



Thank you for evaluating  
PDF Complete.

**PDF Complete**

[Click Here to purchase full featured PDF Complete products](#)

VERGENNES CITY COUNCIL  
MAY 10, 2016  
MINUTES

Mayor William Benton called the regular meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. at the Vergennes Fire Station meeting room located at 50 Green Street. The meeting immediately proceeded with a tour of the fire station and the equipment. Those in attendance were:

Mayor William Benton	City Manager Mel Hawley
Senior Alderman Renny Perry	City Clerk Joan Devine
Alderman Lowell Bertrand	Fire Chief James Breur
Alderman Jeffrey Fritz	Chance Koenig
Alderman Mathew Chabot	Mike Reiderer
Alderman Mark Koenig	Nicholas Schieldrop
Alderman Lynn Donnelly	

Mayor Benton called the meeting back to order at 6:23 p.m.

WARRANT: The Warrant totaling \$82,669.42 was circulated for review and signatures of approval.

MINUTES: The minutes to the meeting of April 26, 2016 were reviewed. Senior Alderman Perry suggested the minutes involving the Police Department Service Recognitions include more detail. A revised version of the minutes will be presented at the next meeting.

TAXICAB LICENSE: Nicholas Schieldrop, d/b/a Shelburne Car Service, submitted an application to renew his Taxicab License. Mayor Benton advised copies of his license, insurance, and the appropriate fee has been submitted. City Clerk Devine reported the Police Department records check showed no new motor vehicle violations in the last year. Alderman Bertrand moved to approve the Taxicab License for Nicholas Schieldrop, d/b/a Shelburne Car Service. The motion was seconded by Senior Alderman Perry with all voting in favor.

PICNIC TABLES ON THE CITY GREEN: City Manager Hawley advised the Vergennes Partnership has requested permission to put two picnic tables on the City Green. Senior Alderman Perry, who is also the President of Vergennes Partnership, advised the idea of the picnic tables on the City Green actually came from Matt Birong, owner of 3 Squares Restaurant. Matt felt picnic tables on the City Green could accommodate take-out customers from the two restaurants on that block. Senior Alderman Perry stated the picnic tables will cost approximately \$300 each and would be purchased by the Vergennes Partnership who will then look for sponsors for reimbursement. City Manager Hawley inquired if the picnic tables would belong to the City and, if so, would they be put away in the fall just as we do with the tables from Vergennes Falls Park and Macdonough Park. Senior Alderman Perry stated he would support giving the tables to the City and having them only as seasonal use. Mayor Benton stated he personally would like to have the tables on the back of the City Green with a garbage receptacle. Alderman Lynn Donnelly expressed concern with lawn deterioration that comes with having picnic tables as well as fly-away trash like napkins. She also recommended against wood tables

Alderman Chabot wondered if any thought was given to constructing the picnic tables. Senior Alderman Perry reported they did consider that option but did not want to delay in getting the picnic tables on the City Green. City Manager Hawley suggested the idea of picnic tables on the City Green, if approved by the City Council, be revisited in November to see how it worked as he also has some concerns with the amount of trash, litter, etc. that may be generated. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to approve the request by the Vergennes Partnership. The motion was seconded by Alderman Fritz with all voting in favor.

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB ó SUMMER TENNIS PROGRAM:** Mike Reiderer, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Club, requested exclusive use of the tennis courts for four sessions of programming throughout the summer. One session will be dedicated to youth participating in the VUES summer Fusion program and the remaining three sessions will be offered by the Club and open to all youths entering 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The cost will be \$45 per session with scholarships available. Mike Reiderer explained that he has been working with the United States Tennis Association and the Addison County Athletics Foundation to make this happen. Senior Alderman Perry advised signs should be posted in advance of the sessions to allow the public ample time to be aware of the unavailability of the courts. Senior Alderman Perry moved to approve the Boys & Girls Club proposal. The motion was seconded by Alderman Mark Koenig with all voting in favor.

**PROPOSED FY2017 FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET:** City Manager Hawley explained the final \$15,000 bond payment was made this year on the Fire Department vehicles purchased in 1995. The bonded debt for the aerial truck and heavy rescue truck approved in November 2008 was set up with five years of interest-only payments followed by ten years of principal and interest payments. The proposed budget includes the first \$40,000 annual principal payment. Other than that sizeable increase in the line item associated with the bond payment, the remaining line items reflect little change. Preliminary calculations for the proposed FY2017 fire protection contracts with the Towns of Ferrisburgh, Panton, Waltham and the respective share of the City of Vergennes were presented. The numbers will be finalized once the value of the property in Ferrisburgh which is covered by the Vergennes Fire Department as the primary responding agency is available. He pointed out revenue for the current fiscal year was off-set by \$5,000 from the prior year ending fund balance. He stated he was confident this year \$20,000 of a projected \$25,000 year-end fund balance could be used. Manager Hawley advised he is sensitive to sharp increases for the four towns that fund the Department. Alderman Donnelly felt because we know we need to buy a front line fire truck within two years, we should be putting some of that fund balance aside towards that purchase. Manager Hawley acknowledged that the current \$141,191 budget could go to \$196,000 in two years but felt a fair amount of the unrestricted fund balance should be applied to the FY2017 budget as towns have already voted in their budgets. He stressed the importance of his cover letter this year that will alert the towns to a potential sizeable increase in the resulting fire contracts in two or three years; that will allow them time to prepare accordingly. Senior Alderman Perry moved to adopt the proposed FY17 Fire Department budget of \$156,327 and to use \$15,000 of the anticipated year-end fund balance to off-set the increase to the four municipalities. Alderman Jeff Fritz seconded the motion with all voting in favor.

er Mel Hawley reported he has spoken with Brad Castillo the pool director this year. Jennifer Kingsley is very pleased with that decision and she will continue on as the swimming lessons director. Our newest employee, Geoffrey Grant, will begin work at the Wastewater Treatment Plant beginning May 23<sup>rd</sup>. His main responsibility will be the distribution lines, he advised. The appeal by VV II Associates, LP of their assessed value to the State appraisers will be held May 19<sup>th</sup> at City Hall. He also advised Grievance Day for the 2016 Grand List is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

City Manager Hawley advised the Vergennes Union Elementary School Board and Vergennes Union High School Board have authorized Superintendent JoAn Canning to sign the quit claim deed that will extinguish the condition in the original deed of the fire station property to the City of Vergennes. The original warranty deed from Vergennes Graded School District to the City of Vergennes required that if the City was to ever sell the property, the proceeds from the sale had to be returned the Vergennes Graded School District which dissolved in 2010. He is still working on obtaining a sewer line easement over property of Vergennes Union High School and Vergennes Union Elementary School in case the lot off New Haven Road owned by the City is developed in the future. He advised he is expecting that to be approved next week. A memorandum of understanding between the City and Vergennes Union Elementary School is also being worked on for combined use of the recreation area.

COMMENTS: Senior Alderman Perry felt Fire Chief Jim Breur wanted a commitment from the City Council for a pumper replacement in 2018 before he assigns a team to start working on specifications for the vehicle. City Manager Hawley advised he will work with Fire Chief Breur and provide the City Council with an inventory of the vehicles and their expected replacement schedule for review at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: At 7:30 p.m. Alderman Lowell Bertrand moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Mathew Chabot, with all voting in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Vergennes City Clerk