

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

June 7, 2016

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled June 7, 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, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Board of Finance Vice Chairman Vicky Carey, Real Estate Committee Member Michael Ganem, Town Attorney William Hamzy, Attorney Mark Malley, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault and Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Zovich.

Adoption of the Agenda

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to add Financial Report as Item 7a; to add the words “on Agenda Items” to Item 9 Public Comment; to add the Reappointment of Michael Ganem to the Economic Development Commission under Appointments/Resignations; to add Set Hours at the Transfer Station as Item 12b, to the June 7, 2016, Plymouth Town Council Agenda. The motion to adopt the Plymouth Town Council June 7, 2016, Agenda as amended 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, the deployed Troops around the world who are preserving and protecting the freedoms we have today, and the Town of Plymouth” for the record.

Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council March 30, 2016, Public Hearing Minutes; Plymouth Town Council March 30, 2016, Special Meeting Minutes; Plymouth Town Council April 5, 2016, Regular Minutes; Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education April 21, 2016, Joint Meeting Minutes; Plymouth Town Council May 4, 2016, Special Meeting Minutes; Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education May 12, 2016, Joint Meeting Minutes

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to accept the Plymouth Town Council March 30, 2016, Public Hearing Minutes; Plymouth Town Council March 30, 2016, Special Meeting Minutes; Plymouth Town Council April 5, 2016, Regular Minutes; Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education April 21, 2016, Joint Meeting Minutes; Plymouth Town Council May 4, 2016, Special Meeting Minutes; and the Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education May 12, 2016, Joint Meeting Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant briefly stated the Bemis Street Project was under construction and briefly elaborated; the Water Main Project on Route 6 was ongoing; the Demolition Bids would be going out this week for the house on 3 North Main Street; the Route 6 and Route 72 Project was nearing completion; the final payment had been received from Great American Insurance for the David Bertnagel theft; and the final outstanding grievance award had been received, noting the Town had won every grievance arbitration 100% with no exceptions.

Financial Report

Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault distributed copies of the Town of Plymouth General Fund Revenue/Expenditures Summary Year to Date as of 5/31/2016.

Town Councilman Zagurski questioned why the Building Official was over by \$7,000.

Ann Marie Rheault stated the Building Department was approximately \$10,000 over with the majority coming from the line item for permit application fees which weren't in the budget and was for the online system used upstairs for the permits we pay a fee for that, but we also take the fees from the users and so there would be corresponding revenue in the revenue side, but on the expense side you would see there was the line item with no budget against it.

Town Councilman Zagurski questioned why the Central Office line item was over by \$58,000.

Ann Marie Rheault stated \$44,000 of that figure was for tech upgrades and at the end of the year it gets swept out of the account and gets put against the Capital Projects.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski as to why the Parks and Recreation Department was over by \$21,000, Ann Marie Rheault stated she would have to look at this item.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Kathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Plymouth, CT, questioned where the insurance money received from the Bertnagel theft was placed and briefly elaborated.

Ann Marie Rheault stated the money was recorded as a receivable as of the end of 2014 in the Town's financials and the cash went to the General Fund, noting the initial money he took came out of General Fund funds and this was restitution for cash that was utilized that was not authorized and it was putting money back into the General Fund that was taken from the General Fund. She further stated this was not additional revenue to the Town and briefly elaborated.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, CT, stated he wanted to congratulate Town Councilman Tom Zagurski for being chosen as the Volunteer of the Year, noting Town Councilman Zagurski was chosen because of all his hard work and the things that he had done.

Michael Ganem, Director of Parks and Recreation, stated he was unsure of what Town Councilman Zagurski had been looking at, but his budget was not in deficit, and as of May 31st was at approximately \$79,000 in revenues and briefly elaborated. Michael Ganem stated he had participated in the United Way's 25th Annual Day of Caring and he wanted to thank the following people for their countless hours and dedication to the Town of Plymouth: the Plymouth volunteers who participated in the United Way 25th Annual Day of Caring through the Beautification Committee, led by Jerry Milne, the Parks and Recreation Department, with the assistance of several volunteer committees including the members of the United Way's Youth Board, the Terryville Rotary Club whose members that day included Dr. Martin Semmel, Reverend Dick Dill; members of the Rotary Club, including Jim Klaneski, Denise DeVincent and Reverend Bill Hawley, who joined many other volunteers at the Plymouth Food Pantry to assist the food pantry any way they could. Michael Ganem stated he also wanted to thank the Town Staff Plymouth Reservation Phase II Hiking Trails Boards and Commission and volunteers; Ad Hoc Committee Gary Delpha, the American Legion, the live music local artists who assisted Lanterns around Lake Winfield Evening event; the Richards Corporation, the Plymouth Police Department, the Rotary Club of Terryville for the Flags on Main Street project

and donations from individuals and grants from Thomaston Savings Bank, the Plymouth Chamber of Commerce, everyone who has participated in and with the Plymouth Community Garden, Chairman Marty Sandshaw and the Skate Park Committee, who has completed their mission; the Public Works team: Ernie Woods and Claude Beaudoin who assisted with the Skate Park the Friends of Lake Winfield, Wallenberg's TLC; and the Remnants band.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated the \$808,000 and the \$972,000 and Bemis Street was spent without one person's approval and briefly elaborated and the Board of Education never received their money back from Bertnagel's theft.

Ann Marie Rheault stated anyone who wanted to could come to her office could and she would explain how she records the theft expense and corresponding reimbursement of the money back to the Town and correct accounting journal entries, noting the monies taken from the Board of Education accounts were reimbursed and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the money for Bemis Street had been 100% funded by the State of Connecticut, noting it was all allocated and Melanie Church had been at that meeting. He further stated the Bemis Street Project money had been appropriated and was handled properly. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Town Council had been listening to the \$972,000 line for two years now and that the Board of Finance Chairman, Ralph Zovich, had explained it at least ten times and if that wasn't satisfactory then there was nothing else that could be done.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated Michael Ganem had gone over by two minutes when he was speaking.

Town Councilman Gentile stated Michael Ganem was reporting as Chairman for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Pattie DeHuff stated Agenda Item #9 would not be following the Charter, quoted from it and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Charter had a paragraph about Procedures and quoted from it, noting the Mayor, as Chairperson of all Council Meetings, can regulate public address/discussion and briefly elaborated.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Connie Kapralos, South Eagle Street, Terryville, stated she was a volunteer in Town for more than 29 years; her term for the Police Commission was up and noted she spoke at the May Budget meeting had been singled out because of an unpopular remark and briefly elaborated.

Barbara Watson, 203 Lake Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, stated when people embezzle you rarely get back even two-thirds let alone 100% and this was actually a celebration and briefly elaborated. Barbara Watson stated she would be giving her remaining time to Michael Watson.

Jennifer Steinman, 250 Lake Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, Vice President of the Lake Association stated she was donating her three minutes to Michael Watson.

Michael Watson, 211 Lake Plymouth, distributed copies of the properties at Lake Plymouth and outlined the information in detail. Michael Watson stated it was essential to protect the Watershed for Lake Plymouth and elaborated at length.

Mayor Merchant stated Michael Watson had given out a lot of information for everyone to absorb and recommended a meeting with the Public Works Director and the Zoning Enforcement Officer, noting they would both go out to the lake to better digest the issue.

Town Councilwoman Murawski thanked Michael Watson for the information, noting it was a lot of information to take in.

Bradley Kozikowski, 4 Park Street, Terryville, stated he wanted to thank everyone for their work on the budget and hoped the Council would consider increasing the Board of Education Budget back to the original budget and briefly elaborated.

Peter Worhunsky, 19 Coral Drive, Terryville, distributed copies of pricing for sweeping the 85 miles of Town roads, pricing for a new Sweeper and jobbing the task out to bid and detailed his report. He further stated anyone could call him if they had questions.

Mayor Merchant stated the Town had discussed sharing Public Works equipment at the Valley Cog meetings and noted this would be looked into.

Jessica Dupont, 139 Lakeview Boulevard, Plymouth, questioned if the funding was approved for the Terryville High School band uniforms.

Mayor Merchant stated the question needed to go before the Board of Education and thanked Jessica for her inquiry.

Dr. Martin Semmel, Superintendent Plymouth Board of Education, stated the band uniforms were in the proposed budget that would be discussed this evening.

Dr. Semmel stated he was present this evening as the primary advocate for the students and staff of the Plymouth School system and requested at the very least the Council leave the \$160,000 in their budget and briefly elaborated. Dr. Semmel also requested the Council not reduce the Plymouth Police Department by one man, noting the School Resource Officer was a much needed person and to remove him was unacceptable in this day and age; noting he wears multiple hats and stressed the importance of keeping him in the buildings.

Barbara Watson stated her sons had been educated in the Town of Plymouth; had done very well, noting having a Police Officer in the schools was essential and briefly elaborated.

Melissa Townsend, 20 Woodside Lane, Terryville, stated she would like to see the Board of Education's budget increased, and requested at the very least to leave the \$160,000 in the budget. Melissa Townsend stated the School Resource Officer was critical and briefly elaborated.

Pattie DeHuff thanked Councilman Gentile and stated the purpose of having Public Comment for Agenda items is in fact to violate the Charter.

Town Councilman Gentile stated Pattie DeHuff should read Subsection 3 on page 54 of the Charter, Ethics and Conduct of Board Members, noting she herself was a Board member.

Melanie Church stated Public Comment was not questions and answers. Melanie Church stated people can't afford taxes to go up and briefly elaborated.

Appointments/Resignations: To reappoint Stephen W. Mindera, Jr., to the Housing Board of Appeals with term ending date September 1, 2018; to appoint Dennis Doyle to the Police Commission with term ending date January 1, 2019; to reappoint Chester Scoville to the Police Commission with term ending date January 1, 2019; to accept the Resignation of Nicole McWilliams from the Library Trustees; to appoint Jeannette Brodeur to fill the remainder of Nicole McWilliams term to the Library Trustees

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappoint Stephen W. Mindera, Jr., to the Housing Board of Appeals with term ending date September 1, 2018. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to appoint Dennis Doyle to the Police Commission with term ending date January 1, 2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappoint Chester Scoville to the Police Commission with term ending date January 1, 2019. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to accept the resignation of Nicole McWilliams from the Library Trustees with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to appoint Jeannette Brodeur to fill the remainder of Nicole McWilliam's term to the Library Trustees. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to reappointment Michael Ganem to the Economic Development Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund the following overpayment of Property Taxes: Lucky Mitchell Monzon \$220.16; Brooks Property Management \$100.00

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to approve the following overpayment refunds of Property Taxes to Lucky Mitchell Monzon in the amount of \$220.16 and Brooks Management Company in the amount of \$100.00. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action to change the Town Hall Business Hours for the Summer to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Friday

Mayor Merchant stated this change had been discussed for several years; noting many surrounding communities have already adopted summer hours for their towns and briefly elaborated, noting this change would be through Labor Day and then it could be revisited.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to change the Town Hall Business Hours for the Summer to 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Friday.

Discussion: When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Merchant stated all three Union Bargaining Units had been talked to and no one had any problems and there would be no overtime paid out or any grievances.

Vote: This motion was approved unanimously.

To Set Hours at the Transfer Station

Mayor Merchant stated this agenda item was to close the Transfer Station on Wednesdays (the slowest day of operations), starting on July 1, 2016, noting the Board of Finance had removed one day of operation from the Budget and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to set the hours at the Transfer Station.

Discussion: When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Merchant stated this item had not been negotiated with the Union because it wouldn't make any changes/have any impact to the Union. He further stated the only thing the Town would be doing would be closing it on a Wednesday and the person that would have been there on a Wednesday would now be joining the Town crew.

Vote: This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action to adopt a Budget for the FY 2016-2017

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she and Town Councilman Zagurski had sat down with Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault and had looked at the budget and briefly elaborated, noting the changes they had made as follows:

Heart and Hyper from \$20,000 increased to \$50,000
Service Contracts Communications from \$33,960 increased to \$40,000
Meeting Secretaries from \$14,000 decreased to \$13,500
HR Contract Services from \$32,000 decreased to \$30,000
Pre Employment Physicals from \$1,500 decreased to \$1,000
Grant Administrator Contract Services from \$5,000 decreased to \$3,000
Workmen's Compensation from \$557,029 decreased to \$550,000

Wages/Benefit Adjustments from \$60,000 decreased to \$25,000
Beautification Committee from \$4,000 decreased to \$3,000
Memorial Day Committee from \$3,000 decreased to \$2,000
Historical Society from \$2,000 decreased to \$1,500
Safety from \$20,000 decreased to \$7,500
(New Account) Friends Committee \$3,000
Elderly Transportation Dial A Ride from \$47,500 decreased to \$35,000
Plymouth Library Contribution from \$24,000 decreased to \$22,000
Economic Development Marketing from \$3,000 decreased to \$2,000
Capital Projects License Plate Reader \$3,500 (removed)
Board of Education Expenses from \$23,912,790 decreased to \$23,902,790
Total Expense Reductions \$57,989.00

Ann Marie Rheault stated the reduction in the Dial A Ride line item was not a reduction in hours or services and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile requested the \$10,000 be added back into the Board of Education's Budget, noting they had started with true numbers and also recommended adding the \$2,000 back in for Human Resources, noting it was an important line item. Town Councilman Gentile stated if there was problem in the adopted budget going forward then there would have to be a freeze, noting this was a concern of his because he felt it was a true budget and now it's been cut down; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Zovich explained the Town would have to look for more cuts or have a budget freeze, etc., should Governor Malloy take more income away from the municipalities, noting the Board of Finance wanted to set the mill rate this coming Thursday. He further stated the Town would cross that bridge when it came to it; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Zagurski questioned if the Town wanted to move the Capital money, i.e., look at the Sweeper (as Mr. Worhunsky had mentioned), could we hold off spending some of that money.

Board of Finance Vice Chairman Vicky Carey stated the Public Works Advisory Commission and the Director of Public Works were already looking at other options, i.e., rent or buy a new Sweeper. She further stated the Town would only be saving \$47,000 for it this year because it was under short-term financing. Vice Chairman Carey stated monies could not be moved around in the non-reoccurring expenditure and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Gentile stated if the Departments were to go over, noting this was a tight budget; it would be the Board of Finance's job to keep it in tact.

Chairman Zovich stated the Board of Finance had oversight authority, however they do not have the authority for the day-to-day operations, noting the Mayor was the administrator head of departments and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Murawski noted the following changes for Capital Projects:

Revaluation-Assessors Add \$81,394
Expenses for Economic Development Add \$1,000
Signs for Economic Development Add \$958.00
Secretary Add \$21,000
Contract Services Public Works Add \$132,893
Sand and Salt Add \$100,000
Contract Services Snow Add \$20,000
Dial A Ride Maintenance decrease \$500.00
Water for Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps decrease by \$757.00
Overtime for Police decrease by \$50,000
Overtime for Communications decrease by \$15,000
Training decrease \$9,399.00
Assessor's Staff decrease \$21,000
Workman's Comp decrease \$50,000

Health Insurance Cut decrease \$200,000
Benefits Non-Employee decrease \$10,589

A brief review total by Department followed.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to set the 2016-2017 FY Budget at \$39,831,574.

Discussion: When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Ann Marie Rheault and Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the \$39,831,574 figure included Town Councilman Gentile's requested changes.

Vote: Town Councilman Gentile/no; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the figures they were using when they started adjusting the budget were from the second Referendum. The percentage changes were from the current year budget.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Gentile stated Michael Ganem had reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission under Public Comment. Town Councilman Gentile stated he was unable to attend the Capital Improvements Committee meeting. Town Councilman Gentile stated he had come in at the tail end of the Board of Education meeting. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Charter Revision Commission was doing a good job and there might be additional items that were important for the Commission to look at. He further stated the Commission had invited the Mansfield Town Manager to their meeting and he had given an excellent presentation and briefly elaborated, noting they had a million dollar budget, but they still held Town Meetings. Town Councilman Gentile stated he had just become the Liaison to the Code Enforcement Committee, noting they were working on their Ordinance and would be bringing it forward to the Council. Town Councilman Gentile stated Chris Perkins had done a wonderful job with the mock DUI on May 11th.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education was working on their policies so if anyone had anything they wanted to add now would be the time. Town Councilman Gentile stated that the Terryville High School, per Tunxis Community College, had acquired new Accounting textbooks and that the college had paid for them.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Terryville High School Band had performed in a variety of places, i.e., Virginia Beach, Ocean City, Boston and Washington, D.C., and had earned first place in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Town Councilman Gentile stated Lisa Aiudi, Jan Basoli, Melissa Morelli and Chris Perkins had received the 212° Award.

Town Councilman Gentile recognized the following Spelling Bee winners: Azayda, Alice Benson, Danielle Thayer, with Harry S. Fisher having the first place winner

Town Councilman Pajeski stated the Housing Authority/Gosinski Park had six units painted, cleaned up, with appliances replaced and they were now looking for tenants, noting if anyone knew of someone looking to please have them call the Park Office to fill out an application. He further stated that in a couple of years the entire facility would be remodeled.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Library statistics continue to rise with more people using the Library. Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Planning and Zoning Commission would be holding a Public Hearing on the Gun Range moratorium expansion.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she did not have a Town Council Liaison Report at this time.

Town Council Comments

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

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he had no Town Council Comments at this time.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated he had no Town Council Comments at this time.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he had no Town Council Comments at this time.

Real Estate Committee Report (Executive Session as may be necessary)

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to move into Executive Session at 8:50 p.m., to discuss Real Estate. This motion was approved unanimously.

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

Mayor Merchant called the Town Council back into Regular Session at 9:24 p.m.

Action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to rescind the approval of the sale of Lots 16 and 16a Violet Road and return it to the Real Estate Committee. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to approve the sale of 11 and 13 Eastview Road and 63 and 91 Eastview Road to Cage Properties, LLC, in the sum of \$35,000. 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 Zagurski, to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.