

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Plymouth Town Council
Telephone: (860) 585-4001
Fax: (860) 585-4015

Minutes

August 2, 2016

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled August 2, 2016, 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 Ana LeGassey, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, and Town Councilman John Pajeski. Also present were Town Attorney William Hamzy, Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley and Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Zovich. Noting Town Councilman Zagurski had an excused absence; Mayor Merchant requested everyone keep Tom in their thoughts, as he would be going in for a heart procedure.

Adoption of the Agenda

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to adopt the August 2, 2016, Plymouth Town Council agenda as presented. 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, the deployed Troops around the world who are preserving and protecting the freedoms we have today, and the Town of Plymouth" for the record.

Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council July 5, 2016, Minutes

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to accept the Plymouth Town Council July 5, 2016, Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Two of Nine Pages**

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant briefly reviewed the Bemis Street Project, noting the work was on schedule; all reimbursements for the easement had been received, and briefly elaborated. Mayor Merchant stated CWPM had been awarded a new contract, noting Solid Waste costs the Town of Plymouth \$62.12 per ton and Recycling gives back \$9.05 per ton, stressing the financial importance of recycling. Mayor Merchant stated the Route 6 Streetscape Project had gone out to bid and the project should begin later this month. Mayor Merchant stated the Terryville Trust building had been taken down. Mayor Merchant stated paperwork was ongoing for tearing down 3 North Main Street, and hopefully that would be completed in the next couple of weeks. Mayor Merchant stated the 2015 Audit was moving forward, noting the Town was utilizing a CPA from the City of Bristol and he was most appreciative to Mayor Cockayne for allowing his employee to assist the Town of Plymouth. Mayor Merchant stated the Town was working its way through the OSHA Town-wide audit, noting he had not received the final report as yet. He further stated the Town's biggest issue was Hazard Compliance and that it was being updated with both MSD and training. Mayor Merchant stated the Town was in the process of hiring HazCompliance, LLC to assist with this process and briefly elaborated.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated the Housing Authority of the Town of Plymouth would be holding a Public Hearing on August 17, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., at Gosinski Park, to discuss purchasing the 2 Field Street property and major renovations. He further stated that the property would be purchased with private funds and/or State/Federal monies.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, thanked Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Zovich and the Acting Recording Secretary for forwarding her requested information from the July 21, 2016, Board of Finance meeting that she had been unable to attend. Pattie DeHuff questioned if the recordings from the Plymouth Town Council meetings could be uploaded to the Town's Website and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated she felt the monies being spent on the lower part of the Bemis Street Project were actually intended for the upper part of Bemis Street where flooding occurred and briefly elaborated.

Ralph Zovich, Chairman Board of Finance, stated the Board of Finance had discussion regarding the 2015/2016 fiscal year and noted there would be a \$300,000 to \$400,000 deficit and briefly elaborated. He further stated the Town needs to reconstruct its Oversight and Pension Board; detailed the Pension Retiree issue the Town was facing and the necessary follow through to rectify the situation.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Three of Nine Pages**

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Ralph Zovich stated Plymouth Tax Collector Joe Kilduff had done a fabulous job collecting current levy and delinquent taxes.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No Report.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: William Palomba \$466.76; Michael Northrop \$182.06; Joseph Tralong; \$140.05; Barbara Augustyn \$324.18; Lima Joao \$223.25; James Jarrett \$98.70; Paul Dombkowski \$108.06; Evelyn Burke \$177.94; Edwin Ives \$216.12; Eric and Jennifer Benson \$6,800.94 Paid but Escrowed

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: William Palomba \$466.76; Michael Northrop \$182.06; Joseph Tralong; \$140.05; Barbara Augustyn \$324.18; Lima Joao \$223.25; James Jarrett \$98.70; Paul Dombkowski \$108.06; Evelyn Burke \$177.94; Edwin Ives \$216.12; and Eric/Jennifer Benson \$6,800.94 Paid but Escrowed. This motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments/Resignations: To reappoint Gary J. Gallagher to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of 2/19/ 2019; to reappoint George Castle to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of 2/19/2019; to Charles E. Clark to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019; to reappoint William G. Kron to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019; to reappoint Zachary Lyga to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 02/19/2018; to reappoint Wayne Radke to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of 02/19/2018; to reappoint Martin Sandshaw to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019; to reappoint Barbara J. Watson to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappoint Gary J. Gallagher to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of 2/19/ 2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to reappoint George Castle to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of 2/19/2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Four of Nine Pages**

Appointments/Resignations Cont'd.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappoint Charles E. Clark to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to reappoint William G. Kron to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to reappoint Zachary Lyga to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 02/19/2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to reappoint Wayne Radke to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of 02/19/2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to reappoint Martin Sandshaw to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappoint Barbara J. Watson to the Zoning Board of Appeals with an ending term of 2/19/2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation of revised Bond Proposal by Capital Improvements Committee

Capital Improvements Committee Chairman Joseph Green stated since the last Town Meeting the Capital Improvements Committee had discussed and reviewed the original Bond Proposal and had made two significant changes. He further stated the Committee had removed the two Bridge Projects and the Allentown Road Project, noting the Allentown Road Project had been put into the Town Budget. Capital Improvements Committee Chairman Joseph Green stated per the Public's request, the Committee was also separating the Bonding Proposal Projects separately as follows: Road Improvements; Todd Hollow Road, Lake Plymouth area roads, Engineering for a portion of Harwinton Avenue from Seymour Road to Shroback Road (Phase I); Eli Terry School Rear Access and the Town Hall Improvements Front Parking Lot/Sidewalk Repairs.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Capital Improvements Committee Chairman Joseph Green stated the Public would be voting on each Bonding Proposal question separately.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Five of Nine Pages**

Presentation of revised Bond Proposal by Capital Improvements Committee Cont'd.

Town Councilman Gentile stated all of the Town schools have a dual fuel system allowing the system to use natural gas or oil, which is a huge financial savings and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman Gentile requested the Capital Improvements Committee permit him to come before them and give a presentation on the dual fuel system.

Mayor Merchant stated Town Councilman Gentile should meet with the Director of Public Works, Charles Wiegert, to look into the dual fuel system further.

Town Councilman Gentile stated his only reason for being persistent about the dual fuel system was because of the savings and for the betterment of the Town.

Discuss and take action to approve Bond Proposal as presented

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to approve the Bond Proposal as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Set date for Public Hearing for Bond Proposal presentation to Public on Wednesday, August 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Mayor Merchant stated Town Councilman Zagurski had requested the Bond Proposal Public Hearing not be held during the Terryville Fair week.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to schedule the Bond Proposal presentation Public Hearing on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, at 6:30 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation of Draft Report by Charter Revision Commission

Mayor Merchant thanked the Charter Revision Commission members for their hard work, noting they did not have an easy task and briefly elaborated.

Mark Malley, Chairman, Charter Revision Commission, stated he had submitted a letter to the Mayor and Town Council outlining the recommended changes to the Town Charter by the Charter Revision Commission members and reviewed each change briefly.

Mayor Merchant briefly reviewed the chronological order for the Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing, noting we would be holding it in conjunction with the Bond Proposal Public Hearing and briefly elaborated.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Six of Nine Pages**

Presentation of Draft Report by Charter Revision Commission Cont'd.

Town Attorney Hamzy stated the Town had until September 16, 2016, to have the questions ready for the Town Clerk's office for the ballot. Town Attorney Hamzy stated after the Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing if the Council wanted to make changes it could make recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission and the Charter Revision Commission could approve or reject the recommendations. He further stated the Council would vote on the Charter Revision Commission's final report and that at the end of the day it would be the Council who decides on the changes that will be put forth to the voters.

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley noted the Charter Revision Commission would not have to act on any of the items if the Council chose not to make any changes.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the Charter Revision Commission's Report as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she also wanted to thank the Charter Revision Commission members for their hard work.

Set Public Hearing immediately following Bond Proposal Public Hearing on August 24th

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to set the Charter Revision Commission Public Hearing immediately following the Bond Public Hearing on August 30, 2016. This motion was approved unanimously.

Motion to un-table, discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Assistance Agreement by and between the State of Connecticut, acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Town of Plymouth, to receive a Municipal Brownsfield Grant in the amount of \$60,000

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to remove from table, discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Assistance Agreement by and between the State of Connecticut, acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Town of Plymouth, to receive a Municipal Brownsfield Grant in the amount of \$60,000. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Assistance Agreement by and between the State of Connecticut, acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Town of Plymouth, to receive a Municipal Brownsfield Grant in the amount of \$60,000.

Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Seven of Nine Pages

Motion to un-table, discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Assistance Agreement by and between the State of Connecticut, acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Town of Plymouth, to receive a Municipal Brownsfield Grant in the amount of \$60,000 Cont'd.

Discussion:

Mayor Merchant stated this grant money would be put toward the assessment for the remediation for the Mayfair Garage property.

Town Councilman Gentile questioned the wording in the Assistance Agreement Application on page two, 1-1, asking specifically what would happen if the Town went over the funding amount of \$60,000.

Town Attorney Hamzy stated the \$60,000 was the amount the State was granting to the Town and if the Town were to exceed it then it would come out of the Town's pocket and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Merchant stated the Town would get a price up front and if the quote were for \$70,000 the Town wouldn't go with that particular environmental firm; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Attorney Hamzy stated the language 'Commissioner's proposal' (in the same section) was referring to the application the Town made to DECD for the \$60,000 grant and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Attorney Hamzy stated there were still monies remaining in the Brownsfield fund.

Referring to page 11, 3.9d, Town Councilwoman LeGassey questioned if there were any other liens on this property, work done on it, etc.

Town Attorney Hamzy stated the Town took the property by foreclosure and the real estate taxes run prior to any other liens.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Town Attorney Hamzy stated the enforcement orders placed on the property by DEEP do survive and briefly elaborated.

Referencing page four, Town Councilman Gentile questioned what the "additional cost" language meant.

Attorney Hamzy stated if the Town wanted to do an assessment for \$80,000 then the State would pay \$60,000 and the Town would pay \$20,000.

Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Eight of Nine Pages

Motion to un-table, discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to enter into an Assistance Agreement by and between the State of Connecticut, acting by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) and the Town of Plymouth, to receive a Municipal Brownsfield Grant in the amount of \$60,000 Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Mayor Merchant stated if the property is contaminated then the Town would apply for Brownsfield money; noting the \$60,000 being discussed was only for the assessment.

Town Councilman Gentile questioned if the Town told an interested buyer what was found on the property could the Town sell the property "as is".

Town Attorney Hamzy stated the answer to Town Councilman Gentile's question was yes.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Economic Development Commission, the WPCA and the Public Works meetings had been cancelled. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated due to potential hazardous conditions, the PVAC had trimmed some low hanging trees on their property and the PVAC Explorers had assisted in cleanup. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC was working on their high electric bill and ways to control it better. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she hadn't received word as yet on how the Explorers West Virginia trip turned out. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC had discussed and given out scholarships. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC had begun EMR classes with the Explorers, noting the youth were very eager to learn. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated there was always room for people to join the PVAC and any of the Town's Boards and Commissions, noting it was good to get involved.

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

Town Councilman Pajeski stated there were a couple units still available for rent at Gosinski Park. Town Councilman Pajeski stated the Gosinski Park Fourth of July Picnic went very well.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education had hired Jennifer Parsons as the new Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
August 2, 2016
Page Nine of Nine Pages**

Town Council Comments

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Charter Revision Commission had done an excellent job, and had been very diligent in their research. Town Councilman Gentile thanked the Charter Revisions Commission members for their time, noting he had enjoyed attending their meetings. He further stated he wanted to thank all the volunteers that serve the Town of Plymouth.

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

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

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she too wanted to thank all the Town of Plymouth volunteers.

Executive Session for Contract Negotiations

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to move into Executive Session at 7: 58 p.m., to discuss Contract Negotiations. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were Town Councilman Gentile, Town Attorney Hamzy, Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, and Town Councilman John Pajeski.

Mayor Merchant called the Plymouth Town Council back into Regular Session at 8:19 p.m.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to approve the Agreement between the Town of Plymouth and the Plymouth Secretarial, Clerical, Custodial Employees and Dispatchers and the United Public Service Employees Union effective June 30, 2016 through June 30, 2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.