

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

October 9, 2019

Call to Order: Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled October 9, 2019, Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski.

Fire Exits Notification

Mayor David 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.

Reading of the Legal Notice: LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING; Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth and all qualified taxpayers to be heard at a Public Hearing to be held at the Plymouth Town Hall, Community Room, 80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786, Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. for the following purpose: To give citizens the opportunity to hear and/or make oral/written recommendations concerning additions, deletions or changes to the Charter Revision Commission's Town Charter Recommendation per CGS 7-191(a) to 7-191(b). Barbara Rockwell, Town Clerk, Dated this 6th day of September 2019, Plymouth, CT

Mayor David Merchant read the Legal Notice into the record as follows: LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING; Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the Town of Plymouth and all qualified taxpayers to be heard at a Public Hearing to be held at the Plymouth Town Hall, Community Room, 80 Main Street, Terryville, CT 06786, Wednesday, October 9, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. for the following purpose: To give citizens the opportunity to hear and/or make oral/written recommendations concerning additions, deletions or changes to the Charter Revision Commission's Town Charter Recommendation per CGS 7-191(a) to 7-191(b). Barbara Rockwell, Town Clerk, Dated this 6th day of September 2019, Plymouth, CT

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To consider and take Public Comment regarding the following: To give citizens an opportunity to hear and or/make oral or written recommendations concerning the Charter Revision Commission Recommendation

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, briefly commented on Purchases Section 4, Subsection 6 and noted without the changes spelled out the Charter was hard to read.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, thanked the Charter Revision Commission members for their volunteer hours; briefly commented on keeping the Mayoral form of government; noted without the old wording crossed out, bolded, page numbers etc., it was difficult to understand what was being recommended; and briefly commented on Section 11 Housing Authority language.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, briefly commented on the Town Manager verses the Mayor form of government; voting on a Town Manager question; sold Town property, better accounting, bidding, and candidates working with the Town.

Chairman Mark Malley, Charter Revision Commission, stated the recall of Officers was already in the Charter, noting accountability was also already in the Charter and briefly elaborated. Chairman Mark Malley stated budgeting had been addressed, noting the details do not belong in the Charter, it is a comprehensive document like the U.S. Constitution and briefly elaborated. Chairman Mark Malley stated the Commission tried to eliminate specific reference to a State Statute because many of the Statutes don't exist any more and briefly elaborated. Chairman Mark Malley stated the document was a comprehensive rewrite, however if the Town Council wanted the Charter Revision Commission to show the changes they could do it, but it would take time.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she was concerned regarding the budget approval process and the wording that the Council can approve or reject the final budget, noting the wording did not say the Council could change it if the Board of Finance and the Town Council did not agree.

Chairman Mark Malley stated the question asked of the Charter Revision Commission by the Board of Finance was what happens if they don't act and the existing Charter did not address it and that was the language they changed. Chairman Mark Malley stated the question was should the Town Council have the authority to override the Board of Finance before a Referendum.

When questioned by Chairman Mark Malley, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski agreed she wanted the Charter to read accept or accept with modifications, a brief discussion followed.

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To consider and take Public Comment regarding the following: To give citizens an opportunity to hear and or/make oral or written recommendations concerning the Charter Revision Commission Recommendation Cont'd.

It was noted this section would be left alone and the language would not be changed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he agreed with Vinnie Klimas in that it was hard to see the changes between the old and new Charter. He further stated that removing the bidding process should go out for a vote, noting he thought it was detrimental not to. He further stated streamlining the Boards and Commission was great.

Charter Revision Commission Member Elizabeth Wollenberg stated the Charter reads Rules and Regulations established by the Council and Mayor, and the Commission felt it should be put back on the Mayor and Council to determine what the limits and process of a budget would be and briefly elaborated.

Charter Revision Commission Member Elizabeth Wollenberg stated the charge given to the Charter Revision Commission was to consider a Town Manager form of government; it was not to choose, change, make or decide to open it up for a vote. She further stated it was to consider the Town Manager; the Commission considered it and they rejected it.

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley stated Charter Revision Commissioner Beth Wollenberg did all the clerical work.

Mayor David Merchant stated Beth Wollenberg did a good job.

Charter Revision Commission Member Cathy Paskus stated the Commission did one as a Mayor and one as a Town Manager; noting their charge was to do the work, give it to the Council and the Council's job is to decide what they want to bring forward.

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley stated the Charter Revision Commission recommended a Charter that keeps a Mayor and because they had done all the work on the Town Manager side they gave a copy to the Council just for information purposes so the Council could see what the Commission had done. He further stated the Charter Revision Commission proposal before the Council was to retain the Mayor.

Charter Revision Commission Member Cathy Paskus stated the Council has the choice of what to do with it.

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley stated the Council has the choice and they could send it back to the Commission.

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To consider and take Public Comment regarding the following: To give citizens an opportunity to hear and or/make oral or written recommendations concerning the Charter Revision Commission Recommendation Cont'd.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, briefly commented on why the Town should not have a Town Manager. Vinnie Klimas briefly commented on chapters/State Statutes definitions.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, questioned if the passage (Finance 6a) regarding the non-payment of current taxes had been added; and briefly commented on changes submitted.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to adjourn at 7:32 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary