

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

November 18, 2013

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled November 18, 2013, Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman William Heering, Town Councilwoman Susan Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, Town Councilman Gary Wyszynski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance was Director of Finance David Bertnagel.

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.

Council Rules and Procedures

Mayor Merchant stated that he would try to make the Council Meetings as quick and as efficient as possible. Mayor Merchant stated that he had read through the Council Rules and Procedures and quoted a portion from the Privilege of the Floor for the Public audience. Mayor Merchant stated that when the Council got to an Agenda item the Public would be given the opportunity to make a comment, relative to that particular agenda item, and that when the Public was finished with their comment(s) the item would be for Council only at that point.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated that she went to a Capital Improvements Committee Special Meeting last Thursday, noting that she had been concerned that bills were being paid, and that the Capital Improvements Committee was an Ad Hoc Committee.

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Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Melanie Church stated that no Council Member oversees the Committee and the Committee never brings the bills forward for Council approval. She further stated that Anthony Lorenzetti distributed a bid at the meeting and that on Page 5 it talked about Public Work's overseeing the building addition, noting that the Charter did say that they were in charge of buildings, but not all of this construction. Melanie Church stated that on Page 6 of the bid it said they would be putting in the floorings and footings and she was concerned about the work being done substandard and the Town's liability. Melanie Church stated that she called 15 Connecticut communities and none of them do what the Town of Plymouth does up at Wolcott Sand and Gravel, expressed concern about the money spent up there on Town employees, noting that these types of companies were closing up and were no longer profitable. Melanie Church stated that the Town had two Flagging Companies and noted that neither company had been asked to work on any recent Town projects.

Michael Kennedy, 11 Overlook Terrace Road, Terryville, congratulated everyone on their election victory. Michael Kennedy stated that the Council Members had taken an election oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Connecticut and he would be holding everyone to that oath. He further stated that the Council makes decisions on the taxpayer's money and he had noticed that the local and State Governments ride the coattails of the Federal Government, who puts taxpayers in debt. Michael Kennedy stated that ultimately, this debt enslaves the taxpayers' and requested that the Council keeps the taxpayers in the forefront of their minds when they spend the taxpayer's money.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant stated that he had attended Reach for the Stars Dance Academy's Groundbreaking Ceremony in the Industrial Park, noting that he was very impressed by the owner, Mary Marrone. Mayor Merchant cited the owner's past achievements and noted that they were building a new 7,000 square-foot facility in the Park. He further stated that the owner was a wonderful person with a great operation and that the Town was very lucky to have her business in it.

Mayor Merchant stated that changing the Industrial Park's Covenants to allow other businesses into the Park was a huge asset to the Community.

Mayor Merchant stated that he had also visited Nutmeg Spice, after the ceremony, and that this business was another operation in the Industrial Park that the Town should be proud of.

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Mayor's Report Cont'd.

He further stated that Nutmeg Spice employed 35 Plymouth residents and that this was the type of business that was needed in the park. Mayor Merchant stated that it was a very enlightening day for him.

Mayor Merchant stated that he has begun meeting with the different departments and that he ideas, which would be implemented one at a time.

Discuss and take Action, as may be Necessary, on 2014 Plymouth Town Council Calendar Meeting Dates

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to accept the proposed Town Council 2014 Calendar Meeting Dates, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take Action, as may be Necessary, on 2013/2014 Plymouth Town Council Liaison Appointments

Mayor Merchant stated that he had done his best to assign the Liaison positions as requested by the Council members, noting that the first name shown on the Plymouth Town Council Liaison Appointment sheet was the Liaison and that the second name was the backup Liaison person.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Capital Improvements Committee did not have a Liaison because he was unsure what would be done with this Committee in the future.

Mayor Merchant stated that the Municipal Facilities Committee would be combined with the Public Works Advisory Commission and then Public Works would be readdressed.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to approve the 2013/2014 Plymouth Town Council Liaison Appointments, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski, as requested by Cathy Kosak (Public Audience), read the Town Council Liaison Appointments out loud for the Public Audience.

To Refund the Following Property Taxes: Robert or Jodi Dunikowski \$1,135.03; Honda Lease Trust \$32.87; Honda Lease Trust \$85.08; Hyundai Lease Titling TR \$510.13; Toyota Motor Credit Corp. \$57.89; James or Marjorie Wilson \$59.49; Duane Scoville \$90.40

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Refund Property Taxes Cont'd.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Robert or Jodi Dunikowski \$1,135.03; Honda Lease Trust \$32.87; Honda Lease Trust \$85.08; Hyundai Lease Titling TR \$510.13; Toyota Motor Credit Corp. \$57.89; and James or Marjorie Wilson \$59.49; and Duane Scoville \$90.40. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take Action, as may be Necessary, on Appointments/Resignations:
Resignation from James Benway/Regular Member-Planning and Zoning
Commission, Resignation from Emma Jensen/Alternate Member-Planning and
Zoning Commission**

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Wyszynski, to accept the resignations of James Benway and Emma Jensen, with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take Action, as may be Necessary, on Homeland Security Grant
Resolution**

David Bertnagel, Director of Finance, congratulated that Town Council on their election.

David Bertnagel provided background information on the Homeland Security Grant Resolution, noting that the Town has received money from this Grant since the 911 tragedy. He further stated that the Region 5 Grants were allocated from the Federal Government and trickled through the regions, noting that the amounts were based upon population. David Bertnagel stated that the Public Works Director and the Emergency Management Director attended quarterly meetings and that in the past, the Town had been able to receive Fire House Light Towers, Generators, Fire Trucks, Training for Firemen, Policemen, Emergency Personnel, etc. He further stated that the Town was under no commitment to replace the equipment. David Bertnagel stated that the previous Town Council had approved the Grant, however because of the name change in the newly elected Mayor the Grant needed to be submitted again.

When questioned by Town Councilman Wyszynski, David Bertnagel stated that the Town would be considered the Custodian of the equipment and would be responsible to insure it. He further stated it would include the upkeep and maintenance and that it was included in the Town's annual Operating Budget, i.e. the generator at the Fall Mountain Fire House line item. David Bertnagel further stated that the maintenance was done through an outside source that would test the equipment to ensure it was up and running properly.

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Discuss and take Action, as may be Necessary, on Homeland Security Grant Resolution Cont'd.

David Bertnagel stated that the Grant gave Homeland Security the right to distribute and place materials strategically throughout the entire country and that the accepting town would have to house it, noting that the towns do not always have a choice.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, David Bertnagel stated that the maintenance and the upkeep came from the Grant money and that it depended on the specific equipment. He further stated that the Town would not be required to replace food commodities, for example, but that if it was a piece of equipment solely for our Town then we would be responsible to maintain it. David Bertnagel stated that most of what comes from the Grant is for the benefit of the entire Region and if Plymouth had a piece of equipment we would be obligated to share it with others towns that might want to use it, as well.

When questioned by Town Councilman Heering, David Bertnagel stated that the Fire Department, for example, would be responsible to send the equipment to another town, noting that the Town was very fortunate to have a Volunteer Fire Department.

Citing Section 2., C., 4, letters A through K, Town Councilman Heering questioned if the wording meant that Plymouth was essentially on the hook for anything monetary that would be required in this section.

David Bertnagel stated that if the Town were to receive a specific item, itself, then the Town would be obligated for whatever period of time was delegated.

Citing Section 2., C., 2j., Town Councilman Wyszynski questioned if the funding would cover whatever the Town had received, as noted in this particular section.

David Bertnagel stated it would be the Town's choice to keep the equipment at that point in time or not to keep it.

Melanie Church stated that she believed the Town bought for the Police Department from the Homeland Security money some computers that were supposed to go into the Police cruisers, which were probably outdated and were still not in use.

Town Councilwoman Murawski read the Homeland Security Grant Resolution out loud for the Public audience.

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Discuss and take Action, as may be Necessary, on Homeland Security Grant Resolution Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the Homeland Security Grant Resolution, as presented.

Vote: Town Councilman Heering/no; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Wyszynski/no; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes; motion passed with three (3) yes and two (2) no votes.

Council Comments

Town Councilman Heering stated that he wanted to thank the people of Plymouth for putting him in a Council seat, noting that it was an honor to be here and to be chosen. He further stated that he hoped he lived up to everyone's expectations to fulfill his oath.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary