8:13 p.m.

**MAYOR RECOMMENDS ACTION ON PROPOSED ORDINANCE**

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES "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."

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

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

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING/BUDGET MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 10 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 17, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Etre abstained.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2007 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED. The motion was carried 9 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Member McCoy voting no. Council Etre abstained.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Prior Fiscal Year.
2. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Cliff Vachon as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.
3. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Carl Bard as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission.
4. Request the Town Council to approve the reappointment of Carmine Pellegrino as a member of the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority.
5. Town Council Resolution authorizing Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor to authorize overtime reimbursement for an ODP approved training or exercise.
6. Request Town Council to approve the modification of the classification plan by approving a revision of the job description entitled "Building Official/ZEO" to "Building Official".
7. Request the Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary forms to make application and receive School Readiness funds.
8. Request Town Council to authorize Administration to submit an application to the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for the reconstruction of High Street.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):**

Council Member Anderson pulled C.N.B. 6 for discussion.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO APPROVE C.N.B. 1,2,3,4, 5, 7, 8 AS FOLLOWS:

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

THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS FOR THE PRIOR YEAR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$311.71 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED APRIL 26, 2007 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

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

C.N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Cliff Vachon (U), 82 Zoey Drive, to serve as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, to fill a vacancy due to the term expiration of Jerry F. Kinsman, said term to expire June 30, 2010.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF CLIFF VACHON TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2010.

C.N.B. 3. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's appointment of Carl Bard (U), 25 Grady Road, to serve as an alternate member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Christopher Crowne, said term to expire December 31, 2010.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF CARL BARD TO SERVE AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

C.N.B. 4. Request the Town Council to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Carmine Pellegrino, 15 Lakeview Drive, to serve as a member of the Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority, said term to expire December 31, 2008.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CARMINE PELLEGRINO TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOLTON LAKES REGIONAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2008.

C.N.B. 5. Request the Town Council to adopt a resolution to authorize Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor to authorize overtime reimbursement for an ODP approved training or exercise.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES ELLEN L. MARMER, M.D., MAYOR, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CAPITOL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AUTHORIZING OVERTIME REIMBURSEMENT FOR AN ODP APPROVED TRAINING OR EXERCISE.

C.N.B. 7. Request Town Council to authorize the Mayor to execute the necessary forms to make application for and receive School Readiness funds.

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR ELLEN L. MARMER TO EXECUTE THE NECESSARY FORMS TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR AND RECEIVE SCHOOL READINESS FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007/2008 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$107,000.00.

C.N.B. 8. Request the Town Council to authorize Administration to submit an application to the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development for funds relative to the reconstruction of High Street

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES ADMINISTRATION TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR FUNDS UNDER THE SMALL CITIES PROGRAM FOR THE HIGH STREET RECONSTRUCTION, SAID SUBMISSION TO BE MADE AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

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

**NEW BUSINESS (TAKEN FROM CONSENT AGENDA):**

C.N.B. 6. Request Town Council to approve the modification of the classification plan by approving the revision of the job description entitled "Building Official/ZEO" to "Building Official".

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MODIFICATION OF THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN BY APPROVING THE REVISION OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION ENTITLED BUILDING OFFICIAL/ZEO TO "BUILDING OFFICIAL".

Discussion took place.

Council Member Anderson, seconded by Council Member Simon, moved TO POSTPONE C.N.B. 6. REQUEST TOWN COUNCIL TO APPROVE THE MODIFICATION OF THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN BY APPROVING THE REVISION OF THE JOB DESCRIPTION ENTITLED "BUILDING OFFICIAL/ZEO" TO "BUILDING OFFICIAL" until the next Council meeting. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

**IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

A.A.I. 1. Discussion of information items #4 and #7.

-Copies of correspondence from Mayor Marmer to Randy Anagnostis, Executive Director, and Gene Skladnowski, President, Rockville Downtown Association (et als) relative to budget concerns.

-Information from Rockville Downtown Association Inc.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Motola, moved TO ADD A.A.I. 1. TO THE AGENDA AND MOVE THE DISCUSSION AFTER NEW BUSINESS #2 ON THE AGENDA. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

A.A.I. 2. Discussion of Informational item #8.

-Report from Town Administrator Christopher Clark, updating Town projects through April 2007.

Council Member Apel, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO ADD A.A.I. 2. TO THE AGENDA. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Revisions to Rules for Rental of Town Property.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Apel, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDED RENTAL/LABOR FEES FOR USE OF TOWN OWNED BUILDINGS POLICY. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

N.B. 1. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Arthur Beirn to the position of Director of Data Processing.

Mr. Beirn was available for any comments and/or questions.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved THAT THE MAYOR HEREBY APPOINTS ARTHUR BEIRN TO THE POSITION OF DIRECTOR OF DATA PROCESSING, EFFECTIVE MAY 29, 2007. The motion was carried unanimously 9 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Members McCoy and Motola abstained.

N.B. 2. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of William M. Call to the position of Fire Chief for the Town of Vernon.

Mr. Call was available for any comments and/or questions.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved THAT THE MAYOR HEREBY APPOINTS WILLIAM M. CALL TO THE POSITION OF FIRE CHIEF, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote.

A.A.I. 1. Discussion of information items #4 and #7 (Taken out of order)

-Copies of correspondence from Mayor Marmer to Randy Anagnostis, Executive Director, and Gene Skladnowski, President, Rockville Downtown Association (et als) relative to budget concerns.

-Information from Rockville Downtown Association Inc.

Economic Coordinator/ Assistant Town Planner Marina Rodriguez was available for comment and/or questions.

Informational discussion.

The meeting recessed at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

N.B. 3. Request Town Council to approve a motion to phase in the real property assessment over a term of not less than three years.

Finance Officer James Luddecke and Tax Assessor David Wheeler were available for questions and/or comment.

Discussion took place.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO EXTEND CURFEW UNTIL THE CONCLUSION OF BUSINESS. The motion was carried 9 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Fox, Herbst, Motola, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Etre and McCoy voting no.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Apel, moved that THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES A MOTION TO 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 STATUTE SECTION 12-62c (d), THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE MAYOR TO NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) OF SUCH PHASE IN NOT LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ACTION.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Apel, MOVED THE QUESTION. The motion was carried 9 to 2 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, Motola, Schaefer and Simon voting yes and Council Members Fox and Herbst voting no.

The motion was carried 7 to 1 with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy and Motola voting yes and Council Member Fox voting no. Council Members Herbst, Schaefer and Simon abstained.

Council Member Apel, seconded by Council Member Anderson, moved **TO RESCIND THE MOTION:** THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES A MOTION TO 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 STATUTE SECTION 12-62c (d), THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE MAYOR TO NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) OF SUCH PHASE IN NOT LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ACTION. The motion to rescind was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Herbst abstained.

Council Member Apel, seconded by Council Member Anderson, moved A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE PREVIOUS MOTION WHICH NOW READS:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES A MOTION TO PHASE IN THE REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT INCREASE PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE SECTION 12-62m OVER A TERM OF THREE YEARS. FURTHER, CONSISTENT WITH CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTE SECTION 12-62c (d), THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DIRECTS THE MAYOR TO NOTIFY THE OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) OF SUCH PHASE IN NOT LATER THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ACTION.

The motion was carried unanimously 7 to 0 on a voice vote with Council Members Anderson, Apel, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy and Motola voting yes. Council Members Fox, Herbst, Schaefer and Simon abstained.

N.B. 4. ~~If applicable—establishment of Mil Rate for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.~~

~~THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SETS THE TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2007 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2008 AT \_\_\_\_\_ MIL UPON TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL SIGN THE TAX WARRANT FOR SAID FISCAL YEAR.~~

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO ADJOURN MEETING DUE TO THE PROPOSED BUDGET NOT PASSING AT REFERENDUM AND TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL MEETING ON MAY 7, 2007 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE SENIOR CENTER, SECOND FLOOR, 26 PARK PLACE VERNON, CONNECTICUT IN ORDER TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL ACTION INCLUDING SETTING A SECOND REFERENDUM DATE FOR APPROVAL OF THE TOWN OF VERNON 2007-2008 BUDGET. The motion was carried unanimously 10 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Champagne was not present at the table to vote.

**DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

A.A.I. 1. Discussion of information items #4 and #7. (Taken out of order. See page 430.)

A.A.I. 2. Discussion of Informational item #8.

-Report from Town Administrator Christopher Clark, updating Town projects through April 2007.

Report from Town Administrator Christopher Clark, updating Town projects through April 2007.

- Village Street Housing Component

Vernon Non-Profit Housing Development Corporation will be invited to the last Town Council Meeting in June for further questions and comments.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

1. Minutes from Board of Education meeting of April 9, 2007.
2. Monthly report for March 2007 from Alan Slobodien, Director, Vernon Youth Services Bureau.
3. Copy of memorandum from Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Mayor to George Fetko relative to appointment(s) to the Capitol Region East Operating Commission.
4. Copies of correspondence from Mayor Marmer to Randy Anagnostis, Executive Director, and Gene Skladnowski, President, Rockville Downtown Association (et als) relative to budget concerns.
5. Copy of EMS Report for March 2007.
6. Letter to Peter DeBiasi from Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., relative to a recommendation that Mary Oliver continue to serve on the Board of Directors for the Access Agency.
7. Information from Rockville Downtown Association Inc.
8. Report from Town Administrator Christopher Clark, updating Town projects through April 2007.

**ADJOURN:**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Received: May 4, 2007  
Approved: May 15, 2007  
Vernon Town Council

Karin Z. Pike  
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary

