

**MINUTES**  
**VERNON TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**TOWN HALL - 14 PARK PLACE - 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**  
**VERNON, CONNECTICUT**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2009 7:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM

A.) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Council Members Daniel Anderson, Bill Campbell, Daniel Champagne, Mark Etre, Nancy Herold, Brian Motola, Sean O'Shea, Pauline Schaefer, Harry Thomas, Michael Winkler

Absent: Marie Herbst

Entered During Meeting: Council Member Bill Fox 7:35 PM

Also Present: Mayor Jason L. McCoy, Town Administrator John Ward, Recording Secretary Jill Kentfield

**CITIZEN'S FORUM:**

Council Member Schaefer spoke about joining the Vernon Police and Fire Departments at the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Saturday March 14, 2009.

Council Member Winkler, 20 Gottier Drive, Spoke about his concerns regarding the Mayor's Administration.

Citizen's Forum closed at 7:35 PM

B.) **PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)**

**Public hearing to receive comments and questions relative to the proposed ordinance entitled "an ordinance amending the Vernon code on buildings and building regulations."**  
(A copy of the Ordinance is attached for your review.)

**Open Public Hearing 7:35 PM**

Mayor McCoy called the public hearing to order to receive comments and answer any questions from the public. The Recording Secretary read the legal notice into the record. There were no public comments.

Council Member Campbell, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously.

**Close Public Hearing 7:36 PM**

C.) **PRESENTATION**

**Chairman, John Leary of the school building advisory commission to give the town council an update of the school bond projects.** (Attached is a copy of the Resolution establishing the School Building Advisory Commission.)

Mr. Leary presented the Town Council with information regarding upcoming and completed school projects. A handout of information regarding projects taking place at the different schools was shared with Committee members. Discussion took place.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda items 1-6 as presented.

D.) **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

- C 1.** **Request for Tax Refunds Prior Years and Current Year.** (A copy of memorandum from Carol L. Nelson, Collector of Revenue to John D. Ward, Town Administrator dated 03-09-09 is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUND TOTALLING \$2,772.00 FOR THE PRIOR YEARS, AND FOUR (4) TAX REFUNDS TOTALLING \$376.68 FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM THE COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, CAROL L. NELSON TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, JOHN D. WARD DATED 03-03-09.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the request for tax refunds prior and current year. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 2.** **Request the Town Council approve budget amendment #18 for fiscal year 2008-2009, as provided by James Luddecke, Finance Officer.** (A copy of the budget amendment request is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION #1:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES A BUDGET AMENDMENT OF \$ 8,000.00 FOR THE TRANSMISSION REPAIR TO RESCUE #141 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SAID PROCUREMENT BE DONE IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER XII, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, SUB-SECTION 9 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED PURCHASING.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Fire Department to repair the transmission in Rescue 141 in the amount of \$8000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

**PROPOSED MOTION #2:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES A BUDGET AMENDMENT OF \$45,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW EXTRACTION EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING JAWS OF LIFE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SAID PROCUREMENT BE DONE IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER XII, FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION, SUB-SECTION 9 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, ENTITLED PURCHASING.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the budget amendment for the Fire Department to purchase new extraction equipment including jaws of life equipment in the amount of \$45000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 3.** **Request the Town Council approve the Mayor's appointment of William J. Nicholson, (R), 86 Huntington Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission for a term beginning on 04-04-2009, and ending on 04-03-2012.** (Copy of resume is included in the Council packet.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (Town Code Sec. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. NICHOLSON, (R), 86 HUNTINGTON DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON 04-04-2009 AND ENDING ON 04-03-2012.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the Mayor's appointment of William J. Nicholson as an alternate member of the Historic Properties Commission for a term beginning on 4/4/2009 and ending on 4/3/2012.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve the Mayor's reappointment of Paul M. Courtois, Sr., (U), 70 East Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission for a term beginning on 04-04-2009, and ending on 04-03-2014.** (An updated resume has been requested from Mr. Courtois and will be distributed at the Council meeting.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185 (Town Code Sec. 2-122) THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE MAYOR'S REAPPOINTMENT OF PAUL M. COURTOIS, SR., (U), 70 EAST STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON 04-04-2009, AND ENDING ON 04-03-2014.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to approve the Mayor's reappointment of Paul M. Courtois as a regular member of the Historic Properties Commission for a term beginning 4/4/2009 and ending 4/3/2014.

- C 5. Request the Town Council schedule a Public Hearing to discuss and receive comment regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Application.** (Notice of Public Hearing attached for the Council review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL, PER THE REQUIREMENTS FOR CDBG FUNDING, HEREBY SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO DISCUSS AND RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2009 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM, SAID HEARING TO TAKE PLACE AT 7:35 PM ON TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2009 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, THIRD FLOOR, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to schedule a public hearing to discuss and receive comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 Community Development Block Grant Program Application. Said hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 7:35 PM in the Council Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, CT.

- C 6. Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign all the necessary documents pertaining to the submission of a Reapplication for the State of Connecticut Matching Grant Program for \$30,223.00 regarding the Elderly and**

**Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation.** (A copy of the supporting documents from Social Services Director, Paula Claydon are attached.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL AUTHORIZES MAYOR JASON L. MCCOY TO SIGN ALL THE NECESSARY DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO THE REAPPLICATION BY THE TOWN OF VERNON, SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT, FOR THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, MATCHING GRANT PROGRAM FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED DEMAND RESPONSIVE TRANSPORTATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,223.00.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Thomas made a motion to authorize Mayor Jason L. McCoy to sign all the necessary documents pertaining to the submission of a reapplication for the State of Connecticut matching grant program in the amount of \$30,223.00 regarding the elderly and disabled demand responsive transportation. Motion carried unanimously.

**E.) IDENTIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Council Member Etre requested that at the next Town Council meeting members bring their code of ordinance books for the Town Clerk to verify the ordinances within the books are up to date. The Town Clerk will return the ordinance books by the April 7, 2009 meeting.
2. Council Member Winkler requested an organizational chart of the town departments to help with their budget discussions. Ms. Wheelock will send the org chart to Town Council Members via e-mail and snail mail.
3. Council Member Herold requested a copy of all legal notices regarding new positions for hire within the Town of Vernon be included in the Town Council packets as an informational item.

**F.) PENDING BUSINESS**

None

**G.) NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Request the Town Council adopt the suggested schedule of 2009-2010 budget hearings and designate one of the meetings, along with the Town Meeting as official public hearings.** (See attached list for suggested dates.)

**PROPOSED MOTION #1:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS, MARCH 23, 25, 26, 30 AS WELL AS APRIL 1, 2009; SAID MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT 7:30 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERNON TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE TOWN COUNCIL ALSO SCHEDULES ONE BUDGET MEETING ON SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2009 AT 10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERNON TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to schedule March 23, 25, 26, 30 and April 1, 2009 at 7:30 PM as budget meeting dates for budget deliberations. An additional budget meeting will be held on Saturday April 4, 2009 10:00 AM. All budget meetings will be held in the Council Chambers, Vernon Town Hall, 14 Park Place, Vernon, CT. Discussion took place. Council Member Anderson made a friendly amendment to change the Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 meeting to March 28, 2009 at 10:00 AM. Council Member Schaefer made a friendly amendment to change the time of the meetings to 7:00 PM. Motion carried unanimously with amendments as follows:

**FINAL MOTION #1:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY SCHEDULES THE FOLLOWING BUDGET MEETING DATES FOR BUDGET DELIBERATIONS, MARCH 23, 25, 26, 30 AS WELL AS APRIL 1, 2009; SAID MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT 7:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERNON TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE TOWN COUNCIL ALSO SCHEDULES ONE BUDGET MEETING ON SATURDAY, MARCH 28,, 2009 AT 10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, VERNON TOWN HALL, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

**PROPOSED MOTION #2:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DESIGNATES MARCH 30, 2009 AND APRIL 28, 2009 PUBLIC HEARING DATES TO RECEIVE COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE 2009-2010 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE HEARING ON MARCH 30, 2009 WILL BE HELD AT 7:35 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE HEARING AND TOWN MEETING ON APRIL 28, 2009 WILL BE HELD AT 7:35 PM IN THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT 06066.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Schaefer made a motion to hold public hearings to receive comment and answer questions regarding the 2009-2010 Town of Vernon Budget. The first hearing will be held on March 30, 2009 at 7:35 PM in the Town Council Chambers, Town Hall 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, 14 Park Place, Vernon, CT. The second meeting will take place on April 28, 2009 at 7:35 PM in the Rockville High School Auditorium, Loveland Hill Road, Vernon, CT 06066. Discussion took place. Council Member Anderson made a friendly amendment to have a third public hearing take place on Saturday, March 28, 2009 10:00 AM. Council Member Schaefer made a friendly amendment to change the time of the March 30 and April 28 public hearings to 7:05 PM. Motion carried unanimously with amendments as follows:

**FINAL MOTION #2:**

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY DESIGNATES MARCH 28, 2009, MARCH 30, 2009, AND APRIL 28, 2009 PUBLIC HEARING DATES TO RECEIVE COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS REGARDING THE 2009-2010 TOWN OF VERNON BUDGET. THE HEARING ON MARCH 28, 2009 WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 AM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE HEARING ON MARCH 30, 2009 WILL BE HELD AT 7:05 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, VERNON, CONNECTICUT. THE HEARING AND TOWN MEETING ON APRIL 28, 2009 WILL BE HELD AT 7:05 PM IN THE ROCKVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM, LOVELAND HILL ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT 06066.

H.) **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**  
None

I.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**

“AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VERNON CODE ON BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS”. (A copy of this Ordinance and the Legal Notice is in the Public Hearing Section of this agenda for your review.)

**PROPOSED MOTION:**

IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER V, SECTIONS 4 AND 6 OF THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY MOVES TO ADOPT AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VERNON CODE ON BUILDINGS AND BUILDING REGULATIONS."

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to adopt the ordinance entitled, "An Ordinance amending the Vernon Code on Buildings and Building Regulations. Discussion took place.

Council Member Schafer, seconded by Council Member Fox made a motion to amend the proposed ordinance to give the Zoning Hearing Officer the authority to override the withholding of the issuance of such permits on property for which a tax delinquency exists... Motion failed, Council Members Champagne, Thomas, Campbell, Anderson, O'Shea, Motola and Etre opposed, Council Members Winkler and Herold abstained.

Council Member Winkler made a friendly amendment to amend the ordinance to strike the words "Hardship or extraordinary circumstances" from the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and replace them with "health or safety concerns". Motion carried, Council Member Schaefer abstained.

Council Member Anderson made a friendly amendment to amend the ordinance to add Extraordinary circumstances back into the ordinance. Motion carried, Council Members Winkler, Fox and Schaefer opposed, Council Member Champagne abstained.

Original motion carried with amendments, Council Members Winkler and Schaefer opposed and Council Member Herold abstained.

J.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

No discussion was needed.

K.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

**THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2009 AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to adopt the minutes from the March 3, 2009 meeting. Council Member Etre, seconded by Council Member Motola made a motion to send the minutes back to the Town Clerk for her to listen to the tapes and fill in the information missing from the minutes by the April 7, 2009 meeting. Motion carried, Council Member Anderson abstained. Council Member Schaefer asked that on page 5 of 6 the vote for Council Member Winkler's friendly amendment be changed to state that she voted in favor of the amendment and Council Member Herold abstained.

L.) **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

M.) **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

1. Monthly Report – January and February, 2009 for the Vernon Senior Center dated March 4, 2009, submitted by Director Penny Rand.
2. Monthly Report – February, 2009 for the Vernon Town Clerk's Office dated March 3, 2009, submitted by Town Clerk Bernice Dixon.

3. Updated phone listing for all Town of Vernon Offices.
4. Rockville High School Project Graduation letter dated February, 2009.
5. Monthly Report – February, 2009 for the Youth Service Bureau, submitted by Alan Slobodien, Director.
6. Monthly Report – February, 2009 for the Police Department, submitted by Captain Stephen M. Clark.

**ADJOURNMENT (9:45 PM)**

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Etre made a motion to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Received:**

**Approved:**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jill Kentfield  
Recording Secretary**