

June 21, 2022

APPROVED MINUTES
VERNON TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
TOWN HALL – 14 PARK PLACE – 3RD FLOOR
TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 – 7:30 PM

RECEIVED
VERNON TOWN CLERK
22 NOV 14 AM 10:48

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, Linda Gessay, Maryann Levesque, Brian Motola, Ariana Nieves-Matias, John O'Connell, Jim Tedford and Michael Wendus

Absent: Ann Letendre and Teri-Lynn Rogers

Entered During Meeting:

Also Present: Assistant Town Administrator Dawn Maselek, Recording Secretary Karen Daigle

C.) **CITIZEN CITATIONS AND AWARDS**

The following individuals were inducted on the *Volunteer Wall of Honor*, celebrating their many years of volunteer service to the Town of Vernon.

John Leary
S. Ardis Abbott
Robert Hurd
Jean Luddy

7:46 PM Recess; Reconvened at 8:03 PM

D.) **CITIZEN'S FORUM**

None

F.) **PUBLIC HEARING**

None

G.) **PRESENTATIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATION**

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

- July in the Sky is scheduled for July 12, 2022 with a rain date of July 13th. Activities begin at 6:00 PM in Henry Park and Central Park. The event culminates with a fireworks display commencing at approximately 9:00 PM.
- National Night Out is a celebration held every year on the first Tuesday of August, being sponsored by the Vernon Police Department, to connect with the community in a positive way. This free event begins at 5:00 PM and concludes at 8:00 PM in the Courthouse Plaza parking lot.
- North Central District Health Department Director Patrice Sulik sent a letter commending and thanking the Town for all our efforts during the COVID clinics.
- June is the last month with two Town Council meetings. July, August and September switch to a summer schedule, with those month's meetings on the third Tuesday, as listed in the Town Council schedule.

Marty Sitler, Director of Parks and Recreation, gave an update relative to the status of Horowitz Pool. Mayor Champagne spoke. Discussion ensued.

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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 the tax refunds for prior and current year taxes as outlined in the memorandum from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue.** (See memorandum dated June 9, 2022 to Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator from Terry Hjarne, Collector of Revenue relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES ONE (1) TAX REFUND FOR PRIOR YEARS TOTALING \$485.05 AND SEVEN (7) REFUNDS FOR CURRENT YEAR TOTALING \$6218.52 AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMORANDUM FROM TERRY HJARNE, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE TO MICHAEL J. PURCARO, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR DATED JUNE 9, 2022.

- C 2. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Town Council Member Ann Letendre, (D), 14 Park Place, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Human Services Advisory Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires June 30, 2024.** (Mrs. Letendre is a member of the Town Council and therefore no resume is included.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3, 05-02-1989 TOWN RESOLUTION VOL. 24, PAGE 382 AS AMENDED /VOL. 37 PAGE 266 AND TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 02-19-2002, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER ANN LETENDRE, (D), 14 PARK PLACE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM BEGINNING JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2024.

- C 3. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Tim Poloski, (D), 38 Risley Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2025.** (A copy of Mr. Poloski's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 7, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF TIM POLOSKI, (D), 38 RISLEY ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE SAID TERM TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 4. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Jason Mistretta, (R), 57 Vernwood Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Permanent Municipal Building Committee, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2025.** (A copy of Mr. Mistretta's resume is included for Council review.)

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO THE VERNON TOWN CHARTER, CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 7, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF JASON MISTRETTA, (R), 57 VERNWOOD DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT MUNICIPAL BUILDING COMMITTEE SAID TERM TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 5. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Patty Noblet (R), 12 Jen Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires June 30, 2025. (A copy of Ms. Noblet's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO VERNON'S CHARTER CHAPTER XV, SEC. 3; EST. 03-02-1982, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF PATTY NOBLET (R), 12 JEN DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SAID TERM TO BEGIN ON JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 6. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Bruce Luddy, (D), 12 Crown Street, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cemetery Commission, said term to commence July 1, 2022 and expires June 30, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Luddy's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19A-296; CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 10, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF BRUCE LUDDY, (D), 12 CROWN STREET, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 7. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Claire Crane, (R), 62 Zoey Drive, Vernon, Connecticut as an alternate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2027. (A copy of Ms. Crane's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 2, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF CLAIRE CRANE, (R), 62 ZOEY DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, FOR A TERM BEGINNING ON JULY 1, 2022 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027.

- C 8. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Senior Center Director, Maureen Gabriele as *Municipal Agent for the Elderly for the Town of Vernon*, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires June 30, 2026. (Ms. Gabriele is an employee of the Town of Vernon, therefore no resume is included.)**

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PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR MAUREEN GABRIELE, AS MUNICIPAL AGENT FOR THE ELDERLY FOR THE TOWN OF VERNON, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2026.

- C 9. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Wayne W. Reiske, (U), 29 Reservoir Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Cemetery Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Reiske's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO C.G.S. §19A-296; CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SECTION 10, THE TOWN COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF WAYNE W. REISKE, (U), 29 RESERVOIR ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CEMETERY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 10. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's reappointment of Joshua Stenger (D), 164 Vernon, Avenue, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Vernon Arts Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires June 30, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Stenger's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN COUNCIL RESOLUTION DATED 09-21-76 AMENDED ON 09-21-1982 THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S REAPPOINTMENT OF JOSHUA STENGER, (D), 164 VERNON AVENUE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE VERNON ARTS COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 11. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jeanette Smith, (U), 2 Trail Run, Vernon, Connecticut as regular member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2025. (A copy of Ms. Smith's resume is included for Council review.)**

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JEANETTE SMITH, (U), 2 TRAIL RUN, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 12. Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of Jeffrey Carlson (D), 76 Valley Falls Road, Vernon, Connecticut as a regular member of the Conservation Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2025. (A copy of Mr. Carlson's resume is included for Council review.)**

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PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO TOWN OF VERNON ORDINANCE # 189 – TOWN CODE SECTION 10-91 & 10-92, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY CARLSON, (D), 76 VALLEY FALLS ROAD, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO BEGIN JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2025.

- C 13.** Request the Town Council approve Mayor Daniel A. Champagne's appointment of C. Ryan Goad, (U), 57 Glenstone Drive, Vernon, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Inland Wetlands Commission, said term to commence on July 1, 2022 and expires on June 30, 2024. (A copy of Mr. Goad's resume is included for Council review.)

PROPOSED MOTION

PURSUANT TO CHARTER CHAPTER VIII, SEC. 8, THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES MAYOR DANIEL A. CHAMPAGNE'S APPOINTMENT OF C. RYAN GOAD, (U), 57 GLENSTONE DRIVE, VERNON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE INLAND WETLANDS REGULATORY COMMISSION, SAID TERM TO COMMENCE ON JULY 1, 2022 AND EXPIRES ON JUNE 30, 2024.

I.) DISCUSSION OF PULLED CONSENT ITEMS

None

J.) PENDING BUSINESS

None

K.) NEW BUSINESS

- 1.** Request the Town Council approve a general wage increase (GWI) for all non-union employees at the Town of Vernon. (See memorandum from Mayor Daniel A. Champagne to the Vernon Town Council dated June 17, 2022 relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTIONS 3.7, 3.19 AND 5.3 (B) (3), HEREBY AUTHORIZES THAT ALL NON-UNION FULL TIME, PERMANENT PART TIME AND PART TIME EMPLOYEES BE GIVEN A GENERAL WAGE INCREASE OF TWO (2%) PERCENT, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022. OF NOTE, FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES RECEIVING A MARKET WAGE ADJUSTMENT EFFECTIVE ON JULY 1, 2022, THE AFOREMENTIONED GWI IS ALREADY INCLUDED IN THE ADJUSTMENT.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made a motion authorizing all non-union full time, permanent part time and part time employees be given a general wage increase of two (2%) percent, effective July 1, 2022; for those employees receiving a market wage adjustment effective on July 1, 2022, the GWI will already be included in the adjustment. Discussion ensued. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2.** Request the Town Council approve the request from the Registrar of Voters for a budget amendment to cover the cost of August 2022 primaries. (See memorandum dated June 16, 2022 from Christopher Prue and M. Lisa Moody, Registrars, to Mayor

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Daniel A. Champagne, Town Administrator Michael J. Purcaro, Town Council and Jeffrey A. O'Neill, Finance Officer relative to same.)

PROPOSED MOTION

THE TOWN COUNCIL HEREBY APPROVES THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS REQUEST FOR A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO COVER THE COST OF THE AUGUST, 2022 PRIMARIES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,450.00, AS PRESENTED.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made a motion to approve the Registrars of Voters request for a budget amendment to cover the cost of the August, 2022 primaries in an amount not to exceed \$28,450.00, as presented. Registrars Chris Prue and Lisa Moody spoke and 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 **JUNE 7, 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 June 7, 2022 regular Town Council meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

E.) EXECUTIVE SESSION (Taken Out of Order)

8:49 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Tedford, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #1. Motion carried unanimously.

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 DAWN MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO ATTEND. (Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, was not in attendance.)

9:17 PM Council Member Wendus left Executive Session; returned at 9:22 PM

9:24 PM Executive Session #1 ended.

9:24 PM Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Nieves-Matias, made the following motion to go into Executive Session #2. Motion carried unanimously.

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE AUTHORITY GIVEN IN CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES 1-200 (6) (D), HEREBY MOVES TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS AND INVITES DAWN

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MASELEK, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, TO ATTEND. (Michael J. Purcaro, Town Administrator, was not in attendance.)

9:49 PM Executive Session #2 ended.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to Executive Session #1:

Motion #1

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 5.0 COMPENSATION SYSTEM, HEREBY ADOPTS THE NEW PAY SCALE FOR THE POSITION OF SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Levesque, made the following motion to Executive Session #1:

Motion #2

THE TOWN COUNCIL, CONSISTENT WITH THE TOWN OF VERNON PERSONNEL RULES AND REGULATIONS, SECTION 5.0 COMPENSATION SYSTEM, HEREBY ADOPTS THE NEW PAY SCALE FOR THE POSITIONS OF: BUDGET ANALYST, ACCOUNTANT PROCUREMENT; PAYROLL COORDINATOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT ALL IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022.

Motion carried with 9 in favor and 1 abstention, Council Member Wendus.

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Bush, made the following motion to Executive Session #2:

THE TOWN COUNCIL PURSUANT TO THE NEGOTIATED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF VERNON AND THE DIRECTORS INDEPENDENT UNIT EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025 ADOPTS SAID CONTRACT AGREEMENT AS PRESENTED.

Motion carried unanimously.

Q.) INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS, ETC. NOT REQUIRING ACTION

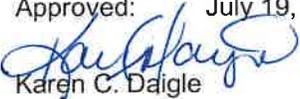
None

R.) Adjourn (9:51 PM)

Council Member Motola, seconded by Council Member Clay, made a motion to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Received: June 27, 2022

Approved: July 19, 2022


Karen C. Daigle
Recording Secretary