

**Vernon Town Council
Regular Meeting
Senior Center 2nd Floor Conference Room
26 Park Place
Tuesday September 18, 2007
7:30 P.M.**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL:

Present: Daniel Anderson, George Apel, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Mark Etre, Bill Fox, Marie Herbst, Jason McCoy, Brian R. Motola, Mary Oliver, Pauline Schaefer, Connie Simon

Absent: None

Entered During Meeting: Jason McCoy (7:32 P.M.)

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmar, M.D., Town Administrator Christopher Clark, James Krupienski, Assistant Town Clerk, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield, Technical Assistant Christopher Prue

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

- Greg Thomas, 282 Vernon Avenue – Discussion regarding Vernon Avenue project and the lack of notice to the residents of Vernon Avenue
- Frank Guadagnino, 290 Vernon Avenue – Discussion regarding Vernon Avenue project and the lack of cooperation from the state when asked about benchmarks and elevations along with the lack of communication to the residents of Vernon Avenue. Serious concerns regarding the elevation issue specific problems with the approach to his driveway from new roadway.
- Brian Flint, Longview Street – Discussion regarding Village Street Project. Some of the homes on the street are not participating with the project which means it is not going to fix the problem. Also, not enough parking on the street. Concerns for safety as many newly arrested individuals have been able to post bail immediately and have been free within a couple of hours.

- Citizen's forum was closed at 7:52 PM

PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 pm)

Public Hearing relative to the town council hereby moves the adoption of the ordinance entitled "An Ordinance to Grant and Exemption of Property Tax for Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Certain Authorized Alternative Fuel Vehicles."

James Krupienski Assistant Town Clerk read the legal notice into the record.

1) Public Hearing regarding "An Ordinance to Grant an Exemption of Property Tax for Hybrid Electric Vehicles and Certain Authorized Alternative Fuel Vehicles." (Copy of Ordinance is in the packet.)

Opened the Public Hearing at 7:53 PM

Called for anyone wishing to speak:

- James Webb Wilson, South Street – Discussion regarding the hybrid electric vehicles, opposed to the ordinance as he feels the Town Council has more important things to discuss.
- James Krupienski, 59 Deerfield Drive – Discussion regarding the ordinance, opposed to the ordinance because the state already provides an exemption to purchasing these vehicles based on the sales tax. The Federal Government also offers up to a \$4000.00 tax credit on your federal taxes when

these vehicles are purchased. The Office of Fiscal Analysis in reviewing the option to exempt these vehicles stated that Municipalities considering exempting these vehicles from property taxes would experience a loss to their net grand list and would likely necessitate an increase in the municipality's mill rate. The definition of alternate fuel vehicles is not provided in the ordinance, as referenced in the public act 07-242.

- Steve Taylor, 172 Merline Rd – Discussion regarding the ordinance, opposed to the ordinance. A definition of the alternate fuel vehicle and hybrid vehicles needs to be completed as Mr. Taylor compared the definition in the ordinance to a owning a bicycle.

Public Hearing was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Mayor called for action.

Council Member McCoy moved to approve the ordinance.

Council Member Oliver discussion - As we speak of \$1000 exemption, people think they are actually getting the \$1000 exemption, they are not getting the exemption, they are getting the mill rate that is pertinent per \$1000 which equals \$32.91. Need to educate residents regarding this tax savings.
Opposed to ordinance

Council Member Schaefer asked how many vehicles in Vernon would qualify. According to the 2006 Grand list, which is not the actual qualifying vehicles, but a search of vehicle types finds that 371 types qualify which would mean a net cost to the town \$11,300 worst case scenario. Residents need to apply to the Town of Vernon each year they own the vehicle in order to receive the credit.

Council Member Anderson spoke in support of the ordinance.

Council Member Simon stated that if people can afford these types of vehicles, they should be able to afford the taxes.

Council Member Herbst supports the concept grass roots and encouraging car pooling, taking public transportation etc. She suggested taking to the state level rather than provide a state income tax savings to the constituent, put the money received from state sales tax towards helping municipalities purchase their own hybrid vehicles for their fleets.

Council Member McCoy provided information regarding: Vernon needs to begin doing their part on a grass roots level and have less reliance on foreign fuels.

Council Member Etre spoke in favor of the ordinance. Forms for getting the tax breaks for these vehicles are easy to fill out. New Ford vehicles coming out called the Smart Car cost approximately \$7000.00 per vehicle.

Council Member Fox asked if any of the council members had knowledge of other communities in Connecticut passing this type of ordinance. There are 3 other communities in discussion; however the town of Vernon would be the first to pass this ordinance.

Council Member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Etre moved to vote on the motion.

Council Members Anderson, Campbell, Champagne, Etre, McCoy, and Motola voted in favor.

Council Members Oliver, Fox, Herbst, Schaefer and Simon Opposed

Council Member Apel abstained.

The motion passed with a 6-5 vote.

(THE MOTION RELATIVE TO THE PASSAGE OF “AN ORDINANCE TO GRANT AN EXEMPTION OF PROPERTY TAX FOR HYBRID VEHICLES AND CERTAIN AUTHORIZED ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES” FAILED DUE TO LACK OF NECESSARY VOTES TO APPROVE AN ORDINANCE.)

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Mayor will present Constitution Week 2007 proclamation for Captain Noah Grant Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution to Geraldine Strong.

2. Angela D. Cahill, AIA, Schoenhardt will give a presentation on the final concepts and future steps for the Vernon Kindergarten Building project. Highlights of the presentation include

- The space can be used for a multi-purpose performing arts space with a stage or dais and theatrical lighting, meeting rooms and classrooms, gallery spaces, administrative offices.
- Acoustical qualities of attic make it an appropriate space for chamber music and lectures
- Size and quality of the lower level and main rooms will easily accommodate the proposed cultural programs.
- Building is of sound construction and in good condition for its age.
- Many of the original building components are intact including existing windows.
- A larger addition to the back of the building will be needed to bring it up to code (i.e. elevator installation, bathrooms). However by putting this addition on the North side of the building will minimize the impact to the existing building.
- It was recommended that the curb cut be moved to center road due to potential traffic issues.
- Improvements to the grounds for parking, and pedestrian access to the building would need to be completed.
- Potential for grant sources to fund this project

Council Member McCoy praised the efforts of Schoenhardt, in favor of the proposal.

Council Member Etre was impressed with the fact the addition was consistent with the existing design structure. He suggested looking into the curb cut now since current construction is currently in progress on Center Road.

Council Member Simon stated that it would help bring people to Vernon.

Council Member Herbst stated keeping the design blends with the neighborhood.

Council Member Apel asked how confident Schoenhardt was this project would be 100% covered by grants. Probably not covered 100%, but there is potential for 2/3 coverage.

3. Randy Anagnostis and other Board members will be present to discuss Downtown Rockville Revitalization Schemes. Highlights include:

- A schedule of activities was presented to the council members as follows:
9/18/07 – presentation to the town hall regarding advertising and promoting the Downtown Rockville Revitalization plans.
10/2007 –Boards, Commissions, Agencies informational presentations summary analysis
10/2007 – Downtown Constituents, neighbors, and citizens – public informational presentation summary analysis
11/2007 – Media distribution, requests for letters of interest, report back results to the Town Council.

Council Member Oliver asked if the RDA had plans to work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Committee. Mr. Anagnostis is planning a web-friendly proposal

Council Member McCoy asked about the funding that was issued, is it restrictive? So far all services to date have been pro bono and are no longer available. They are looking at grant opportunities along with utilizing the funding allocated to RDA.

Council Member Campbell asked that the RDA and the Town Council work together with the property owners.

Council Member Herbst asked if the Economic restructuring committee were a part of the process. Yes, the sub committee is reporting back to them.

Council Member Motola asked who the letters of interest would be returned to. They will be sent to the RDA with a cc: to the town.

Council Member Simon asked if the lack of feasibility and environmental studies would affect the letters of interest. No, letters of interest are just the beginning of the process.

Council Member Champagne asked if RDA has the actual funding allocated to them. The funding was written into the contract agreement and is waiting for approval, which will take 7-10 days.

The presentations concluded at 9:49 PM

7. Rockville Public Library Wall Discussion.

Council Member McCoy seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to move this item to the front of the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Robert Hurd provided information regarding the Rockville Public Library Wall. An evaluation completed by an engineer determined work needs to be done prior to winter as it produces a hazard to citizens using the sidewalk and terrace. Fuss and O'Neil was chosen as the contractor to complete the work based on the proposals submitted. The work is scheduled to begin 10/1/07 and continue for 3-4 weeks with a cost of \$35,300. The library's budget is not able to absorb these costs.

Mayor Marmer made a motion for the town to cover ½ the expense and library cover ½ the expense.

Council Member McCoy asked about fundraising efforts so the library doesn't have to take this expense out of it's endowment. The library has an October mailing planned.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Simon made a motion for a special appropriation of \$15,000 plus waiving of permit fees to be allocated to the library.

Council Member Campbell proposed an amendment to the above motion for the appropriation of \$20,000 to be allocated to the library.

Council Member Campbell seconded by Council Member Etre proposed a second amendment for the appropriation of \$18,000 plus waiving of permit fees to be allocated to the library.

Council Members McCoy, Etre, Champagne, Campbell, Oliver, Motola, Anderson and Fox voted in favor. Council Members Apel, Schaefer, Simon and Herbst Opposed. Amendment Passed.

CURFEW:

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to extend the curfew past the 10:30 deadline. Motion carried. Council members Campbell and Fox opposed.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

1. The town council waives the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 7, 2007, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Oliver made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2007.

Motion carried. Council Members Simon and Champagne abstained

2. The town council waives the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 21, 2007, and that minutes of said meeting be approved.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Simon made a motion to approve the minutes of August 21, 2007.

Motion carried. Council Member Simon abstained.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

- C 1. Request for Tax Refunds – Prior and Current Fiscal Year(s).
- C 2. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Marie Herbst as a member of the Capital Improvement Committee.
- C 3. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Mark Vesco as a member of the Capital Improvement Committee.
- C 4. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of James Tedford to the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board.
- C 5. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Ralph E. Zahner to the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.
- C 6. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of George Males to the Risk Management Advisory Committee.
- C 7. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of William J. McManus to the Risk Management Advisory Committee.
- C 8. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Kim Rivest to the Human Services Advisory Commission.
- C 9. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Thomas Hazel to the Permanent Municipal Building Committee.
- C 10. Request Town Council approve the Veterans Exemption Reimbursement (abatement), 32 Valley View Lane , Vernon , Ct.
- C 11. Request the Town Council approve the Tax Audit of Utilities. Budget Amendment #90 attached.
- C 12. Request the Town Council approve the re-appropriation of encumbrances. (James Luddecke).

Council Member Simon seconded by Council Member Oliver motioned approval.

Council Member Motola asked consent items 5, 6, 9, 12 be pulled for discussion

Council Member Schaefer asked consent item 10 be pulled for discussion

Council Member McCoy asked consent item 11 be pulled for discussion

NEW BUSINESS (CONSENT ITEMS):

1. Request for Tax Refunds – Current and Prior Years. (Memorandum from Carol S. Nelson, Collector of Revenue, dated September 13, 2007 to Christopher Clark; Town Administrator, is in the packet.) **(Appendix A)**

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO APPROVE EIGHT (8) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,656.20 FOR THE PRIOR YEAR, AND THIRTY EIGHT (38) TAX REFUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,266.89 FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, AS OUTLINED IN MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE DATED SEPTEMBER 13, 2007 TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

A typo in the current year tax refunds was discovered. Council Members were asked to change the amount from \$5266.89 to \$3610.39. Council Member Simon seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the request for tax refunds – current and prior years. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Marie Herbst (D), 245 Brandy Hill Road, to serve as a member of the Capital Improvement Committee, said term to expire on August 31, 2010.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARIE HERBST AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2010.

Council Member Simon seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the reappointment of Marie Herbst to serve as a member of the Capitol Improvement Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of Mark Vesco (D), 38 Risley Road, to serve as a member of the Capital Improvement Committee, said term to expire on August 31, 2010. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARK VESCO AS A MEMBER OF THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2010.

Council Member Simon seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the reappointment of Mark Vesco to serve as a member of the Capital Improvement Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of James Tedford (R), 70 Troutstream Drive to serve as a member of the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Mark St. Germain, said term to expire on December 31, 2010. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF JAMES TEDFORD AS A MEMBER OF THE MUNICIPAL FLOOD AND EROSION CONTROL BOARD TO FILL A VACANCY CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF MARK ST. GERMAIN, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2010.

Council Member Simon seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the appointment of James Tedford as a member of the Municipal Flood and Erosion Control Board. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Request the Town Council to approve the appointment of Ralph E. Zahner (U), 142 Vernon Avenue, #66, to Permanent Municipal Building Committee, to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Jerry Kinsman, said term to expire on June 30, 2010. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF RALPH E. ZAHNER AS A MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE TO FILL A VACANCY CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF JERRY F. KINSMAN, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2010.

Pulled for discussion.

Council Member McCoy seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the appointment of Ralph E. Zahner as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Request the Town Council to approve the reappointment of George Males (D), 64 School Brook Lane, said term to expire on August 31, 2010. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THEREAPPOINTMENT OF GEORGE MALES AS A MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2010.

Pulled for discussion.

Council Member McCoy seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the reappointment of George Males as a member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Request the Town Council approve the reappointment of William J. McManus (D), 15 Eastview Drive as a member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee , said term to expire August 31, 2010. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. MCMANUS AS A MEMBER OF THE RISK MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON AUGUST 31, 2010 .

Council Member Simon seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the reappointment of William J. McManus as a member of the Risk Management Advisory Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Kim Rivest (D), 15 Earl Street as a member of the Human Services Advisory Commission, to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Mary K. Cross, said term to expire on June 30, 2009. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE APPOINTMENT OF KIM RIVEST AS A MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION, TO FILL A VACANCY CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF MARY K. CROSS, SAID TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2009.

Council Member Simon seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the appointment of Kim Rivest as a member of the Human Services Advisory Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

9. Request the Town Council approve the appointment of Thomas Hazel (0), 547 Bolton Road as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, to fill a vacancy, said term to expire on June 30, 2010. (Appointment letter and resume is in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTON:

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

Pulled for discussion.

Council Member McCoy seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the appointment of Thomas Hazel as a member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Request the Town Council to approve the Veterans Exemption Reimbursement (abatment) 32 Valley View Lane , Vernon , Ct.

PROPOSED MOTION:

MOVE TO ABATE TAXES TO THE RESIDENT AT 32 VALLEY VIEW LANE, FOR A CUMULATIVE VETERANS EXEMPTION AMOUNT OF \$1,137.80, FOR EXEMPTIONS RELATED TO THE GRAND LIST YEARS 1990 TO 2002 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ASSESSOR, DATED TUESDAY, AUGUST 28, 2007.

Pulled for discussion. An explanation was provided to the council members.

Council Member McCoy seconded by Council Member Schaefer moved to approve the Veterans Exemption Reimbursement at 32 Valley View Lane. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Request the Town Council approve the Tax Audit of Utilities. (Appendix B)

PROPOSED MOTION:

MOVE TO FUND THE AUDIT OF CT WATER AND YANKEE GAS FOR PERSONAL PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND TO FUND THE PROJECT AT \$7,500.00 WITH FUND TO COME FROM AVAILABLE SOURCES.

No movement necessary, already appropriated funds at a past meeting.

12. Request the Town Council approve the re-appropriation of encumbrances. (Appendix C)

(Copy of memoranda from James Luddecke, Finance Officer in packet).

PROPOSED MOTION:

RESOLVED, THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE LIQUIDATION AND RE-APPROPRIATION OF FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 ENCUMBRANCES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$197,760.06 TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006 BUDGET AS DETAILED IN FOLLOWING CHART ATTACHED.

Pulled for discussion. Funding has already been expended, line items need correction.

Council Member Apel seconded by Council Member Simon moved to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

IDENTIFICATION AND ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Letter from Tim Timberman, Town Engineer on issues raised at August 29, 2007 Town Council Meeting regarding Vernon Avenue . (Copy of letter in packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

MOVE TO FUND THE RAISING OF THE VERNON AVENUE ROADWAY AND TO APPROPRIATE \$20,000.00 FOR THIS PURPOSE FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member McCoy moved to approve the appropriation of \$20,000 to raise the grade of Vernon Avenue. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Appointment of Leonard Tundermann to the position of Town Planner.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPER XI, SECTION 3, ENTITLED "QUALIFIED OFFICERS OUTSIDE THE CLASSIFIED SERVICE" HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF LEONARD TUNDERMANN OF 132 MARGARITE ROAD EXT., MIDDLETOWN, CT, EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 10, 2007.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve the appointment of Leonard Tundermann to the position of Town Planner. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DECIDES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF VERNON EMS PERSONNEL AND INVITES EDWARD O'DONNELL, ESQ., WILLIAM CALL, FIRE CHIEF, CHRISTOPHER CLARK, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, DANIEL SULLIVAN, HUMAN RESOURCE DIRECTOR, JAMES LUDDECKE, FINANCE OFFICER, JEAN GAUTHIER, AMBULANCE COORDINATOR AND ROBERT HOLDSWORTH, PRESIDENT, HOLDSWORTH PELTON

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Adopt changes to the Vernon EMS Plan

PROPOSED MOTION:

MOVED TO APPROVE THE EMERGENCY TECHNICIAN JOB DESCRIPTION, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 18, 2007.

PROPOSED MOTION:

MOVED TO ADOPT THE VERNON EMS PLAN AS RECOMMENDED BY ADMINISTRATION'S CORRESPONDENCE DATED SEPTEMBER 10, 2007.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member McCoy moved to approve.

Council Member McCoy moved a friendly amendment to change the EMT rate to reflect the salary range up to \$19.00/hr - Salary group: hourly pay with no benefits.

Council Member McCoy seconded by Council Member Oliver moved to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Request for Town Council to approve the Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 as outlined in the Budget Amendments 82-89. (Copy of amendments are in the packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE AMENDMENT REQUEST FOR FISCAL 2006-2007 AS OUTLINED IN BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS #82-89 AS PROVIDED BY THE FINANCE OFFICER. (Appendix D)

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Oliver moved for approval of the Budget Amendments for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 as outlined in the Budget Amendments 82-89. Motion carried. Council Member McCoy opposed.

4. Resolution of the Town of Vernon Pilot Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief Program §12-129N. (Appendix E)

PROPOSED MOTION:

MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF VERNON PILOT ELDERLY AND DISABLED PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM UNDER §12-129N, ENTITLED "OPTIONAL TAX RELIEF PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN HOMEOWNERS AGE 65 OR OVER OR WHO ARE PERMANENTLY AND TOTALLY DISABLED" ALLOWS FOR SAID PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR CERTAIN ELDERLY OR DISABLED INDIVIDUALS ALLOWS FOR CERTAIN EXEMPTIONS. FURTHER, THAT SAID PROGRAM BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWO (2) YEARS, ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Discussion included 284 applicants would qualify for this option.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member Anderson moved for approval of resolution of the town of Vernon Pilot Elderly and Disabled Property Tax Relief Program. Motion carried. Council member Fox abstained.

5. Resolution Town of Vernon Pilot Elderly Freeze Property Tax Relief Program, Public Act 06-176. (Appendix F)

PROPOSED MOTION:

APPROVE THE RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF VERNON FOR A PILOT ELDERLY FREEZE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM, CONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC ACT 06-176, SAID PROGRAM BE A TWO (2) YEAR PILOT PROGRAM, ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2009.

Council Member Herbst seconded by Council Member McCoy moved for approval of Resolution Town of Vernon Pilot Elderly Freeze Property Tax Relief Program.

Council Member McCoy made a friendly amendment to put a lien on the properties to be paid back at 9% which is the non payment rate for taxes once the property is vacated by the resident. Council Member

McCoy seconded by Council Member Oliver moved for approval of this amendment. Motion carried. Council Member Fox opposed. Council Member Oliver abstained.

6. General Government to make Additional Improvements to Vernon Avenue in the amount of \$415,000.

PROPOSED MOTION:

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING ON OCTOBER 16, 2007 AT 7:35 P.M. AND SPECIAL TOWN MEETING AT 7:40 P.M. IN THE VERNON SENIOR CENTER, 26 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CT IN ORDER TO HEAR COMMENTS AND TAKE NECESSARY ACTION RELATIVE TO "A RESOLUTION REGARDING AN ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ADDITIONAL IMPROVEMENTS TO VERNON AVENUE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$415,000.00.

Council Member Motola seconded by Council Member Anderson moved to postpone this agenda item to the next town council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Council Member Schaefer asked for a letter from Mayor Marmer to congratulate a set of twins who just turned 90 years old. They are available to be honored at a future town council meeting.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. Minutes from the Board of Education meetings held on June 25, 2007 and August 27, 2007.
2. Monthly report for August 2007 from Penny Rand, Senior Center Director.
3. Letter from Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, to James Kenny, Police Chief, congratulating him on his appointment to the Governor's Commission to evaluate the State of Connecticut parole system.
4. Letter from James M. Thomas, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on the Town of Vernon's satisfactory compliance with Federal Emergency Management Agency and National Incident Management System guidelines.
5. Letter from Vernon Arts Commission commending Diane Luddecke, Finance Department, on expending the Vernon Arts Commission's budget dollars.
6. Town of Vernon Organization Chart.
7. Designation of Vernon Town Hall as Cable TV Live Return Line Site. Copy of correspondence attached.
8. List of Appointed/Elected Officials as of 07/01/07 and List of Appointed/Elected Officials as of 08/08/07.
9. Fund Balance Report including Encumbrances for Town and Board of Education Operations. Memoranda from James Luddecke, Finance Officer attached.)
10. Monthly Reports for March, April, May, June, July and August 2007 from Bernice Dixon, Town Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Council member Schaefer seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.
- Meeting Adjourned at 12:35 AM

Received: September 20, 2007
Approved: October 2, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,

Jill Kentfield
Recording Secretary



James E. Krupinski
Assistant Town Clerk