

**REGULAR MEETING  
PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE  
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL  
AUGUST 7, 2007**

Senior Center 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, 26 Park Place, Vernon Connecticut

Mayor Ellen Marmer called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Council Members Dan Anderson, George Apel, Bill Campbell, Mark Etre, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Jason McCoy, Mary Oliver, Pauline Schaefer and Connie Simon: 10.

**Absent:** Council Members Daniel Champagne, Brian Motola and Connie Simon: 3.

**Entered During Meeting:**

**Also Present:** Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, Town Attorney Susan Boyan, Recording Secretary/Town Clerk Bernice K. Dixon, Technical Support Christopher Prue.

Mayor Ellen Marmer reviewed status of improvements to the existing bridges for River Street and Spring Street.

Mayor Ellen Marmer stated that the Third Floor Contract will be signed on Friday, August 10, 2007 at 9:00 A.M.

Mayor Ellen Marmer stated the Roosevelt Mill contract will be signed on Thursday, August 9, 2007 at 6:00 P.M.

Mayor Ellen Marmer wished to thank the Public Works Department for the recently completed retaining wall behind Town Hall as well as the refinishing of the wood floors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Senior Center.

Mayor Ellen Marmer stated that the repairs to the bathrooms at Valley Falls should be completed soon.

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Frank Guadagnino, 290 Vernon Avenue. Concerned with the elevation of the roadway and felt the changes adversely affect the driveways on the road.

Citizens Forum was closed at 7:42 P.M.

**PUBLIC HEARING: (7:35 P.M.)**

Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk read the Legal Notice into the record.

1) Public Hearing relative to "An Ordinance Establishing Permit Fees for Application Filed Pursuant to the Town of Vernon Zoning Regulations." (Copy of Ordinance is in the packet).

Opened the Public Hearing at 7:42 P.M.

Called for anyone wishing to speak – None.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

Mayor called for action.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the Proposed Ordinance. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING: (7:40 P.M.)**

2) Public Hearing Relative to “An Ordinance Establishing Procedures and Fees for Licensing and Permits for Work Performed Within a Public Right of Way,” (Copy of Ordinance is in the packet).

Opened the Public Hearing at 7:44 P.M.

Call for anyone wishing to speak.

Discussion was held between Council member McCoy, Etre and Anderson.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:44 P.M.

Mayor called for action.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the Proposed Ordinance.

Council Member McCoy asked Administration to inform the utility companies and the Governor to indicate this new procedure.

Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING: (7:45 P.M.)**

3) Public Hearing Relative to “An Ordinance Amending Section 3-1 of the Town of Vernon Code.” (Copy of Ordinance is in packet.)

Opened the Public Hearing at 7:51 P.M.

Called for anyone wishing to speak.

Frank Guadagnino, 290 Vernon Avenue – asked unrelated questions to the discussion.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:53 P.M.

Mayor called for action.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member McCoy moved to approve the Proposed Ordinance.

Council Member McCoy spoke about the existing fee schedule being below surrounding towns.

Council Member Etre spoke about home foreclosures and suggested revisiting a Certificate of Occupancy for those homes that have been vacant for long periods.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to close the Public Hearings and resume the Regular Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Presentation by Jeffrey A. Boulrice, CT Clean Energy Communities, Vernon participation. (Resolution to be included as part of the August 21st Town Council meeting).

State has goal of 20% Clean Energy purchase by 2010 and suggested Vernon following the States' lead.

Letitia Naigles, parishioner at St John's Episcopal Church feels this will create a healthier environment.

Collin Bennett, Clean Water Action

Discussion was held.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES:**

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

1. THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 17, 2007, AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2007.

Motion carried. Council Member McCoy abstained.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

**C 1.** Request for Tax Refunds – Prior and Current Fiscal Year(s).

**C 2.** Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Carl Schaefer as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.

**C 3.** Request the Town Council to approve the purchase of a light fixture as reimbursement to the Rockville Downtown Association.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):**

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Years. (Memorandum from Carol S. Nelson, Collector of Revenue, dated August 2, 2007 to Christopher Clark; Town Administrator, is in the packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE THREE (3) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,829.16 FOR THE PRIOR YEAR, AND TWO (2) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$574.94 FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED AUGUST 2, 2007 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

2. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Carl Schaefer (U), 1A Fox Hill Drive, to serve as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee to fill a vacancy due to the term expiration of Jerry Kinsman. (Resume and appointment letter is in the packet).

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF CARL SCHAEFER AS A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE, TO FILL A VACANCY OF AN EXPIRED TERM, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2010.

Pulled for discussion.

Council Member Etre spoke in favor of the appointment.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Herbst made a motion to approve item #2. Motion carried. Council Member Schaefer abstained.

3. Request the Town Council to approve the purchase of a light fixture in order to reimburse the Rockville Downtown Association. (Memorandum from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator, copy of memo from Randy Anagnostis, CEO, RDA is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AGREES TO PAY FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE LIGHTING FIXTURE FOR THE SENIOR CENTER EXTERIOR DRIVEWAY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,170.00 FROM THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND.

Council Member Herbst, Seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to pass Items #1 & #3.

Motion carried unanimously.

**IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

Council Member Etre asked for a discussion about the Tri-Town Shelter for the next meeting with Paula Claydon present.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

~~1. Request the Town Council to approve an §8-24 Review by the Planning and Zoning Commission for the sale of Town Owned Real Estate. (Copy of memorandum from Christopher Clark, Town Administrator is in packet.)~~

~~PROPOSED MOTION:~~

~~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 AT BAMFORTH ROAD, ECHO RIDGE DRIVE, 28 GRAND AVENUE, 108-110 HIGH STREET, 14 LAUREL STREET, 47 SOUTH STREET, 70 UNION STREET AND VERNON AVENUE.~~

~~Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to pull the item until the next meeting. Motion carried.~~

~~Item pulled until notification to abutters has been completed.~~

2. Discussion of Automobile Tax Credit for Hybrid Electric Vehicles (HEV) and Other Authorized Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFV). (Copy of memorandum from Deputy Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Esq., and copy of e-mail from Town Attorney Susan Boyan is in the packet. Town Attorney will be present for discussion.)

Council Member McCoy began discussion.

Suggestion was made to change the Tax credit to by an exemption of \$1,000.00.

Town Attorney Susan Boyan supplied information and suggested gathering input from Assessor David Wheeler.

Council Member McCoy moved a motion to send to a Public Hearing at the next meeting.

Council Member Anderson made a friendly amendment to bring to Council for discussion on August 21, 2007 for a Public Hearing at a September meeting.

Motion carried. Council Member Apel was absent for vote.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Herbst moved to go into Executive Session at 8:58 P.M. to discuss Item #2

Executive Session adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Council Member Oliver exited the meeting at 9:40 P.M.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member McCoy moved a motion to go into Executive Session for Item #3 first.

Executive Session began at 9:55 P.M.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member McCoy moved to adjourn Executive Session.

Executive Session adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

~~1. THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DECIDES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS AND INVITES EDWARD O'DONNELL, ESQ., JAMES KENNY, POLICE CHIEF, DANIEL SULLIVAN, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR, AND CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.~~

Item pulled to next Council meeting on August 21, 2007.

2. THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DECIDES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS AND INVITES EDWARD O'DONNELL, ESQ., DANIEL SULLIVAN, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR, JAMES LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER, AND CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

3. THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DECIDES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS.

### **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

1. Winter Holiday Season Celebration Symbols Policy Statement and copy of application. **Appendix A**

Discussion was held.

Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member McCoy moved to remove all reference to Town Council. Motion carried. Council Member Fox opposed.

2. Monthly report for June 2007 from Penny Rand, Senior Center Director, monthly report for June 2007 from the Department of Social Services.

3. Copy of invitation to Bob Kelley's retirement to be held on Sunday, September 16, 2007.

4. Schedule of office hours for North Central District Health Department.

5. Letter from Crossroads Community Church Pastor, Tom Walsh, expressing appreciation to the Mayor for the help given in their makeover efforts at 121 High Street, Vernon.
6. Letter of resignation from Vishnu Khade from School Building Advisory Committee and Permanent Municipal Building Committee. **Appendix B**
7. Copies of Code of Ordinances Supplement. (Copy to Council Members only.)
8. Informational listing - Town Departments.

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

The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 P.M.

Received: August 15, 2007  
Approved: September 18, 2007

Vernon Town Council



James Krupienski  
Asst Town Clerk/Recording Secretary