

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

June 2, 2015

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled June 2, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman William Heering, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Town of Plymouth Special Planner David Elder, Director of Parks and Recreation Michael Ganem, Town Attorney William Hamzy, Chairman Planning and Zoning Commission Carl Johnson and Director of Planning and Zoning Margus Laan.

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 the Town of Plymouth and May God Bless the United States of America" for the record.

Council Rules and Procedures

Mayor Merchant stated he wanted to remove Agenda Items 13 and 14. Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to remove Agenda Items 13 and 14. This motion was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council Special Joint Meeting Minutes April 23, 2015, Special Meeting Minutes April 28, 2015, Regular Meeting Minutes May 5, 2015, Special Joint Meeting Minutes May 12, 2015

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the April 23, 2105, Plymouth Town Council Special Joint Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
June 2, 2015
Page Two of Seven Pages**

Acceptance of Minutes Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the April 28, 2015, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Heering/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the May 5, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to accept the May 12, 2015, Special Joint Meeting Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant gave his Mayor's Report.

Public Comments on non-agenda items

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, read a statement, distributed copies to the Council of Mayor Merchant's Facebook page regarding the budget process and the manner in which the Charter addressed it. Pattie DeHuff briefly explained her reasoning.

Peter Cook, 11 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated the manner in which the Charter addressed the Budget did not give the Council line item control because that belonged to the Board of Finance and briefly explained his reasoning.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated she had been a member of a past Charter Revision Commission and the Commission's intent regarding the Budget and failure of a Referendum was to give it to the Council for adjustments and explained her reasoning.

Debby Raboin, Gosinski Park, Terryville, stated she was presenting a petition for the removal of all the current members on the Plymouth Housing Authority Board and briefly explained her reasoning.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated there was a bid on the Charles Street Project and noted there hadn't been a Public Hearing and briefly discussed the project. Melanie Church stated the Public had a right to read the Forensic Investigation Report and briefly explained her reasoning.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
June 2, 2015
Page Three of Seven Pages**

Public Comment Cont'd.

Melanie Church stated complaints could be submitted to the PWAC, noting they were an Ad Hoc Commission and briefly explained her reasoning. Melanie Church stated the former Charter Revision Commission's intent had been for full adjustments on everything.

Crystal Doyle, Gosinski Park, Terryville, distributed copies of a recall petition for the removal of the resident Commissioner on the Plymouth Housing Authority Board.

Melanie Church questioned if the Town had applied the LoCIP reimbursement money.

Debby Raboin questioned how to get a copy of the Grievance Policy of the Housing Authority, noting page three had been missing. Mayor Merchant stated this would be looked into.

Appointments/Resignations: To appoint Vincent Klimas to the Plymouth Housing Authority Board

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to appoint Vincent Klimas to the Plymouth Housing Authority Board with a term expiring August 31, 2016.

Discussion

Attorney Hamzy noted the expiration year for Vincent Klimas' term should be 2018.

Town Councilwoman Murawski amended her motion to reflect this year change.

Vote

Town Councilman Heering seconded the amendment. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action to refund the following Property Taxes: Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. \$1,062.30; CoreLogic \$1,777.35; Ryszar or Maria Palamar \$111.00; Toyota Motor Cor. \$438.35; Jerry Fedorovich \$35.16; Paul or Constance Kapralos \$307.38

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Ryder Truck Rental, Inc. \$1,062.30; CoreLogic \$1,777.35; Ryszar or Maria Palamar \$111.00; Toyota Motor Cor. \$438.35; Jerry Fedorovich \$35.16; and Paul or Constance Kapralos \$307.38. This motion was approved unanimously.

To untable the discussion and endorsement of Year 2015 Plan of Conservation Development for the Town of Plymouth

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
June 2, 2015
Page Four of Seven Pages**

To untable the discussion and endorsement of Year 2015 Plan of Conservation Development for the Town of Plymouth Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to untable the discussion and endorsement of Year 2015 Plan of Conservation Development for the Town of Plymouth. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Heering stated he had sat down with Margus Laan and David Elder and spent a couple of hours discussing the Conservation Plan; a lengthy discussion followed.

Town Councilman Heering read his disclaimer as follows: While the State and Federal standards, policies, guidelines are available to the Town, decision making should remain at the municipal level and allow local decision to drive specifics on any proposal. David Elder stated that the disclaimer would be included in the Plan, but may not be the exact wording.

Town Councilman Heering stated this would allow the Town to maintain as much authority as possible.

David Elder stated that all of the questions, comments and changes would be incorporated in the Plan prior to adoption by the Planning and Zoning Commission. He further stated that the State and Federal guidelines would be referenced as such.

David Elder stated the revised copy of the 2015 Plan of Conservation Development for the Town of Plymouth has been available to the Public at the Land Use counter and the Town Clerk's office.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to endorse the 2015 Plan of Conservation Development for the Town of Plymouth with the inclusion of the statement read by Town Councilman Heering. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on Resolution seeking status as a State of Connecticut Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Town

Margus Laan briefly explained what the STEAP funds were in detail; noting the Resolution needed to be acted on prior to November 2015; a lengthy discussion followed.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, seeking status as a STEAP Municipality and read the Resolution as follows: Whereas the Town of Plymouth has determined that it is in the best interests of the citizens of the Town of participate in the funding available in the State of Connecticut Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP); and

Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting

June 2, 2015

Page Five of Seven Pages

Discuss and take action on Resolution seeking status as a State of Connecticut Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) Town Cont'd.

Whereas the Town of Plymouth has participated in STEAP in prior years; and Whereas the Town of Plymouth is currently unable to participate in STEAP due to the expiration of the Town's opt-in, effective from October 5, 2014, which thereby reactivated our status as an Urban Act Community; and Whereas the Town of Plymouth is not designated as a Regional Center under the State Plan of Conservation and Development; and Whereas the Town of Plymouth can again be eligible for funding under the Small Town Economic Assistance Program, but will need to petition the Secretary of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management, in accordance with Public Act 05-194, to remove the Town from the Urban Act and request eligibility under the Small Town Economic Assistance Program; and Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Plymouth, through its Town council, does hereby authorize the Mayor to petition the Secretary of the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management to remove the Town from Eligibility under the Urban Act and again seek eligibility under the Small Town Economic Assistance Program. This motion was approved unanimously.

Real Estate Committee Report-discuss and approve Real Estate Guidelines

Mayor Merchant stated that Attorney Melissa Simonik chairs the City of Bristol's Real Estate Committee and noted it would be just as an important Committee for the Town of Plymouth as it was for Bristol.

When questioned by Mayor Merchant, Chairman Planning and Zoning Carl Johnson stated that everything would have to go through Planning and Zoning for an 8-24; a favorable report.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Real Estate Committee Member Michael Ganem stated everything would come before the Council for approval prior to any contracts being made. Michael Ganem outlined the information and procedures information within the guidelines; a brief discussion followed.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Plymouth, stated he was concerned about limited to no discussion by the Public for available Town properties and briefly explained his reasoning.

When questioned by Pattie DeHuff, Town Councilman Zagurski stated Public Hearings would be removed from the guideline procedures, but only on minor properties. Pattie DeHuff explained her question in detail.

Attorney Bill Hamzy noted that under State Statutes any property the Town of Plymouth forecloses on or is worth less than \$10,000, would not require a Public Hearing.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
June 2, 2015
Page Six of Seven Pages**

Real Estate Committee Report-discuss and approve Real Estate Guidelines

Attorney Hamzy stated that any property being sold would go to Planning and Zoning, who would conduct a Public Meeting, which would be properly noticed and Planning and Zoning would make a recommendation to the Council which conducts a Public Meeting which is also properly noticed in order to sell the property.

Melanie Church requested the Guidelines be read out loud for the Public.

Mayor Merchant read the Guidelines out loud for the Public.

Cathy Kosak questioned if there was a timeframe if the owner didn't use the property when they said they would and could the Town could take the property back.

Attorney Hamzy stated typically those issues would be included as a stipulation in the contract.

John Murphy questioned the Town's financial liability to clean up the properties or would the Town be selling them as is.

Attorney Hamzy stated the Real Estate Committee would make the determination if the property required clean up, noting there was nothing that required the Town to do anything and noted the Town already owned them. He further stated if DEEP required cleanup the Town would have to comply.

Melanie Church questioned why there had to be a super majority to do a vote.

Attorney Hamzy stated a super-majority is required by State Statute.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he would like the Town Council to have the Real Estate Committee packets so the Council would know the value of the property as well.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve and adopt the Real Estate Guidelines as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Heering stated the Police Commission meeting had been cancelled. Town Councilman Heering provided his Inland-Wetlands Commission report and Board of Education report.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that the newly hired Director of Human Services was very busy and requested Heidi Caron give a brief summary of Heather Burns.

**Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting
June 2, 2015
Page Seven of Seven Pages**

Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Heidi Caron, Chairman of Human Services Commission, stated Heather Burns had been on the job for two months, briefly reviewed the duties of the position and noted the Commissioners felt she was doing a marvelous job and was a wonderful advocate for the Town and residents.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated that Vinnie Klimas had years of experience in grant writing and working with seniors. He further stated that Vinnie was worth a million bucks and came to the Town of Plymouth at no charge.

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

Town Councilwoman Murawski gave her Planning and Zoning Commission report.

Council Comments

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

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

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

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

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary