

MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 APR 26 PM 4:06

Mayor Daniel Champagne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

A) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Recited

B) ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Laura Bush, Bill Campbell, Julie Clay, Ann Letendre, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Ariana Nieves-Matias, John O'Connell, Teri-Lynn Rogers and Jim Tedford

Absent: Council Members Linda Gessay and Michael Wendus

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Town Administrator Michael Purcaro, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C.) CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS

None

D.) CITIZEN'S FORUM

Genaro Gonzalez, 137 West Main Street, spoke on schools in town and the need for a stop sign on West Main Street.

F.) PUBLIC HEARING (7:35 PM)

PUBLIC HEARING RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED SALE OF THE TOWN OWNED PROPERTY KNOWN AS **36 CUBLES DRIVE – PARCEL ID #52-140Q-00004**, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, PURPOSE OF SAID PUBLIC HEARING IS TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE POTENTIAL SALE.

MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE CALLED THE PUBLIC HEARING TO ORDER

TOWN CLERK READ THE LEGAL NOTICE

Mayor Champagne spoke on the property and its value. Town Attorney, Lou Spadaccini, was available.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE AND TOWN COUNCIL RECEIVED PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Senk, 39 Llynwood Drive, spoke on the sale of the property and a public bid.

Janine Gelineau, 28 Anchorage Road, spoke on the trench and sale of the property.

MAYOR CHAMPAGNE ADJOURNED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:42 PM

NOTE: Action to be considered in "Section K – New Business #1

7:43 PM Council Member Bush left the table; returned at 7:47 PM

G.) PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION

Mayor Daniel A. Champagne made a presentation to the Town Council on various topics.

- The Town of Vernon has been awarded the ***Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting*** by the **Government Finance Officers Association** for the town's annual comprehensive financial report covering the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. This is the 30th consecutive year we have been awarded this prestigious honor.
- Rockville High School student writers earned 70 awards at the **CT Student Writers Awards** and more than 40 awards at the **CT Scholastic Writing Awards**. Congratulations to all the winners.
- The Town Council completed their budget deliberations and voted to forward the budget on to the **Annual Town Meeting on April 26th 7:00 PM at Rockville High School Auditorium**. I would like to thank everyone for their hard work and patience as we worked through our budget this year, in particular our school Superintendent, Finance Director and his department, all the Department Heads, the Town Administrator and administrative staff. In addition, I would like to thank the Town Council for all their work in reviewing the budget.
- The Vernon Voice will arrive in Vernon homes later this month. This issue contains a variety of information about upcoming events, summer camps and other interesting things happening in Vernon.
- Before the Council were copies of the **POCD** Plan of Conservation and Development, and the **Senior Center Newsletter** prepared monthly by the Senior Center Staff and distributed both in hard copy and electronically to members.

REMINDERS:

Egg Hunt – Thursday, April 14th 5:00 PM – 6:30PM @ Henry Park

Dog Park Meeting - Thursday, April 21st 6:00 PM @ Dog Park

Vernon-Rockville Little League Opening Day – Saturday, April 23rd 10:00 AM this year the event is planned for Legion Field

Fishing Derby – Saturday, April 30th 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM @ Valley Falls Park

Mother's Day Dash – Sunday, May 8th 9:00 AM start @ Henry Park

Memorial Day Parade – Monday, May 30th step-off from Northeast School at 10:00 AM. We invite all veterans to participate in the parade. If you are a veteran or know a veteran please pass the invitation along.

H.) ACTION ON CONSENT AGENDA

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to move the Consent Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

- C 1. Request the Town Council approve tax refunds for current year taxes as presented in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue dated March 24, 2022.** (See memorandum dated March 24, 2022 from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue included in the Council packet.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES SIXTEEN (16) TAX REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$3,895.24 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED MARCH 24, 2022.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve the budget amendment requests #11, #12 and #13 for FY 2021-2022 as presented.** (See budget amendment forms attached for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUESTS #11, #12 AND #13 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 AS PROVIDED ON THE BUDGET AMENDMENT FORMS ATTACHED BY FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Action following the Public Hearing held earlier relative to the disposition of 36 Cubles Drive, Vernon, Connecticut.**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE II SECTION 2-26 AND 2-27, THE VERNON TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE, OR HIS DESIGNEE TO DISPOSE OF THE PARCEL KNOWN AS 36 CUBLES DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT BY SEALED BID.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion authorizing Mayor Champagne dispose of the parcel known as 36 Cubles Drive. Mayor Champagne spoke on the property. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2. Request the Town Council accept the anonymous donation to the Vernon Cemetery Department in the amount of \$2,150.00 for the cost of creating and maintaining a GIS (geographic information system) cemetery mapping software.**
(See memorandum from Travis Clark, Cemetery Superintendent to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator dated March 29, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTS THE DONATION OF \$2,150.00 FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR TO THE VERNON CEMETERY DEPARTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING A GIS CEMETERY MAPPING SOFTWARE.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to accept the donation of \$2,150 from an anonymous donor to the Vernon Cemetery Department for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a GIS cemetery mapping software. Travis Clark, Cemetery Director, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

3. **Request the Town Council approve the disposal of assets by the Vernon Public Schools.** (See memorandum dated March 28, 2022 from Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer & Treasurer to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE DISPOSAL OF ASSETS FOR THE VERNON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS DISCLOSED ON THE REQUEST FOR DISPOSAL OF FIXED ASSETS FORM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member O'Connell, made a motion to approve the disposal of assets for the Vernon Public Schools. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **Request the Town Council authorize Finance Officer and Treasurer Jeffrey A. O'Neill to elect the standard allowance of up to \$10 million to spend on Government Services through the life of the SLFRF Program.** (See memorandum dated March 29, 2022 to Daniel A. Champagne, Mayor and Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator)

PROPOSED MOTION

RESOLVED, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES FINANCE OFFICER AND TREASURER JEFFREY A. O'NEILL TO ELECT THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE OF UP TO \$10 MILLION TO SPEND ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES THROUGH THE LIFE OF THE CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL PLAN ACT OF 2021 (SLFRF) PROGRAM.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, proposed a resolution to authorize Finance Officer and Treasurer, Jeffrey A. O'Neill to elect the standard allowance of up to \$10 million to spend on government services through the Life of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Plan Act of 2021 (SLFRF) Program. Mayor Champagne and Jeff O'Neill, Finance Director, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Council Member Nieves-Matias, seconded by Council Member Letendre, made a motion to authorize the Mayor to appoint a subcommittee of Town Council members to explore options for the use of the SLFRF funds. The subcommittee shall be comprised of 5-7 members of the Town Council with a balanced party representation and shall include the Director of Administration. The focus of the subcommittee shall be to evaluate community needs, establish funding priorities and prepare a plan for the Town Council for the use of said funds. Discussion ensued.

8:08 PM Recess; 8:16 PM Reconvened

Mayor Champagne spoke on the motion within the main motion, which motion failed with 4 in favor and 6 against, Council Members Bush, Campbell, Clay, Motola, O'Connell and Tedford.

Main motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Nieves-Matias.

5. **Request the Town Council authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne or his designee to apply for and receive funding through the Connecticut Early Childhood Funder**

Collaborative to strengthen the organization capacity of the Vernon School Readiness Council and/or implement birth to age 5 system projects.—(See memorandum dated March 28, 2022 from Michelle Hill, Director of the Vernon YSB relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE FUNDING THROUGH THE CONNECTICUT EARLY CHILDHOOD FUNDER COLLABORATIVE ON BEHALF OF THE VERNON YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU, AND FURTHER AUTHORIZES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SIGN ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO SAME.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to authorize Mayor Daniel A. Champagne apply for funding through the Connecticut Early Childhood Funder Collaborative on behalf of the Vernon Youth Services Bureau. Michelle Hill, Youth Services Director, spoke and answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Request the Town Council schedule a public hearing relative to the 2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application in partnership with the Vernon Housing Authority.** (See memorandum dated April 1, 2022 from Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator to Mayor Daniel A. Champagne and the Vernon Town Council relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY, SCHEDULES A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR COMMENT AND ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATIVE TO THE 2022 SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION WITH THE VERNON HOUSING AUTHORITY, SAID PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 19, 2022 AT 7:35 PM IN THE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made a motion to schedule a public hearing relative to the 2022 Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application with the Vernon Housing Authority, said public hearing to be held on April 19, 2022 at 7:35 PM in the Town Council Chambers, 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut. Mayor Champagne spoke and Town Administrator, Michael Purcaro, answered questions. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

M.) **ACTION ON ORDINANCES PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED**
None

N.) **IDENTIFICATION/ADOPTION OF ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**
None

O.) **DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**
None

P.) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

THE TOWN COUNCIL WAIVES THE READING OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF **MARCH 15, 2022** AND THAT MINUTES OF SAID MEETING BE APPROVED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion to waive the reading of and approve the minutes of the March 15, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

D.) EXECUTIVE SESSION

8:39 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (2), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL, AND INVITES MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR AND DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR TO ATTEND.

Motion carried unanimously.

8:56 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

Q.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION
None

R.) Adjourn (8:57 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Nieves-Matias, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received:

Approved:

Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary