Minutes

February 2, 2016

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled February 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, Town Councilman John Pajeski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Real Estate Committee Member Michael Ganem, Town Attorney William Hamzy, Police Chief Karen Krasicky, Bruce Marcus Owner-Marcus Communications, Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault, Communications Commission Chairman Marty Sandshaw, and Fire Chief Mark Sekorski.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Merchant stated he had moved "Council Liaison Reports and Council Comments" above the Executive Session agenda item, which would enable the public audience to hear both items without having to wait for the Executive Session to be over.

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

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Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council Meeting Minutes January 5, 2016

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the January 5, 2016, Plymouth Town Council Regular minutes as presented.

Discussion:

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Attorney Hamzy stated the way the motion was presented to accept the Charges of the Charter Revision Commission the three additional items that had been recommended by the members of the Council were covered.

Vote:

This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant provided an update on the Auditor's completion of draft financials, discussed the Bristol Resource Recovery Facility check received for the Town's portion of the unassigned fund balance, briefly reviewed reimbursements to date as a result of David Bertnagel's embezzlement, reviewed budget/Town Hall updates, the Assessor being back to full-time hours and the Town Hall Clerks being cross trained.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated the people voted not to add to the budget, which included rubbish pickup, and briefly elaborated on her statement. Melanie Church briefly discussed the Public Works Master Mechanic position.

Mayor Merchant stated Melanie Church was incorrect in her statement, noting there were bargaining units and contracts and that labor grade changes work within the contract.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, stated 66 percent of the people voted for the Mayor and the Town Council and supported the budget, as well their agenda, so the previous speaker was way off target and briefly elaborated on his statement.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Plymouth, questioned why the Town was going out to bid for Trash Pickup and briefly elaborated. John Murphy questioned where the money was coming from to pay the Assessor. Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting February 2, 2016 Page Three of Twelve Pages

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Mayor Merchant stated the Town goes out to bid on items to see what they might cost, noting cost analysis are done to see if something works or does not. Mayor Merchant stated the Assessor's pay should be brought to the Board of Finance for discussion.

Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane, Terryville, referencing Chapter 7, Section 3, stated the Charter was very clear on Special Appropriations up to \$50,000 approved by the Town Council, does not require a Town Meeting and briefly elaborated. Ralph Zovich stated Budget Referendum were the highest form of democracy, noting the attendance was always low and briefly elaborated. Ralph Zovich stated trash collection could be re-quoted, noting it would still be up to the people to decide and briefly elaborated.

Appointments/Resignations: To accept the resignation of Peter Cook from the Charter Revision Commission; to appoint Barbara Rockwell to the Charter Revision Commission; to reappoint Larry Deschaine to the Planning and Zoning Commission; to reappoint Wayne Radke to the Planning and Zoning Commission

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the resignation of Peter Cook from the Charter Revision Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Barbara Rockwell to the Charter Revision Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Larry Deschaine to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of February 2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappoint Wayne Radke to the Planning and Zoning Commission with an ending term of February 2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund the following overpayment of Property Taxes: Brianna Chevrette-Luond \$407.04; Leslie Sacharko \$8.50; Paige Usher \$351.11; Mary Greene \$94.85; David Deluca \$275.00; Ford Credit Personal Property Tax \$748.93, 518.57, \$314.44; April Embelton \$484.33; Nissan Infiniti LT \$401.82

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund the following overpayment of Property Taxes Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to refund the following overpayment of Property Taxes: Brianna Chevrette-Luond \$407.04; Leslie Sacharko \$8.50; Paige Usher \$351.11; Mary Greene \$94.85; David Deluca \$275.00; Ford Credit Personal Property Tax \$748.93, 518.57, \$314.44; April Embelton \$484.33; and Nissan Infiniti LT \$401.82. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on the Homeland Security Grant Resolution

Anthony Orsini, Plymouth Director of Emergency Management, explained the Homeland Security Grant Resolution and value of the grant in detail; a lengthy discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Anthony Orsini stated the 43 Towns in Region 5 would utilize the equipment obtained from the grants with Tom Vannini as the Regional Coordinator.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Anthony Orsini stated this MOU was a 2015 document, which should have been done in the autumn, noting the 2016 MOU would be done next and the Town was now on schedule.

Vinnie Klimas stated he would like the Mayor and Town Council to support this grant in this form of government and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church questioned what the grant was being asked for and briefly elaborated.

Anthony Orsini explained the grant money did not come to the Town of Plymouth; it would go to Region 5 who supports the 43 communities and then, through the REPT, each town could make a request and briefly elaborated. Anthony Orsini stated the Town of Plymouth was able to get the Plate Reader for the Police Department and noted Chief Krasicky could attest to its value.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey briefly explained her understanding of the grant.

Town Councilman Gentile briefly explained his understanding of the grant, noting it was at no direct cost to the taxpayers.

Town Councilman Zagurski noted the Town would maintain the equipment; Anthony Orsini stated that was correct and briefly elaborated.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, questioned each Council member if they had read the grant and briefly elaborated.

Discuss and take action on the Homeland Security Grant Resolution Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski read the Homeland Security Grant Resolution out loud for the Council and Public Audience.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the Homeland Security Grant Resolution as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on the creation of a restricted Blight Fund account as approved by the Board of Finance

Town Councilwoman Murawski read the Blight Fund Resolution out loud for the Council and the Public Audience.

Ralph Zovich, Board of Finance Chairman, spoke on the Blight Fund Resolution at length. Ralph Zovich stated the Town Attorney assisted in writing the Blight Fund Resolution, noting Town Council Liaison Murawski had also attended the Board of Finance meeting when the Resolution draft was discussed. Ralph Zovich stated the draft would be a resource for the Town to handle blight, noting currently there were no monies allocated anywhere in the budget to enforce blight. Ralph Zovich briefly explained possible enforcement actions, noting the Town Council had to certify the blight list and then the Town would need resources, which would become self-sustaining and summarized the Blight Fund Resolution for the Council and the public audience.

Mayor Merchant stated the Town had received an unexpected check in the amount of \$128,000 from the Bristol Resource Recovery facility, which was the Town's portion of the undesignated fund balance that was related to the wind down of those facilities, noting this might be a good place to seed the Blight Fund; a brief discussion followed.

Keith Golnik, 46 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated that in regards to the Blight Ordinance, the Town of Plymouth should adopt whatever the City of Bristol does and cited examples of blight in Town, noting the blighted properties on Main Street should be addressed first. He further stated he would be willing to donate \$10.00 towards the Blight Ordinance Fund.

Catherine Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated she thought the Bristol Resource Recovery check would have to go into the General Fund. Catherine Kosak stated she had a problem with the word remediation and tax dollars being used to remediate blighted properties and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church stated this was not in the budget that people voted on and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated she had a Contractor who would be doing her roof and things and briefly elaborated.

Discuss and take action on the creation of a restricted Blight Fund account as approved by the Board of Finance Cont'd.

Ralph Zovich stated there was no line item for blight remediation in the General Fund, however a Special Revenue Fund is an account that exists outside the General Fund.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Ralph Zovich stated the Blight Committee would have to bring their blighted list to the Council for certification and then the Council would make an agreement with the Blight Committee to figure out a way to go about remediating the properties, if it were possible; and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski if there were ever any blight fines collected over the years; Ralph Zovich stated Councilwoman Murawski told him that a previous Town Council had rescinded all the previous blight funds that had been assessed and had wiped the slate clean; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Ralph Zovich stated the Mayor and the Director of Finance would have the executive oversight and briefly elaborated.

Michael Ganem, Real Estate Committee member, 185 Main Street, Terryville, citing the Summer Concerts in Baldwin Park overlooking a blighted burned out building, stated this item goes far beyond the money; noting this was about cleaning up blight property and briefly elaborated.

Laurie Theriault, 304 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated she assumes with all the audits going on in the Town it was reasonable to assume the Town did not receive any monies to date from blight fines.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the creation of a restricted Blight Fund account as approved by the Board of Finance and presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on the transfer of 132 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT, from Safari Energy, LLC, to the Town of Plymouth

Attorney Hamzy stated Safari Energy LLC was the owner of the parcel at 132 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, and the Town would lease the property to EJ Terry Solar LLC and that this was the last part of the Solar Panel Lease and briefly elaborated.

Catherine Kosak stated they had done a wonderful job and questioned the transfer of monies for the solar lease. Attorney Hamzy briefly explained the process, as part of the original agreement and what it called for.

Discuss and take action on the transfer of 132 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT, from Safari Energy, LLC, to the Town of Plymouth Cont'd.

Melanie Church briefly commented on the lease and what would happen at the end of the 20 years and also questioned if the Town was losing tax revenue from the property.

Attorney Hamzy briefly explained the terms again, noting the agreement to provide power was for 20 years, but the agreement always contemplated that the Town would own the property the solar panel field was on. He further stated the Town doesn't pay taxes to itself.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to approve the transfer of 132 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT, from Safari Energy LLC to the Town of Plymouth. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on a lease of 132 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT, to EJ Terry Solar 1, LLC

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to approve the lease of 132 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, CT, to EJ Terry Solar 1, LLC. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on an Emergency Appropriation from the Communications Commission

Mayor Merchant stated some issues had recently come to light and the Communications Commission was present this evening to address the Council.

Marty Sandshaw, Chairman, Communications Commission, stated the Commission was present this evening to request an Emergency Appropriation for the Town's communications system.

Marty Sandshaw narrated a lengthy PowerPoint presentation, which outlined the history of the Town's communications system, the urgency of the appropriation, the Town's liability and need for the appropriation, as well as the dangerous situations to life that currently existed.

Bruce Marcus, Marcus Communications, reviewed the Town's equipment in depth using the PowerPoint presentation and pointed out the dangerous situations that currently existed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Bruce Marcus briefly discussed the generator/breakers power and the problems that went along with it, as well as back-up battery power and the antennas.

Discuss and take action on an Emergency Appropriation from the Communications Commission Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Marty Sandshaw stated he believed this situation was threatening the general public and Town employees, noting it was an immediate need and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church stated she believed there was a brand new tower at the Firehouse and it was approved by the Council to give them the leasing rights and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated that was never put up. Mayor Merchant stated ATT had backed out of it.

Melanie Church stated there were generators in Town that could be used in an emergency and briefly elaborated.

Chief Krasicky stated this was a citizen, Police Department Firefighters issue, noting there had been numerous incidents whereby communications were lacking and the communications had been gradually deteriorating over the years. She further cited reports whereby communications had been interrupted or never went through. Chief Krasicky stated there had been incidents whereby Police Officers had called for assistance but the Town's communication system failed and the Officers had to use their personal cell phones, noting if that wasn't an emergency she didn't know what was, and briefly elaborated on the citizen/officer safety involved.

Keith Golnik stated he felt it was an emergency when the Police, the Ambulance and the Fire Departments were unable to receive or make calls and briefly elaborated.

Pattie DeHuff stated she felt this issue was a need and she was disturbed by comments previously made and briefly elaborated.

Allison Leo, 40 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated this was an absolute emergency, noting she was the wife, as well as the mother, of a firefighter and that if someone were to be fatally injured it would cost the Town a lot more than what the Emergency Appropriation would be and briefly elaborated.

Laurie Theriault cited preventive maintenance for the communications equipment and asked that the Communications Commission make sure the batteries were not unplugged and in the corner for years and briefly elaborated. Laurie Theriault stated she felt some items on the listing could be left aside and requested the Council question all the line items.

Catherine Kosak stated she had not heard one person say they were against the appropriation and that they were questioning how it would be funded and briefly elaborated.

Discuss and take action on an Emergency Appropriation from the Communications Commission Cont'd.

Bruce Marcus stated he was present this evening because he was approached by Scott Milliken, Fire Department, to review the Town's equipment and briefly elaborated on the generator situation. When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski regarding the combiner, Bruce Marcus stated the purchase price was included in his figure and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she wanted to hear from Fire Chief Mark Sekorski.

Mark Sekorski, Fire Chief, stated he had 93 Firefighters and there were 25 Police Officers, 35 Ambulance workers, and dozens of Town employees, all volunteers excepting the employees and noted the only thing they ever ask for was equipment so they can safely protect the public. He further stated there had been a situation during a past snowstorm where emergency personnel had been stuck in 40" of snow and because there was no working communications no one was aware of the situation. Chief Sekorski stated the Town continues to keep the budget at zero and the emergency personnel continue to do their job for zero monies and that he felt it was a definite emergency.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Murawski, Mayor Merchant stated at some point it would come to the General Fund and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Ann Marie Rheault stated there was money in the General Fund to pay for the Emergency Appropriation and briefly elaborated; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated as a former EMT she felt this was an emergency situation and was in favor of the appropriation.

Town Councilman Gentile stated it sounded like the Communications Commission had been trying to keep this together for a long time and it was beyond bandaids. He further stated because the Town was aware of this now and noted if God forbid something happened, it could go to court and it had to be fixed and we should do it now.

Citing the Charter, Chapter 7, Section 4, Town Attorney Hamzy stated should the Council decide to approve the Emergency Appropriation, they should reference the risk to lives and or property as part as part of the motion.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to approve the Emergency Appropriation, not to exceed \$71,061.35, because the Council finds it to be an emergency situation with life threatening implications. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she wanted to give a shout out to all the volunteers in Town and requested a round of applause for these volunteers. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she was very impressed with the way the Plymouth Ambulance Volunteer Corps (PVAC) kept track of emergencies. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she was also very impressed with their involvement with the Explorers and at their request she would be looking for scholarship monies for the Explorers and briefly elaborated. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC also worked with the Boy Scouts. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she wanted to put a plug in for the Terryville High School students involved with the plays, noting they work very hard. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Economic Development Commission meeting had been cancelled. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Public Works Department was working on getting a bid out for Bemis Street and they were also trying to clean up Lake Winfield. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated Public Works was looking at other towns and how they run their Transfer Stations. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated Public Works had briefly discussed their responsibility for other department's vehicles and how they would like to change this line item in their budget. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated Public Works had reviewed their budget. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the WPCA were planning on meeting with the Mayor with some new ideas. She further stated the WPCA have a project going on for their Nitro Removal upgrade. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated there were quite a few people in Town using sewer hookups, but not going through the WPCA. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated everyone was welcome to speak to her after the meeting if they had any questions. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated Katie Adkins, Plymouth Meats, was a very impressive and well-educated young businesswoman and that she would be bringing her slaughterhouse business to the Industrial Park. She further stated if we wanted young people to return to Town we needed to support them and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Communications Commission had been covered through discussion earlier this evening. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Fire Commission had made Ray Kovaleski the permanent Fire Marshal and hired Charles Doback as the Deputy Fire Marshal. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Fire Commission had reviewed their budget. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Police Commission had several requests pending for signage and that they would not be taking any action at the intersection of Route 72 and Sandra Avenue. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Police Commission had also reviewed their budget. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Director, Heather Burns, had received a grant for a Seniors Nutrition class and was also writing a grant application for a new Dial-A-Ride bus. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated a Mental Health First Aid class would be scheduled. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Commission had been discussing a "friends-type" group and were working on the paperwork for a 501c3. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Commission had also reviewed their budget.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Library Board had elected Mary Wollenberg as Chairman. Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Library Board had produced a brochure for endowment, which the general public could use for donations. Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Library Board had also formed a Committee with the endowment rules for the money they had received from Phyllis Corsetti.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated the Plymouth Housing Authority Board had been interviewing Architects and getting estimates for four units, noting they had taken a tour last week of the units and had found them to be deplorable. Town Councilman Pajeski stated the Board was moving forward and there was a lot more work to do.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education had discussed the solar project and were winding down to the end of the project. Town Councilman Gentile stated he wanted to also promote the Terryville High School play "The Little Shop of Horrors". Town Councilman Gentile stated the new Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education, Barbara Trinks, had come up with a three-year plan and was doing a good job. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education had a budget PowerPoint presentation and briefly reviewed the presentation. Town Councilman Gentile stated unfunded mandates really have an impact on the budget, noting they cost money and he had always been a no-vote and was usually by himself. Noting insurance costs were rising, Town Councilman Gentile stated the Town could save a lot of money by combining their insurance with the Board of Education and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education had also been reviewing their Policies and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Real Estate Committee had met and were working on parcels left to the Town.

Town Council Comments

Town Councilman Gentile stated he attends many meetings, noting no one yells from the floor like they do at the Council meetings and meetings were not run this way. He further stated the Mayor was the Chairman for the Council and if someone raises their hand and the Mayor calls on them to speak then they can, however if he does not recognize someone in the public audience whose hand was raised then they cannot shout out or make comments, noting it was very disruptive to everyone and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman Gentile stated everyone's voice was important, but there were rules that needed to be followed. He further stated he arrives to all the Council meetings early should anyone want to speak to him regarding their concerns or ask questions. Town Councilman Gentile stated he was trying to get Freedom of Information to come to Plymouth and do a presentation, which would be helpful to everyone. Town Councilman Gentile stated that many people still wanted Trash Pickup citing statistics even though it didn't pass at the last Referendum and briefly elaborated.

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

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

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

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

Executive Session to discuss the sale of property known as Lucky Forest Estates, 30+/acres off of East Washington Road, Terryville, CT, and a Special Appropriation regarding Personnel

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to move into Executive Session at 9:10 p.m., to discuss the sale of property known as Lucky Forest Estates, 30+/- acres off of East Washington Road, Terryville, CT, and a Special Appropriation regarding Personnel.

Present for the Executive Session were Real Estate Committee Member Ganem, Town Councilman Gentile, Town Attorney Hamzy, Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman Pajeski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski.

Mayor Merchant called the Plymouth Town Council meeting back into regular session at 9:47 p.m.

Action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to approve the sale of 92 East Washington Road, Terryville, CT, to Mark and Caroline Borkoski for \$79,000, and that said property shall not be subdivided. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to approve a transfer by the Board of Finance for \$41,723. 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 9:58 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.