

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

August 6, 2014

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled August 6, 2014, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:25 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman William Heering, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Susan Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, Town Councilman Gary Wyszynski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Director of Finance David Bertnagel, Executive Director Council of Governments Central Naugatuck Valley Samuel Gold, Town Attorney William Hamzy, Assessor Clerk Janet Olmstead, Economic Development Consultant Craig Stevenson, Assessor Rae Ann Walcott, and Inland Fuel Terminals, Inc. Director Hillel Weisel.

Fire Exits Notification

Mayor Merchant noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Merchant led the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Merchant stated “May God Bless America” and May God Bless the Town of Plymouth” for the record.

Council Rules and Procedures

Mayor Merchant stated that under Agenda Item #14, 100 South Riverside Avenue, LLC., should be removed as the Agenda item had been addressed at the July 9, 2014, Plymouth Town Council meeting.

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Acceptance of Minutes (July 9, 2014)

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to accept the July 9, 2014, Plymouth Town Council minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant gave his Mayor's Report.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Rich Lyga, 58 Curtis Road, Terryville, Chairman Public Works Advisory Commission, briefly explained the issue with the roadwork performed by the Gorman Group in the Todd Hollow area and how the company would be rectifying the previous work.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated that she had received a copy of all taxes collected for the year from the Tax Collector, noting he had done an exemplary job of collecting taxes to date and distributed copies of the information to the Council. Melanie Church stated there was a financial surplus over the budget for everything and said that she wanted to be sure the taxpayers would get it and it wouldn't be spent on other items. Melanie Church stated that the Mayor pays for two vehicles in Bristol and briefly explained her statement. Referencing the Charter Melanie Church questioned why the job wasn't posted for a Public Works Town Employee who had quit and was rehired; Melanie Church stated a lot of work was going on upstairs, no one voted on it and questioned how it was being done. Melanie Church stated the bridge on Route 72 was being done by the State of CT and had nothing to do with us. Melanie Church stated that the North Street Bridge was supposed to be started this spring and it wasn't. Melanie Church questioned the design that was already done for Bemis Street. Melanie Church stated that the plan was to do across the street from the Eagles Nest but now we were going by the Waterwheel and there was no concrete plan. Melanie Church questioned why the lights weren't lit where the Streetscape work had been done. Melanie Church stated there was no longer parking on North Main Street and questioned why. Melanie Church stated that Charles Street was a narrow road and questioned where parents would be parking. Melanie Church stated she asked people what was good about Plymouth; a brief discussion followed. Melanie Church stated the bonding money was supposed to be used on roads and questioned where the Town was getting money to purchase property; a brief discussion followed.

Rob Wilcox, South Main Street, Terryville, stated that he had told Melanie that the Lock Museum of America was one of the things he liked about Plymouth.

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Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Rob Wilcox stated that he saw no reason to have a Facilities Manager/Safety Coordinator position within the Public Works Department and explained his reasoning. Rob Wilcox questioned why it was necessary for two Public Works employees to be delivering water to the Community Garden and explained his question briefly. Rob Wilcox questioned what Mr. Wiegert's Interim Public Works Director meant and briefly explained his question.

Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane, Terryville, complimented the Mayor and the Council for their work, noting that he enjoyed reading the Mayor's comments in the Plymouth Connection newspaper, highlighting the economic development within Town, as well as accomplishments in Town accomplishments. He further stated that there were a lot of good things going on in Plymouth. Ralph Zovich stated that the implication that an unauthorized expenditure would be made with the financial surplus at the end of the fiscal year was ludicrous and explained his reasoning. Ralph Zovich stated that the constant implication that there were always improprieties has to stop, noting the Town had great volunteers with the Fire Department, the Skate Board Park, etc., and briefly explained his reasoning. Ralph Zovich stated that he would like the Town's Website Delinquent Taxpayers listing updated and briefly explained his reasoning.

Appointments/Resignations: To take off the table the appointment of Jolene Dutkiewicz from an Alternate Member on the PVAC Board of Directors to a Regular Member; to appoint Paul Schwanka as an Alternate Member to the Planning and Zoning Commission; to re-appoint Helen Nejfelt to the Plymouth Housing Authority

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to take off the table the appointment of Jolene Dutkiewicz from an Alternate Member on the PVAC Board of Directors to a Regular Member. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Jolene Dutkiewicz from an Alternate Member on the PVAC Board of Directors to a Regular Member. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to appoint Paul Schwanka as an Alternate member to the Planning and Zoning Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to reappoint Helen Nejfelt to the Plymouth Housing Authority. This motion was approved unanimously.

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To discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund the following Property Taxes: Katrina Monagas \$266.00; John G. Mykalosky \$13.90; Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. \$144.74; Paul D. Tuper \$34.46; David P. Dwyer \$21.84; Kevin L. Lavigne \$12.24; Helen C. Grabowski \$51.34; Lelise R. Parilla \$7.98

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gary Wyszynski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Katrina Monagas \$266.00; John G. Mykalosky \$13.90; Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. \$144.74; Paul D. Tuper \$34.46; David P. Dwyer \$21.84; Kevin L. Lavigne \$12.24; Helen C. Grabowski \$51.34; and Lelise R. Parilla \$7.98. This motion was approved unanimously.

To enter into Executive Session to discuss Land Sale Agreement

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to enter into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m., to discuss Land Sale Agreement. Present for the Executive Session were Director of Finance David Bertnagel, Town Attorney Hamzy, Town Councilman Heering, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman Pajeski, Economic Development Consultant Stevenson, Hillel Weisel, Town Councilman Wyszynski, and Town Councilman Zagurski.

Mayor Merchant called the Plymouth Town Council meeting back into Regular Session at 9:00 p.m.

Take action on Executive Session if necessary

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Wyszynski, to approve the Contract with Inland Fuel Terminals, Inc., and to authorize the Mayor to sign the Contract on behalf of the Town of Plymouth. This motion was approved unanimously.

To approve the Ordinance for the Town of Plymouth to join the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Town Attorney Hamzy briefly explained organizational name changes and deletions within the Ordinance document and noted where the changes should be made.

Mayor Merchant stated the document would be updated with the changes if it were approved.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the Ordinance for the Town of Plymouth to join the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments as amended by Town Attorney Hamzy.

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To approve the Ordinance for the Town of Plymouth to join the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments Cont'd.

Vote: Town Councilman Heering/no; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/no; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

To make an additional appropriation of \$500,000 for the Route 6 Streetscape Project funded by a STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant

At the request of Mayor Merchant, David Bertnagel explained the Agenda item in detail; a lengthy discussion followed.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to approve the \$500,000 appropriation and send it to the Board of Finance for their approval. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on the following Economic Assistance Grants/Incentives/Abatements for the following: Triem Industries 105 Napco Drive, 100 South Riverside Avenue, LLC, Three Leaf Landscaping, LLC, Spargo Machine Products, Eagles Nest Restaurant

At the request of Mayor Merchant, David Bertnagel detailed and explained the Economic Assistance Grants/Incentives/Abatements for Triem Industries 105 Napco Drive, 100 South Riverside Avenue, LLC, Three Leaf Landscaping, LLC, Spargo Machine Products, and the Eagles Nest Restaurant.

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to authorize a \$30,000.00 Economic Assistance Grant, as well as a \$50,000.00 Relocation Grant, to Triem Industries. This motion was approved unanimously. Triem Industries, LLC, 105 Napco Drive. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to authorize a \$20,000.00 Economic Assistance Grant to Three Leaf Landscaping, LLC. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to authorize a 50 percent Tax Abatement for three years for Spargo Machine Products, 6 Gear Drive, under CGS 12-65b.

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To discuss and take action on the following Economic Assistance Grants/Incentives/Abatements for the following: Triem Industries 105 Napco Drive, 100 South Riverside Avenue, LLC, Three Leaf Landscaping, LLC, Spargo Machine Products, Eagles Nest Restaurant Cont'd.

Vote: Town Councilman Heering/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/no; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to authorize an Economic Assistance Grant in the amount of \$8,500.00 to the Eagles Nest Restaurant. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on a Facilities Manager/Safety Coordinator position within the Public Works Department

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Wyszynski, to table this Agenda item. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on a Dress Code Policy for Town Employees

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to discuss and take action on a Dress Code Policy for Town Employees.

Discussion:

Rae Ann Walcott, Town of Plymouth Assessor, stated that she had no problems with a dress code, however she had a problem with a strict Dress Code and explained her reasoning at length.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to modify the Dress Code to allow tennis shoes and dress Capri's.

Discussion:

Janet Olmstead, Assessment Clerk and Building Department, stated that she and her coworkers were in appropriate attire for this time of year and noted that she couldn't afford to buy an entire new wardrobe, citing that the Dress Code was strict and requested the Mayor sit down with her and the Union and review the proposed Dress Code and come to an agreement.

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To discuss and take action on a Dress Code Policy for Town Employees Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski withdrew his motion and Town Councilman Pajeski withdrew his second.

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to table the Dress Code Policy for Town Employees Agenda and have the Mayor sit down with the Union and the workers and possibly come to a better resolution. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated he had nothing to report on at this time.

Town Councilwoman Murawski gave her Liaison Report on the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Town Councilwoman Murawski gave her Liaison Report on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he had nothing to report on at this time.

Town Councilman Pajeski gave his Liaison Report on Gosinski Park.

Town Councilman Heering gave his Liaison Report on the Board of Education.

Council Comments

Town Councilman Heering stated that he had no Council Comments at this time.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that he had no Council Comments at this time.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Merchant stated that he had heard that the Pot Hole Patcher machine, housed at the City of Bristol's Public Works Department, was broken down, but it was being repairs.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, David Bertnagel stated that he would have the closeout report for 2013/2014 soon, noting that there were still a few bills trickling in.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated that she had no Council Comments at this time.

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Council Comments Cont'd.

Town Councilman Wyszynski stated that he had no Council Comments at this time.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary