

**SPECIAL MEETING
BUDGET HEARING
OF THE
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL
March 25, 2004**

2nd Floor Senior Center

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL:

The Clerk called the Roll as follows:

Present: Council Members Pat S. Beron, Bill Fox, Marie A. Herbst, Jason L. McCoy, Pauline A. Schaefer, Jeffrey A. Talbot, Christy N. Vale, John D. Ward, Emily M. Westerberg; 9.

Absent: Council Members Thomas C. Colbert, Robert Kleinhans, Mary A. Oliver; 3.

Entered During Meeting: Council Members Thomas C. Colbert (7:10 p.m.), Robert Kleinhans (7:12 p.m.), Mary A. Oliver (7:10 p.m.); 3.

Also Present: Mayor Ellen L. Marmer, Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer, Finance Director James Luddecke, Budget Analyst Diane Luddecke, and Recording Secretary Karin Z. Pike.

CITIZEN'S FORUM:

Ellen M. Byrne, 1170 Hartford Turnpike, spoke in opposition to the Library budget and a town insurance claim.

Council Members Colbert (7:10 p.m.), Oliver (7:10 p.m.) and Kleinhans (7:12 p.m.) entered the meeting.

Cheryl McMullen, Chair of Conservation Commission, spoke in support of the Conservation Commission budget and gave a brief overview of the Commission. She also read a letter from Jenny Gengris supporting the budget.

Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer exited the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO EXTEND CITIZEN'S FORUM BY 15 MINUTES. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

George Arthur, 79 Baker Road, spoke in support of the Conservation Commission budget.

Joe Grabinski, 623 Dart Hill Road, spoke in regard to the budget and in opposition of a tax increase.

No other residents wished to speak and Citizen's Forum was closed at 7:31 p.m.

MAYORAL REQUEST:

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer requested that each Department Head in attendance present an overview of their department budget to the Town Council prior to their budget discussion.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Finance Director James Luddecke, Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer and Mayor Ellen L. Marmer were available for questions and comments.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO OPEN TAB 9 PAGE 71 ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY CODE 10562262 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Robert Hurd, President Board of Trustees and Maryellen Beck were available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy requested a 5-minute recess. The meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

Town Administrator Laurence R. Shaffer reentered the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 58710 BY \$50,000.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, proposed a FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO THE PREVIOUS MOTION TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 58710 BY \$164,000. The motion failed 4 to 8 with Council Members Schaefer, Talbot, Vale and Ward voting aye and Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Kleinhaus, McCoy, Oliver and Westerberg voting nay.

Council Member Ward, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL MOTION TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 58710 BY \$170,000. The motion failed 5 to 7 with Council Members Beron, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale and Ward voting aye and Council Members Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Kleinhaus, McCoy, Oliver and Westerberg voting nay.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO AMEND THE ORIGINAL MOTION TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 58710 BY \$144,000. The motion failed 5 to 7 with Council Members Herbst, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale and Ward voting aye and Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Kleinhaus, McCoy, Oliver and Westerberg voting nay.

Council Member Beron and Council Member Oliver withdrew their original motion of reducing Object Code 58710 by \$50,000.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 58710 BY \$100,000. The motion was carried 7 to 5 with Council Members Beron, Herbst, Oliver, Schaefer, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Members Colbert, Fox, Kleinhaus, McCoy and Talbot voting nay.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 9 PAGE 71 ROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY CODE 10562262 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$370,000. The motion was carried 11 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Member Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Kleinhaus, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member McCoy voting nay.

Council Member Ward, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO OPEN TAB 9 PAGE 70 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CODE 10562261 FOR DISCUSSION.

Robert Hurd, Vice President Vernon Historical Society was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 9 PAGE 70 HISTORICAL SOCIETY CODE 10562261 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO OPEN TAB 9 PAGE 69 ARTS COMMISSION CODE 10562260 FOR DISCUSSION.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 9 PAGE 69 ARTS COMMISSION CODE 10562260 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,380. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO OPEN TAB 6 PAGE 31 BUILDING INSPECTION CODE 10232187 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 in a voice vote.

Building Inspector Gene Bolles was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO REDUCE OBJECT CODE 51010 BY \$28,300. The motion failed 4 to 7 with Council Members Beron, Oliver, Talbot and Vale voting aye and Council Members Colbert, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Schaefer, Ward and Westerberg voting nay. Council Member Kleinhans abstained.

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council Member Herbst, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 6 PAGE 31 BUILDING INSPECTION CODE 10232187 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$285,572. The motion was carried 11 to 1 on a voice vote with Council Members Beron, Colbert, Fox, Herbst, Kleinhans, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member McCoy voting nay.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Ward, moved TO TAB 12 PAGE 87 CEMETERY OPERATIONS CODE 23342420 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Alan West, Cemetery Operations was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 12 PAGE 87 CEMETERY OPERATIONS CODE 23342420 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$256,225. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Oliver, moved TO OPEN TAB 10 PAGE 79 VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION CODE 10826302 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Alan West, Cemetery Operations was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 10 PAGE 79 VERNON CEMETERY COMMISSION CODE 10826302 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$132,778. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 7 PAGE 43 ENGINEERING CODE 10341214 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Town Engineer, Tim Timberman was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 7 PAGE 43 ENGINEERING CODE 10341214 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$232,660. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO OPEN TAB 5 PAGE 22 TOWN PLANNER – ADMINISTRATION CODE 10150170 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Town Planner, Thomas Joyce was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member Colbert, seconded by Council member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 5 PAGE 22 TOWN PLANNER – ADMINISTRATION CODE 10150170 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$210,282. The motion was carried 10 to 1 with Council Members Colbert, Fox, Herbst, McCoy, Oliver, Schaefer, Talbot, Vale, Ward and Westerberg voting aye and Council Member Beron voting nay. Council Member Kleinhans abstained.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved to OPEN TAB 10 PAGE 74 GROUP INSURANCE CODE 10670272 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Finance Director James Luddecke was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member Kleinhans requested that a letter be drafted from the Town Council concerning the high cost of Health Care and be sent to State Legislators.

Mayor Ellen L. Marmer stated that a letter would be drafted and inserted into the Information Packet at the next Regular Town Council Meeting.

Council Member Talbot, seconded by Council member Herbst, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 10 PAGE 74 GROUP INSURANCE CODE 10670272 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,637,804. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO EXTEND CURFEW UNTIL THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Herbst, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 10 PAGE 75 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CODE 10670273 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Finance Director James Luddecke was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Vale, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 10 PAGE 75 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CODE 10670273 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 10 PAGE 76 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE CODE 10671278 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Finance Director James Luddecke was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member Vale, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 10 PAGE 76 MUNICIPAL INSURANCE CODE 10671278 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$726,101. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Beron, moved TO OPEN TAB 10 PAGE 77 CONTINGENCY CODE 10672280 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Finance Director James Luddecke was available for questions and comments. Discussion took place.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 10 PAGE 77 CONTINGENCY CODE 10672280 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$215,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Schaefer, seconded by Council Member Colbert, moved TO OPEN TAB 10 PAGE 78 HOUSING AUTHORITY – SEWER SUBSIDY CODE 10673282 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member McCoy, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 10 PAGE 78 HOUSING AUTHORITY – SEWER SUBSIDY CODE 10673282 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,000. The motion was carried unanimously 11 to 0 on a voice vote. Council Member Kleinhans abstained.

Council Member Fox, seconded by Council Member Schaefer, moved TO OPEN TAB 10 PAGE 72 SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE CODE 10670270 FOR DISCUSSION. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

Council Member Beron, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO CLOSE AND APPROVE TAB 10 PAGE 72 SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE CODE 10670270 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$800,000. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

REVENUE DISCUSSION:

No new revenue was discussed.

MISCELLANEOUS ACCOUNTS REQUIRING ACTION:

ADJOURN:

Council Member Kleinhans, seconded by Council Member McCoy, moved TO ADJOURN. The motion was carried unanimously 12 to 0 on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

