

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

January 5, 2016

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled January 5, 2016, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Plymouth Board of Education Business Manager Phillip Penn and Town Attorney William Hamzy.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Merchant stated the Tax Collector had requested the following tax refund for overpayment be added to this evening's agenda: Sonya Rebstad \$203.30. Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to adopt the January 5, 2016, Plymouth Town Council Agenda as amended. 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 Merchant stated, "May God Bless America and May God Bless the Town of Plymouth" for the record.

Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council Meeting Minutes December 1, 2015

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to accept the December 1, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Regular minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant provided a brief update on the following: 2014/2015 FY Audit; James Terry gravestone repair/citizen donation; Capital Improvements Committee's Bond Package; NVCOG Grants/Projects; Finalization of paperwork for the Bemis Street and Streetscape Projects; Town Hall Generator; ongoing Insurance Reimbursements from D. Bertnagel's embezzlement; the upcoming Budget process and the Monthly Financial Report.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, cited she had read that the Town was going for trash pick-up again. Mayor Merchant stated a discussion had taken place, however the Town was not currently going for it. Melanie Church stated the Mayor was adding another person to the Real Estate Committee and briefly elaborated on her statement. Mayor Merchant stated he wasn't adding another person to the current number, however Town Councilwoman Murawski had stepped down and Town Councilman Gentile would be replacing her. Citing the Director of Finance's volunteer hours, Melanie Church questioned when outstanding FOI's would be completed. Melanie Church stated she wanted to see the Plan of Development and briefly explained her statement.

Robert Ives, 282 Main Street, Terryville, stated that Terryville Chevrolet had purchased the old Terryville Trust building and was soliciting viable uses for the building from the public that would be beneficial to the Town of Plymouth and briefly elaborated.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Terryville, stated he was still waiting for FOI's to be answered and briefly elaborated.

Catherine Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated she felt the dollar amount to bond the Director of Finance position should be raised and briefly elaborated.

Discuss and take action to refund the following overpayment of Property Taxes: Toyota Motor Credit Corporation \$465.58, \$312.74; Daimler Trust \$1,507.01; Vault Trust \$422.04; Jacqueline or Gary Lancioni \$1,256.64; VW Credit Leasing LTD \$120.47; Stacey or Lucille Castonguay \$310.01; Berlinda Dipietro \$21.12; Sonya Rebstad \$203.30

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Toyota Motor Credit Corporation \$465.58, \$312.74; Daimler Trust \$1,507.01; Vault Trust \$422.04; Jacqueline or Gary Lancioni \$1,256.64; VW Credit Leasing LTD \$120.47; Stacey or Lucille Castonguay \$310.01; Berlinda Dipietro \$21.12.; and Sonya Rebstad \$203.30. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Appointments/Resignations: To appoint Heidi Caron to the Plymouth Housing Authority to fill a vacancy with a term expiring August 31, 2016; to reappoint Gerard Bourbonniere to the Parks and Recreation Commission; to reappoint Dennis Fowler to the Parks and Recreation Commission; to appoint Kerryanne Bamrick to the Parks and Recreation Commission; to appoint Daniel Gentile to the Real Estate Ad Hoc Committee

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to appoint Heidi Caron to the Plymouth Housing Authority with an ending term of August 31, 2016. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to reappoint Gerard Bourbonniere to the Parks and Recreation Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Dennis Fowler to the Parks and Recreation Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Kerryanne Bamrick to the Parks and Recreation Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to appoint Daniel Gentile to the Real Estate Ad Hoc Committee. This motion was approved unanimously.

To accept the resignation of Raymond Engle from the Plymouth Board of Education

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to accept the resignation of Raymond Engle from the Plymouth Board of Education.

Discussion:

Town Councilman Zagurski stated Raymond Engle had served the Board of Education for many years and that his resignation was accepted with regret.

Town Councilman Gentile stated Raymond Engle had done a great job on the Board. This motion was approved unanimously.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

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To appoint Gerard Bourbonniere to fill the two-year vacancy on the Board of Education

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Gerard Bourbonniere to fill the two-year vacancy on the Plymouth Board of Education. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on a Resolution to establish a Charter Revision Commission to review the Charter for internal inconsistencies and other changes deemed necessary by the Commission

Town Councilwoman Murawski read the Charter Revision Commission Resolution out loud for the public audience.

Melanie Church stated that she and a group of others were working on abolishing the Charter Revision and doing away with the Charter and go by State Statutes and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated she wanted to go for a Town Manager and briefly elaborated noted she had voted against it before.

John Murphy stated he would have liked to have seen advertising for members on the Charter Revision Commission. John Murphy stated he went to the FBI for shenanigans in Town last year and briefly elaborated.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated he supported establishing a Charter Revision Commission and briefly elaborated. Vinnie Klimas stated there would be stealing in any form of government and noted changing/revising the government would not change the problem and briefly elaborated.

Catherine Kosak stated she was in favor of a Charter Revision Commission and briefly elaborated. Catherine Kosak stated she'd like to see the Referendum questions separated and briefly elaborated.

Cathy Paskus, 4 Arrow Drive, Terryville, stated the search for Charter Revision Commission members had been advertised on the Town's Website and that was how she knew to apply.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to take action on a Resolution to establish a Charter Revision Commission to review the Charter for internal inconsistencies and other changes deemed necessary by the Commission.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Attorney Hamzy briefly explained the completion date and process chosen for the Charter Revision Commission.

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To discuss and take action on a Resolution to establish a Charter Revision Commission to review the Charter for internal inconsistencies and other changes deemed necessary by the Commission Cont'd.

Town Attorney Hamzy stated if the Commission needed more time and the Council agreed, the date could be extended and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile stated putting a deadline was great, noting it could always be extended.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

To appoint the following to the Charter Revision Commission: Peter A. Giancesini, Sr., Mark Malley, Peter Cook, Cathleen Paskus, Elizabeth Wollenberg, David J. Sekorski, Richard Foote

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint the following to the Charter Revision Commission: Peter A. Giancesini, Sr., Mark Malley, Peter Cook, Cathleen Paskus, Elizabeth Wollenberg, David J. Sekorski, and Richard Foote. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on the Council charge to the Charter Commission

Attorney Hamzy explained the charge and requirements of the Charter Commission in detail; a brief discussion followed.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated she had previously served on two Charter Revision Commissions, noting she wanted the proposals listed individually and briefly elaborated. Pattie DeHuff stated not everyone goes to the Town Website and the Charter Revision Commission advertisement could have gone to the newspapers and briefly elaborated. Pattie DeHuff stated she didn't know what the charge of the Commission was.

Robert Ives stated the advertisement was posted on the Town's Website, noting everyone had access to it and briefly elaborated. Robert Ives stated a Charter Revision Commission was a positive for the Town of Plymouth and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Council had strayed from its rules and requested the Council be allowed to go back to their discussion. He further stated Public Comment was done previously and the discussion was turning into a debate.

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To discuss and take action on the Council charge to the Charter Commission Cont'd.

Catherine Kosak stated she felt it was a short time to look at the necessary work of the Commission and noted she would like to see the Referendum for the Charter changes held on a Saturday and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Merchant stated the charges were a guideline for the Commission, and read the charges out loud for the public audience; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he would like to see the proposals listed individually and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Public Works Advisory Commission should also be listed as a charge to review, noting when it was established it was agreed changes needed to be made to the current Charter to give the Commission more powers.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated it had been brought up to her to have the Charter Revision Commission consider a bifurcation budget separating the Board of Education's budget from the Town's side and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile stated that when he was campaigning a lot of households had asked him to make all Council "at large" instead of having first and second districts and asked that this recommendation also be added to the Commission's charge. Town Councilman Gentile stated that Keith Golnik's recommendation to remove the Visiting Nurses Association from the Charter should also be considered. Town Councilman Gentile stated a Charter Revision Commission had been discussed during Mayor Merchant's two years in office and many years before and that everyone should have known about it by now.

Mayor Merchant stated these recommendations, and others, could be added later by the Commission itself and that for right now he wanted the Council to accept the charges as presented.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to approve the Council's charges to the Charter Commission as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on Leases of the Roof Tops of PCS Fisher Eli Terry School to E.J. Terry Solar 1 LLC

Mayor Merchant stated this item had already gone through the Board of Education and had received their approval, as well, noting now the Council needed to give its approval.

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Discuss and take action on Leases of the Roof Tops of PCS Fisher Eli Terry School to E.J. Terry Solar 1 LLC Cont'd.

Town Attorney Hamzy briefly discussed the process for the leases on the rooftops of the Plymouth Center School, Fisher School, and Eli Terry School, noting this was a formality that needed to be taken care of.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Attorney Hamzy explained the responsibility of maintaining the panels (including snow removal), noting this information was contained in the lease.

Phillip Penn, Business Manager, Plymouth Board of Education, briefly explained the routine process for removing snow from the school rooftops; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Attorney Hamzy explained the roof lease/permission process.

When questioned by John Murphy, Attorney Hamzy explained the revenue compensation for leasing the rooftops.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to approve the Leases for the roof tops of the Plymouth Center School, Fisher and Eli Terry Schools as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Gentile stated Parks and Recreation had begun Phase 2 (Hiking Trails) of the Plymouth reservoir recreation area and thanked Jerry Milne, Gary Delpha and Jim Klaneski for their assistance in creating the hiking trails. Town Councilman Gentile stated that Parks and Recreation Director Michael Ganem had been in meetings with Inland Wetlands and noted they had discussed short and long-term goals for Lake Winfield and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman Gentile stated that Parks and Recreation programs were underway, noting programs had been expanded this year. Town Councilman Gentile stated the department wanted to acknowledge the Board of Education for their invaluable cooperation for the Park and Recreation programs by allowing the schools to be utilized. He further stated the department wanted to thank the volunteer coaches, assistants and program coordinators for their help. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education had begun their budget process. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education had participated in an Incident Command Training program, which had been put together by Tony Orsini and created by FEMA and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman Gentile stated that the Student Council had assisted with blood drives on December 9th and 21st, noting there had been a record signup for the Student Council.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Gentile stated November 24th had been installation night for the LEO Club and they had installed 86 new members for a total of 154 LEO's. Town Councilman Gentile stated a motion had been made for an out of state field trip to New York City for the Eli Terry Middle School. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education had been reviewing and upgrading their bylaws. Town Councilman Gentile stated there had been changes made in prices of school breakfast to equalize the cost across the board. Town Councilman Gentile thanked students Joe Barlow and Joe Deutsch for volunteering their time to film the Town Council meetings. Town Councilman Gentile also thanked Lisa Aiudi, School to Career Coordinator, for organizing the two students to do the filming.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that Helen Nejfelt had resigned from the Plymouth Housing Authority. Town Councilman Pajeski stated Heidi Caron had been appointed to the Plymouth Housing Board, noting she was an outstanding member of the health community and worked with the State of Connecticut. Town Councilman Pajeski stated that Plymouth Housing member Vinnie Klimas had a lot of grant experience and would be working hard to assist the Housing Board. Town Councilman Pajeski stated the Police Department and the Communications Commission were making progress with the Town of Thomaston for better radio coverage for the Town and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had held a Public Hearing on gun range moratoriums and had voted to pass a six-month moratorium on Town gun ranges while they reviewed their regulations and made revisions. Town Councilman Zagurski stated a patron at the Terryville Library had a situation whereby she needed a changing station for her child and after discussing this with the Mayor, Charles Wiegert, Public Works Director, was working to resolve the situation.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated Charles Doback had resigned as Fire Marshal and that the Chief and the Commission had expressed their regrets and wished him luck. She further stated that the Fire Commission had appointed Ray Kovaleski as the Interim Fire Marshal. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated Heather Burns, Human Services Director, had reported 58 requests for the month of November, noting most of them had been for counseling, energy assistance and food. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Small Wonders Christmas Program had purchased toys for over 150 local children. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Police Commission members had noted overtime overage was expected and they believed the budget figure was too low. She further stated that at this time there were no plans to ask for a transfer or special appropriation. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated Ralph Zovich had been elected as the Chairman for the Board of Finance. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Board of Finance had reviewed their authority and responsibilities, as stated in the State Statutes and the Town Charter.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey noted the Public Works Advisory Commission had discussed the Charter Revision Commission providing them with more control, i.e. hiring in Town, etc. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Public Works Commission was very interested in having input with the Charter Revision Commission. She further stated they had discussed their concerns about line items taking monies out of Public Works, but were actually for the Police cars, gasoline, etc., noting they wanted separate line items designating these items. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the WPCA meeting had been cancelled. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she didn't get a chance to attend the PVAC meeting. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated Economic Development had discussed some properties they wanted to develop. She further stated they had met with NJR Construction who was thinking of relocating in the Industrial Park. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the deadline for the Streetscape Grant was January 15th and that bidding had started or was about to start. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated a new church, Thrivent Church, was moving from Thomaston to Terryville and would be located on Town Hill Road. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated Economic Development had discussed businesses moving to Main Street. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated it was exciting that Terryville Chevrolet had purchased the old Terryville Trust building and that discussion had taken place about having a Children's Museum at the location because the Library was nearby. She further stated that hopefully, surrounding towns would pay to visit the museum.

Council Comments

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she was excited about the Charter Revision Commission, noting she was very concerned with accountability within the Town and that she was elected to help out the Town. She further stated that it was all about everyone in the Town. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she likes the idea of a deadline for the Charter Revision Commission, noting meetings tend to get cancelled when there isn't a deadline. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated public comment was very important and that the people on the Charter Revision Council were all experienced with Town Boards, were very knowledgeable and were a good group of people.

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

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

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

Town Councilman Gentile stated he wanted to wish everyone a Happy New Year again. Town Councilman Gentile stated he would like to see Old and New Business added to the Council agendas in case the Council needed to bring something up.

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Council Comments Cont'd.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he would like a meeting with the Council and the Police Department to discuss Police Negotiations because he didn't know all the logistics, noting this would be a good thing.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.