

Minutes

August 11, 2020

Call to Order: Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled August 11, 2020, Plymouth Town Council Special Virtual Zoom meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present for the virtual Zoom meeting were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Town Attorney William Hamzy, Attorney Mark Malley and Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini.

Invocation

Mayor David Merchant stated "God Bless America and the Town of Plymouth" for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski led the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No report.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No report.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
2020 AUG 20 PM 12:47
Sue Murawski
TOWN CLERK

Mayor's Report

Mayor David Merchant briefly commented, reviewed and updated the following items: Tropical Storm update; Mayor stated the Volunteer Fire Department had done an incredible job (led by Mark Sekorski) and that Emergency Management Director Tony Orsini had also done an incredible job working with Eversource; FEMA storm-related reimbursables; Assistant Fire Chief Chris Masi opened the Plymouth Fire Station for water distribution and charging devices; LCD Dispatching update;; Police and Public Works storm-related overtime; Town Hall limited hours update; Prospect Street School update; continued virtual Zoom meetings; Industrial Park Lots and the 5-year Road Plan; and the Tax Collection status.

Finance Directors Report

Mayor David Merchant stated the Finance Director was not in attendance this evening however, if anyone had any financial questions on the Financial Summary Report, to please let him know and he would get back to them. He further stated everything would be closing out and that he was happy to report the Town was finishing in the black again.

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Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Sonya Allard \$22.92; Cesar Beiros \$31.69; Jacob Butler \$11.37; Cab East LLC \$277.87; CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. \$391.87; Normand or Linda Lachance \$21.33; Paul Lecko \$20.31; James or Debora Ouellette \$84.11; Star Rell \$80.93; Michael Stango \$5.08; Rosa Alvarez-Hydock \$32.63, \$156.06; Dorothy Glista \$49.33; Robert Hydock \$58.63, \$126.15; Jarrett James \$205.58; Constance Marucci \$29.79; Rose McGivney \$25.64; Gary Monterville \$121.89; Gerard or Sandra Nadeau \$99.10; Diana Valencis \$9.52; Pamela Wilson \$1,291.22

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Sonya Allard \$22.92; Cesar Beiros \$31.69; Jacob Butler \$11.37; Cab East LLC \$277.87; CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. \$391.87; Normand or Linda Lachance \$21.33; Paul Lecko \$20.31; James or Debora Ouellette \$84.11; Star Rell \$80.93; Michael Stango \$5.08; Rosa Alvarez-Hydock \$32.63, \$156.06; Dorothy Glista \$49.33; Robert Hydock \$58.63, \$126.15; Jarrett James \$205.58; Constance Marucci \$29.79; Rose McGivney \$25.64; Gary Monterville \$121.89; Gerard or Sandra Nadeau \$99.10; Diana Valencis \$9.52; and Pamela Wilson \$1,291.22. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on Homeland Security Grant Resolution and Plymouth MOA for Homeland Security Grant Program FFY2020

Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini gave a brief overview of the Homeland Security Grant Program for Fiscal Year 2020. Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini stated the program allows for Region 5 to purchase emergency related equipment which is then distributed to communities in Region 5. He further stated Plymouth is one of the 43 towns in this region. Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini stated the MOA/Memorandum of Agreement outlines the custodial ownership of the equipment and assets that were purchased with the Homeland Security funds and outlined all of Plymouth's equipment. He further stated the Town was very fortunate to have these items and detailed the list of items in Plymouth's ownership. It was noted the Homeland Security Grant, which the Council approved a few months back, was for the Fiscal Year 2019.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, that the Town of Plymouth enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and further resolved, that David V. merchant, as Mayor of the Town of Plymouth, CT, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Plymouth, CT and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents. Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Daniel Gentile/yes; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes—Motion passed unanimously.

To discuss and take action on the Charter question for the upcoming November election as follows: Shall the changes to the Charter as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Town Council be adopted?

Mayor David Merchant stated Town Attorney Bill Hamzy and Attorney Mark Malley, along with the Charter Revision Commission, had put a lot of work into this document and now the question was up to the Town Council if it should go on the ballot at the November 2020 election and briefly elaborated.

Attorney Mark Malley stated Town Attorney Bill Hamzy had done an excellent job encapsulating the changes made.

Town Attorney Bill Hamzy stated Attorney Mark Malley and the Charter Revision Commissioners had also done a lot of work on the Charter changes.

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To discuss and take action on the Charter question Cont'd.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to table taking any action on the Charter question "Shall the changes to the Charter as recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Town Council be adopted?" for the upcoming November election.

Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Daniel Gentile/yes; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/no; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes—Motion passed 4:1.

Discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to sign the State of Connecticut OPM Neglected Cemeteries Account Grant Program Application

Mayor David Merchant stated this agenda item was for a \$2,000.00 Grant from the Office of Policy and Management, noting it would go towards neglected cemeteries in Town; i.e., burial grounds containing more than six places of intermittent or burial ground or cemetery that's not under the control and management of the currently functioning Cemetery Association; neglected cemeteries that have allowed weeds and briars to grow. He further stated the Town used the last Neglected Cemetery Grant it had received to repair the black fence at the cemetery located on Agney Avenue and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to authorize Mayor David V. Merchant to apply for and accept, on behalf of the Town of Plymouth, a grant from the Neglected Cemetery Account and to authorize Mayor V. Merchant to enter into it; execute any and all agreements, contracts, and documents necessary to obtain said Grant should the Town be selected for a grant award. Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes; motion passed unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Communications Commission voted to upgrade the Police radio to digital operation, though they did learn that the Police will no longer be able to communicate with the other Town Emergency Departments. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Communications Commission also voted to waive the penalty fees for false alarms during the pandemic.

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

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

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education has been very busy, noting they were having a few in-person meetings to replace the Superintendent who is moving down to Trumbull, CT. He further stated they were doing their due diligence. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he felt we would be seeing a good improvement in the management administrative side of the Board of Education.

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

Town Council Comments

Town Councilman Joe Green stated he had reached out to the First Selectman in Burlington to talk about Sustainable Connecticut, noting he had not heard back as yet but when he did he would pass the information along to the Town Council.

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Town Council Comments Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski regarding the partial closing down of Route 6 and what could the Mayor do to help support the businesses, Mayor David Merchant stated he would be communicating with Connecticut Water tomorrow and would have more answers at that time; and briefly elaborated.

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.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile if the Chief of Police had a say in closing down Route 6, Mayor David Merchant noted it was a State road and they would be installing water lines. Town Councilman Dan Gentile noted he had traveled on a lot of State highways and the paving work was being done at night.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he wanted to thank the Volunteer Fire Department, Tony Orsini and everyone that helped during the storm, noting they did an excellent job, noting this Town runs on volunteers.

Contract Discussion Executive Session

Mayor David Merchant stated this agenda item would be held in Public session, not Executive Session.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated there were a couple of typos in the Agreement and noted them as being as follows: on page two, under Insurance, the "captain/chief" wording should only be captain and under Termination, second paragraph, questioned if it were "30 or 60" days; a brief discussion followed.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Captain and the Town car usage, noting the Captain would be allowed to use the Town car as noted in the Agreement.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Mayor David Merchant stated we could put a 5-year evaluation in the Contract if we wanted to.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Mayor David Merchant stated all Contracts come before the Town Council.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to approve the Plymouth Police Department Employee Agreement between the Town of Plymouth and Edward Benecchi, for the Captain position with the following corrections: on page two, under Insurance, it would be disability insurance for the Captain, not the "Chief" as typed and under Termination, second paragraph, 30 days not "60" days as typed. Roll Call Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes; motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Patricia A. Hale, Recording Secretary