

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

December 11, 2017

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled December 11, 2017 Plymouth Town Council Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Town Attorney William Hamzy and Communications Commission Chairman Marty Sandshaw.

Adoption of the Agenda

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the Agenda with the following amendments:

14a. To discuss Rules and Procedures (noting he had distributed copies of his proposed changes); 14b. To discuss the Town Manager Charter Revision Commission Change; and 14c. To accept the Capital Improvements Committee recommendation for the Town Hall Boiler Gas/Oil Combination. This motion was approved unanimously.

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.

Invocation

Mayor David Merchant stated God Bless the United States, the Town of Plymouth, and the New York Emergency Responders. He further stated during the holiday season our thoughts and prayers were with the military personnel around the world and our thoughts and prayers were with Plymouth's Town Clerk who was hospitalized and wished her a speedy recovery.

Acceptance of Minutes: November 20, 2017

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the November 20, 2017, Plymouth Town Council minutes with the following correction: Under Town Council Liaison Reports, Town Councilman Dan Gentile had stated he had donated his Town Council stipend as follows: \$400.00 to Parks and Recreation Basketball Scholarship and \$700.00 to the Human Services Cleveland Trust Fund. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss Town Council Rules and Procedures

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated that receiving packets on a Friday at 2:00 p.m. was not enough time to review the Town Council meeting material and requested a five to seven day lead to allow him and the other members to digest everything. He further stated he wanted time to contact people with questions and briefly elaborated.

Mayor David Merchant stated as soon as material is received it is immediately sent out electronically to the Town Council members; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated in the past the Council received their packets on Thursdays and it seemed to work and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she didn't want to receive her packet too far in advance because too many changes can occur and blindsides everyone and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he understood what Town Councilman Dan Gentile was asking for, noting he would like one to two extra days to look at the packet himself.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the second part of his question was concerning contracts the Mayor was working on for months and months, noting he wanted a draft copy and questioned how that would be addressed.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she didn't want to receive draft copies, only the final document; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to receive the final Town Council packet on the Thursday prior to the Town Council meeting at 12:00 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Non-agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated by Charter the Director of Finance and the Public Works Director's contracts needed to come back before the Town Council at the end of the Mayor's term every two years. Melanie Church complimented former Assessor Rae Ann Wolcott noting she had corrected the rumor about the Mayor's taxes, briefly elaborated, noting we have to work together. Melanie Church stated the gazebo donated by the Lassy family, and located in Baldwin Park, should be decorated with lights and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church questioned why light poles were located in the middle of the sidewalks by Baldwin Park.

Mayor David Merchant stated the contracts Melanie Church was referencing were approved for more than two years and briefly elaborated. Mayor David Merchant stated for the record his taxes did not decrease; his property value decreased and briefly elaborated. Mayor David Merchant stated the pole in question was being looked at and briefly elaborated.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant reported and provided updates on the following: State of Connecticut Education Cost Sharing (ECS) was received-Tax Anticipation Note no longer needed; \$1.5 million dollars needs to be saved from this budget year; Brownsfield Money paperwork process has begun; North Main Street Bridge under construction.

Financial Report

Mayor Merchant stated if any Council members had any questions regarding the General Fund Revenue/Expenditures for the month of November to contact him or the Finance Director.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile requested a snapshot of the General Fund balance, noting he knew it was a moving target and he didn't care what date it was done on; he just wanted to see the balance in the General Fund.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Hyundai Lease Titling Trust \$85.79; Thomas F. Ryan \$929.64; CCAP Auto Lease \$269.82; Daniel C. Thorne, Jr. \$22.24; Honda Lease Trust \$77.02; Toyota Lease Trust \$64.54; Marcel or Sarah Trudeau \$64.00; Daimler Trust \$233.34; Fall Mt. Lake Property Association \$355.61; Husnu Celik \$134.96; Gloria M. Dauphin \$13.86; Cynthia Bombard \$32.16

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to refund the overpayment of taxes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations: To accept the resignation of Jeffrey Bajek from the Police Commission; to appoint Cathy Paskus to the Police Commission; to reappoint Paul Schwanka to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Town Councilman John Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the resignation of Jeffrey Bajek from the Police Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to appoint Cathy Paskus to the Police Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to reappoint Paul Schwanka to the Planning and Zoning Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated many Connecticut towns were looking into shared services more and more. He further stated he would be on a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Committee, which was looking into making it easier to share services with other towns and briefly elaborated.

To discuss and take action on Thomaston-Plymouth Interlocal Agreement

Mayor David Merchant stated the information included in the Council's packets had been drawn up by Town Attorney Bill Hamzy and the Town Attorney for the Town of Thomaston.

Mayor David Merchant stated this Agreement was for the public safety radio system and would be granting Plymouth access to Thomaston's two towers.

Mayor David Merchant stated the Communications Commission and the Town of Thomaston had approved this agreement and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to approve the Town of Thomaston and Town of Plymouth Interlocal Agreement for Tower Antenna Service as presented.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Town Attorney Bill Hamzy stated the 4% escalator was for four five-year renewal periods, was annual and it was good for as long as the underlying master leases were good for and briefly elaborated.

Marty Sandshaw, Chairman Communications Commission, stated the second phase in this project would be to try to get the Town's own towers and microwave transmission. He further stated the Commission had received a price of \$600,000 to upgrade the Town's Towers and this was why they opted to go into an agreement with Thomaston.

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski regarding the Agreement language “No Subleasing”, Town Attorney Bill Hamzy stated this Agreement was done with the approval of the owners of the towers.

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, Communications Commission Chairman Marty Sandshaw stated Norcom was taking care of the antenna approval by the tower company and briefly elaborated. He further stated \$23,000 for the Town to pay Thomaston was budgeted last year in the Communications Commission budget and the upgrade for the infrastructure was put into Capitals for this project.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to include a copy of the Interlocal Agreement with the Plymouth Town Council’s December 11, 2017, minutes. This motion was approved unanimously.

To accept the Capital Improvements Committee recommendation for the Town Hall Boiler Gas/Oil Combination

Town Attorney Bill Hamzy stated an RFP had been issued for the Town Hall Boilers and several companies had responded. He further stated there was a mandatory pre-bid meeting that was held and only companies that had representatives at that pre-bid meeting could submit a response to the RFP. Town Attorney Bill Hamzy stated at that mandatory pre-bid meeting there was an amendment made and everyone signed an acknowledgment document of the amendment; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to accept the bid that was submitted made by Funk Mechanical to replace the boilers in Town Hall.

Discussion:

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Capital Improvements Committee had unanimously approved the same motion and were waiting for one question to be answered by Town Attorney Bill Hamzy.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss the Town Manager Charter Revision Commission Change

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he wanted this item discussed in order to start receiving applications for a Charter Revision Commission so they could address the Charter Revision question concerning a Town Manager and briefly elaborated.

Mayor David Merchant stated he would have the Charter Revision Commission vacancies noted on the Town’s Website.

To authorize the School Building Committee to conduct a feasibility study for renovating the Plymouth Town Hall basement for the Police Department/with a comparison to the feasibility study of Main Street School

Mayor David Merchant noted the basement would actually be the first floor of the Town Hall, noting the Police Department needed to be addressed and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he agreed the Police Department was small and needed to be expanded. He further stated he liked the idea of knocking down the old Main Street School and using the existing school.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated utilizing the Town Hall first floor would result in the loss of the Community Room and the Senior Center; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated he would be more in favor of moving the seniors across the street verses the Congregational Church, noting there would be more monies available for that kind of renovation.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Mayor David Merchant stated there would be a few thousand dollars being spent for an architect to do a barebones assessment, noting there was money available in the facilities assessment line item.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to authorize the School Building Committee to conduct a feasibility study for renovating the Plymouth Town Hall for the Police Department with a comparison to the feasibility study of Main Street School in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action to change the hours of operation at the Transfer Station

Town Councilman Dan Gentile questioned if Director of Public Works Charles Wiegert had checked the contract in regards to this agenda item, noting there had been a Union issue when this was done previously.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he was not in favor of closing the Transfer Station on Mondays, and questioned the Union's stance on the contract as Town Councilman Dan Gentile had previously questioned; a brief discussion followed. Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he wanted to see a copy of the Public Works Contract.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to table this agenda item. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

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

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

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she had nothing to report on at this time.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she had nothing to report on at this time.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Teacher's negotiations were underway, however he hadn't heard anything. He further stated the Town was in financial trouble and he was unsure what would come out of it. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the time to speak up would be now while the contract was still open.

Town Council Comments

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he had no Town Council comments at this time.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she had no Town Council comments at this time.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated he had no Town Council comments at this time.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she had no Town Council comments at this time.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he wanted to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary