

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

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

**Minutes**

**May 4, 2016**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled May 4, 2016, Plymouth Town Council Special 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, Town Councilman John Pajeski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Real Estate Committee Member Michael Ganem, Town Attorney William Hamzy, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault, and Public Works Director Charles Wiegert.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski to adopt the 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 and May God Bless the Town of Plymouth" for the record.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Merchant stated Richards Corporation was the low bidder for the Bemis Street Project and briefly elaborated. Mayor Merchant stated waterline work would begin on Route 6 on Sunday night, May 8<sup>th</sup>, noting most of the work would be done at night, but would cause traffic snarls. Mayor Merchant stated the Safe Routes to School Project was working its way down Maple Street, Eli Terry to Hillside Avenue had been completed and the remaining work should be finished in the near future. Mayor Merchant stated the Route 6 Streetscape Project would go out to bid later this month and hopefully work would begin in June.

**Public Comment**

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated she was concerned with the agenda noting she wanted input throughout the meeting. Melanie Church stated anything not in the Budget was a Special Appropriation, distributed copies of her paperwork and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated the money from BRRFOC should go into a revenue line item and requested the Council not vote on it and briefly elaborated.

**Appointments/Resignations: To reappoint Lani Johnson to the Capital Improvements Committee with a term ending date February 2019; to reappoint Joe Green to the Capital Improvements Committee with a term ending date February 2019**

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Lani Johnson to the Capital Improvements Committee with a term ending date February 2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to reappoint Joe Green to the Capital Improvements Committee with a term ending date February 2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes: Marcus Mack \$99.20; Corelogic \$212.58, Michael Bertrand \$89.28**

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes: Marcus Mack \$99.20; Corelogic \$212.58 and Michael Bertrand \$89.28. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault reviewed the Town of Plymouth General Fund Revenue/Expenditures Summary Year to Date report as of 4/30/2016 in detail and at length.

When questioned by Town Council Zagurski regarding the huge jump in Legal Fees from last month's, Ann Marie Rheault stated when legal fee bills were received they weren't always for the current month. Ann Marie Rheault stated there was a spending freeze in place and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski regarding what went into Central Office, and noting it was \$51,000 over, Ann Marie Rheault stated \$50,000 was Tech Support of the expenses (not overage), office supplies, postage, noting the biggest driver of the overage was the Technology Upgrade line item. She further stated that would be swept out and moved into Capital Projects at the end of the year.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile regarding how many different Attorneys the Town employs, Ann Marie Rheault stated the Town has a Town Attorney, a Labor Attorney, an Attorney for Foreclosure Legal expenses, Foreclosure Clean-up expenses and Grievance Resolutions/Labor Attorney, and briefly elaborated on the Worker's Comp and Insurance portion.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski if the Council could begin seeing reports for the other funds, Ann Marie Rheault stated that wouldn't be possible on a monthly basis because a lot of the funds are only adjusted annually. She further stated there would not be a running balance because some of the items only get moved once a year at year-end. Ann Marie Rheault stated the Police Officer Extra Duty Fund also wasn't adjusted until the end of the year and briefly explained how the Extra Duty Fund was paid out.

**Discuss and take action to deposit \$128,000 into the newly created Blight Fund which was received from the BRRFOC Unassigned Fund Balance resulting from the winding down of its Operations**

Mayor Merchant stated the Blight Fund had been established by the Council a couple of weeks past at a Council meeting, noting the money was being deposited into this account and then when the money came out of the account it would come back to the Council to be appropriated to take care of blight.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Mayor Merchant stated this would be a recommendation to the Board of Finance.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile for clarification, Ann Marie Rheault stated this money was received from the disbanded BRRFOC's Unassigned Fund Balance resulting from the winding down of their operations and distributed to its members.

Town Councilman Gentile stated hundreds of complaints had come to the Town to tear down the burned out house on North Main Street, but the Town did not have a fund to take care of the issue. He further stated this would be the Blight Fund and that it would go through the Board of

Finance and when the money was taken out it would be as a Special Appropriation and this follows the Charter.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Attorney Hamzy stated if the Town was to spend over \$50,000 from the Blight Fund, the Appropriation would have to go to a Town Meeting.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Town Auditor had recommended handling the Blight Fund money in this manner.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to recommend to the Board of Finance to deposit \$128,000 into the newly created Blight Fund, which was received from the BRRFOC Unassigned Fund Balance resulting from the winding down of its Operations. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action to on a recommendation to the Board of Finance to establish a separate Capital Projects Fund to be utilized solely for the reconstruction of Bemis Street**

Mayor Merchant stated the Town would be paid in advance for the Bemis Street Project by the State and the money would be put into a separate Capital Projects Fund and be kept separate from the General Fund. He further stated the money would be used strictly for the Bemis Street Project and if there were anything leftover it would go back to the State of Connecticut.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to recommend to the Board of Finance to establish a separate Capital Projects Fund to be utilized solely for the reconstruction of Bemis Street. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action to accept funds in the amount of \$2,341,731.50 from the State of Connecticut to be deposited directly into a separate Capital Projects Fund for the restricted use for the reconstruction of Bemis Street**

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Mayor Merchant stated this agenda item would also be a recommendation to the Board of Finance.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to recommend to the Board of Finance to accept funds in the amount of \$2,341,731.50 from the State of Connecticut to be deposited directly into a separate Capital Projects Fund for the restricted use for the reconstruction of Bemis Street.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Merchant stated the bid came in at approximately \$1.7 with a 10% contingency and 10% incidentals, which was primarily for the Project Manager.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Merchant stated the price of the property (\$150,000) the Town purchased on Bemis Street was included in this figure and was part of the right of way and easements.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Merchant stated no Town of Plymouth taxpayer money was being spent on this project; it was strictly funded by the State of Connecticut.

Town Councilman Gentile stated to clarify, the Town was getting the check for \$2,341,731.50 and the amount included the purchase price of \$150,000 for the Bemis Street property and was 100% reimbursed by the State of Connecticut.

Mayor Merchant stated that was a correct statement and the Town should be receiving the check at the end of this week or early next week.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Ann Marie Rheault stated a check would be written for the \$150,000 property out of the separate Capital Projects Fund.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she wanted to thank Mayor Merchant for all of his work to get the money and that it shows when the Town has shovel-ready projects it gets the Town's share of State money back.

Mayor Merchant stated this project was done through the last Bond Package and that was why the Town was able to secure the money. He further stated it does show having design work done is extremely important.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action to accept \$35,052.00 from CT Water as payment in lieu of paving Woodside Lane and Wall Street to be deposited into the Capital Projects Fund recorded to the Town Aid Line Item**

Mayor Merchant stated the Council had received correspondence from Connecticut Water regarding this project. He further stated the money would end up going to Town Aid for any roads that the Town decided to use it for, and noted the Town would be able to do more with the money than just pave the roads listed.

Town Councilman Zagurski questioned how the Town would know the \$35,052.00 from Connecticut Water would cover everything they do.

Charles Wiegert stated Connecticut Water Company went out to bid for their project (just like the Town does) and that amount was what Connecticut Water Company would pay their contractor to mill and pave one half of the roads where they would be putting in the water main. He further stated what Connecticut Water Company typically does with other municipalities is offer them what it would cost them to pave and mill one half of the road above the water trench and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Zagurski questioned if Connecticut Water would be responsible for the trenching. Noting he had read the Connecticut Water Company letter, he further questioned if it were to sink/settle would Connecticut Water Company come out and fix the work.

Charles Wiegert stated Connecticut Water Company would come out and fix any problems, noting they had a permit with the Town and the Town had a two-year bond with Connecticut Water Company ensuring that if anything happened they would be responsible or the Town would pull the Bond to fix it.

Charles Wiegert stated they were talking about including Burnham Street and some other roads later this year or next and hopefully, the Town could do this again, get more money in and more roads done.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Charles Wiegert stated Connecticut Water Company would go through and replace the water main and patch the trench as they go and when they were almost completed they would have a contractor come in and mill half the road above the trench and pave from curb to centerline.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept \$35,052.00 from CT Water as payment in lieu of paving Woodside Lane and Wall Street, to be deposited into the Capital Projects Fund and recorded to the Town Aid Line Item. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Town Council Liaison Reports**

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Public Works Advisory Committee meeting had been cancelled. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she had missed the Economic Development Commission and had gone to the PVAC meeting instead.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Explorers had joined the Town of Winsted and had been able to go to New York to see the Bodies Revealed and the World Trade Center. She further stated because they were so motivated and had done fundraising they only had to pay

\$20.00 each for the trip. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she was very proud of the Explorers. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Explorers would be participating in the Town's Safety Day on May 15<sup>th</sup>, along with the PVAC and the Fire Department. She further stated the Lion's Club would be helping the Explorers out by cooking hotdogs and hamburgers, noting it would be a big event. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the WPCA had finished their major project and were in the process of repaying it back. She further stated they were evaluating their operations and trying to save money with new lighting and were talking with other towns for best pricing. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated they were also working on their valves, their insurance and their budget.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated Human Services Commission had discussion regarding the Human Services Director spending a day at Gosinski Park and a day at Eli Terry every month, noting it was subject to approval by the Mayor who is her Supervisor. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated starting this month Connecticut Food Share would be dropping off 25 boxes to the Town. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Communications Commission was requesting proposals for Service Contracts from Marcus Communications, Northeastern and other companies for the Towers.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated Planning and Zoning was holding Public Hearings on Gun Ranges and they were trying to develop new regulations, noting anyone who has input should try to attend their meetings.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated he was deferring his comments regarding Gosinski Park to Plymouth Housing Authority Board Member Heidi Caron because he had been out of the country. Heidi Caron stated the four units that were being renovated would be completed next week and they would be ready to be rented. Heidi Caron stated the residents were very happy about the renovations and some of the things they were doing over there. She further stated they would be having a big clean-up day with dumpsters for the residents and that some of the High School youth would be assisting. Heidi Caron stated that pizza and soda would be provided for everyone. She further stated Lisa Phillimore/Plymouth Connection and the newspapers would be taking pictures of this Community project. Heidi Caron stated the Beautification Committee would be providing large planters for the Park and would also be replacing some of the benches in the park, noting walking was difficult for some of the residents and the benches really assisted them. Heidi Caron stated the residents were very happy with the progress being made at the Park.

Mayor Merchant stated the Plymouth Housing Authority was doing a fantastic job and the improvements at the Park were tremendous.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he wanted to thank the Capital Improvements Committee, the Charter Revision Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Real Estate Committee and the Board of Education for their hard work. He further stated he also wanted to thank all the Town volunteers on all the Boards, Committees and Commissions, noting there was a lot of misinformation about the volunteer who work on the Boards, Committees, and Commissions. Town Councilman Gentile stated these volunteers work hard, and sometimes like the Capital Improvements Committee, they work on their projects for years. Town Councilman Gentile stated he had been a volunteer on the Board of Education for many years and they were a great Board and always had the student's best interest in mind. Town Councilman Gentile stated they all worked a lot of hours with no pay. Town Councilman Gentile stated most people don't understand the time that goes into being a Town Board, Committee, and Commission volunteer. He further stated the Capital Improvements Committee members have to research their information, be diligent, and bring their information to the Board of Finance and the Council and that some of it even has to go through Attorneys. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Charter Revision Commission was also trying to make this Town better; they're moving forward with a lot of charges, which the Council had given them. Town Councilman Gentile stated Michael Ganem, his team and the volunteers for the Parks and Recreation Commission work hard and everyone should drive by Lake Winfield, noting it was gorgeous. Town Councilman Gentile stated everyone should open his or her eyes, take a look around and don't always be negative-be positive. He further stated if anyone sees a Town Volunteer in Town they should thank them. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Real Estate Committee was doing well and had some items coming before the Town Council and hopefully some properties would be sold. Town

Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education was still working on their policies. Town Councilman stated Sandy Parks received the Para-Educator of the year award.

### **Town Council Comments**

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated with everything going on with the budgets and bonding, no one was thinking more about spending money than herself, but the Town needed infrastructure and development and the only way people would come into Town was if the Town looked decent and briefly elaborated. She further stated the revaluation was coming up and if all the houses go down in value the mill rate would go up.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated everyone wanted to be on a budget-that was good, but money has to be spent to keep the Town looking good and we need to think about this. She further stated that she hoped her words would be beneficial.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the car tax was at 32 mills and next year it would be capped at 29 mills, noting it had to be made up somewhere; we still have to pay the Police Department, we still have to have the schools and we have to get a mind set to be on a budget.

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

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

Town Councilman Pajeski stated he was glad the Town finally has the money now to clean up the North Main Street property with the blue burned-out house, making the whole downtown look terrible. Town Councilman Pajeski thanked Mayor Merchant for making it happen.

Town Councilman Gentile stated that Naugatuck had a problem with their sewerage six years ago and wanted to go out for bonding for \$8 to \$9 million dollars, but didn't. He further stated the price had since risen to \$66 million dollars and they have no choice now and have to fix it. Town Councilman Gentile stated we need to be mindful and get the right information, don't always believe what you read, and requested people check with him first if they're unsure. He further stated it bothered him how someone can make something up and it spreads like wildfire.

### **Executive Session to discuss Real Estate Negotiations, Contract Negotiations and Pending Litigation**

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to move into Executive Session at 7:51 p.m., to discuss Real Estate Negotiations, Contract Negotiations and Pending Litigation. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were Real Estate Committee Member Michael Ganem, Town Councilman Gentile, Town Attorney Hamzy, Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman Pajeski, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault and Town Councilman Zagurski.

Mayor Merchant called the Plymouth Town Council meeting back into the Regular session at 9:30 p.m.

### **Action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session**

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to approve the Separation Agreement and General Release of all Claims by and between the Town of Plymouth, Carlos Gomes, and AFSCME Council 4 Local 1303-93. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to settle the case of Town of Plymouth verses Jasper in the amount of \$6,000.00. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to approve the Town of Plymouth Police Negotiations Settlement offer dated April 18, 2016. This motion was approved unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to adjourn at 9:32 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale  
Recording Secretary