

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

December 1, 2015

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled December 1, 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 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 Town Attorney William Hamzy and Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault.

Adoption of the Agenda

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to add the acceptance of the resignation of Helen Nejfelt from the Plymouth Housing Authority Board, to Agenda Item #9-Appointments and Resignations. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to add the acceptance of the resignation of Mark Galvin from the Water Pollution Control Authority Board, to Agenda Item #9-Appointments and Resignations. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to add the appointment of Peter Giancesini from Alternate Member to Regular Member on the Water Pollution Control Authority, to Agenda Item #9-Appointments and Resignations. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to adopt the December 1, 2015, 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.

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Invocation

Mayor Merchant stated, "May God Bless the United States of America and May God Bless the Town of Plymouth" for the record.

Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council Meeting Minutes November 16, 2015

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the November 16, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Regular minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant stated he had met this past week with the offices of Senator Murphy and Congresswoman Elizabeth Esty's Office, the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic and Community Development, and discussed potential funding to help the Town with the Main Street School Project. He further stated the Building Committee was also involved at the meeting.

Mayor Merchant stated he was working with two new businesses that have committed to the Town, noting they were in the paperwork phase at this time and building should begin in the spring.

Mayor Merchant stated he had two additional businesses that were also very interested in coming to the Plymouth.

Mayor Merchant stated the Audit was ongoing and the Director of Finance, Ann Marie Rheault, would be providing an update later this evening.

Mayor Merchant stated some work had begun at Lake Winfield, which included cleaning up the beach area, and removing overgrowth and debris by the boat launch. He further stated that residents had approached him to begin some work in the area and that he would be talking to residents to see how popular the area would become again.

Mayor Merchant stated on November 17th he had met with Elena Sherman, State of Connecticut, Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities. He further stated Elena Sherman had visited the North Street Reservoir Recreation area on the recommendation of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Mayor Merchant stated Elena Sherman was very pleased with the park and the manner in which it had been constructed, noting the area would be featured in her office and report this year. He further stated it was a nice recognition for the Town, noting that the Public Works Department had done the majority of the work.

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Mayor's Report Cont'd.

Mayor Merchant stated Union negotiations were continuing and there were still three open contracts.

Mayor Merchant stated the Town Hall generator hadn't arrived as yet, however the pad had been poured and the wiring had been completed in the building. He further stated the project continues to move forward.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Mark Nejfelt, 275 Main Street, Terryville, stated he had been watching the Council and the Mayor for the past year, noting the Mayor followed through on his plans and that was good. Mark Nejfelt questioned if the Mayor decided to go in a bad direction, how did he stop himself and briefly explained his statement. He further questioned how the Mayor put a check and balance on his plans and questioned if someone disagreed with him what did he do.

Mayor Merchant stated that he has always tried to make the best decisions he could with the information that he has, and always with the best interest of the Town; a brief discussion followed.

Noting that this portion of the agenda was for Public Comment only, Mayor Merchant invited Mark Nejfelt to come to his office any time to discuss his question further.

Appointments and Resignations

To accept the resignation of Reverend Christopher Drew from the Human Services Commission; to reappoint Gerald Wunsch to the Fire Commission Board with a term ending 11/04/2018; to reappoint Victor Mitchell, Jr. to the Fire Commission Board with a term ending 11/04/2018; to reappoint Stephen J. Fennessy, Sr. to the Fire Commission with a term ending 11/04/2018; to reappoint Martin Sandshaw to the Fire Commission with a term ending date 11/04/2018

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the resignation of Reverend Christopher Drew from the Human Services Commission, with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Gerald Wunsch to the Fire Commission Board with a term ending 11/04/2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Appointments and Resignations Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Victor Mitchell, Jr. to the Fire Commission Board with a term ending 11/04/2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Stephen J. Fennessy, Sr. to the Fire Commission with a term ending 11/04/2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to reappoint Martin Sandshaw to the Fire Commission with a term ending date 11/04/2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to accept the resignation of Helen Nejfelt from the Plymouth Housing Authority Board. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the resignation of Mark Galvin from the Water Pollution Control Authority Board. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to appoint Peter Giancesini from Alternate Member to Regular Member on the Water Pollution Control Authority. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action to refund the following Property Taxes: Annette Bibeau \$16.90; Cynthia Powell \$77.27

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to refund the following Property Taxes: Annette Bibeau \$16.90 and Cynthia Powell \$77.27. This motion was approved unanimously.

Financial update on Town of Plymouth Audit

Director of Finance, Ann Marie Rheault provided an outline of target dates and goals, as well report descriptions for the 2014 FY Audit. Ann Marie Rheault stated she would be meeting with the Office of Policy and Management on December 10th to update them where the Town stood with the 2014 and 2015 Audits. She further stated that hopefully, the Audit would be completed by December 31, 2015.

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Financial update on Town of Plymouth Audit Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Ann Marie Rheault stated she would provide monthly financial reports to the Town Council; a brief discussion followed.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, questioned the deficit for the arbitration for the grievances and briefly elaborated on her question. Melanie Church stated if anything went over \$50,000 it had to go to a Town Meeting and questioned when the meeting would be. It was noted Melanie Church misheard the figure stated, which was \$15,000, not \$50,000. Melanie Church questioned where the money for the East Main Street School and the money spent on the Smith Street property was coming from..

Ann Marie Rheault stated the grievance resolution expense was a legal expense budgeted for this year, but never budgeted in the past and briefly elaborated.

Laurie Theriault, 304 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, questioned when an item went over budget what the practice or format was and recommended the Town put together a team from that department to help resolve it and briefly elaborated on her statement.

Discuss and take action on Board of Finance Appointment

Mayor Merchant stated Democratic Town Committee Chairman Paul Giancesini had submitted a letter to his office and the Plymouth Town Council recommending the appointment of Ralph Zovich to replace Michael Drozdick for his remaining two-year term on the Board of Finance. He further stated that he and the Plymouth Town Council had also received correspondence from Ralph Zovich stating he was willing and able to fill the vacant seat on the Board of Finance.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to appoint Ralph Zovich to the Board of Finance. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Zoning Board of Appeals had approved a variance for property on 284 Town Hill Road for the Baptist Church. Town Councilman Gentile stated he attended the Board of Education meeting and discussion had taken place concerning bus stop changes for out-of-district students, noting this item had been tabled until December 8th.

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

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he had attended the Library Board of Directors meeting and reported they were very grateful for the Phyllis Corsetti funds, noting the Board had set up a Committee to determine how the funds would be handled.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she had attended the Fire Commission meeting, noting the Commissioners had discussed continual training with Inland Fuel Terminals.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she had missed the Public Works meeting, however Chairman Rich Lyga had informed her that paving had been completed, salt and sand had been ordered, and the Town crew had been working on cleaning up service requests. She further stated that patchwork had been done on Greystone Road; it was working out well and they were pleased with it.

Council Comments

Town Councilman Pajeski stated he no comments at this time.

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

Town Councilman Gentile stated he was working with Lisa Aiudi at Terryville High School to get a few students to do an internship and video tape the Town Council meetings for broadcasting on Channel 16 in an effort to keep the Public informed and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman Gentile stated he was working on setting up some kind of training meeting to help the Public understand why and how Town meetings work according to Parliamentary Procedure, noting it would be helpful for the Town. Town Councilman Gentile stated he was working on a \$5,000 scholarship and would be providing the information to Lisa Aiudi at Terryville High School. He further stated he would be speaking to the students to assist them in applying for the money. Town Councilman Gentile wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas, noting volunteers help the Town to move forward.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she had no comments at this time

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she 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 7:43 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.