

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

May 2, 2017

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled May 2, 2017, 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 Plymouth Zoning Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr, Town Attorney Bill Hamzy, Plymouth Tax Collector Joe Kilduff and Director of Public Works Charles Wiegert.

Adoption of the Agenda

Mayor Merchant stated he wanted to add an Executive Session to this evening's agenda to discuss negotiations.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to add Executive Session to this evening's agenda as agenda item 20, to discuss Negotiations. 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 the Town of Plymouth" for the record.

Acceptance of Minutes: Plymouth Town Council March 7, 2017 Meeting Minutes, Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education Joint Meeting April 20, 2017 Minutes

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the March 7, 2017 Plymouth Town Council Meeting Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the April 20, 2017 Plymouth Town Council/Board of Finance/Board of Education Joint Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Gentile/abstained; Town Councilwoman LeGassey/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes; motion passed.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No report.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant reported and provided updates on the following: Streetscape; Mayfair Garage, Allen Town Road Paving Project, OZ Gedney Factory Demo, and 150 Main Street.

Finance Director's Report

Mayor Merchant stated the Director of Finance was not present this evening, and noted she would be sending the April Finance Report to the Council.

Discuss and take action to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: CCAP Auto Lease \$945.53; Vincent or Janet Losee \$108.06; Rregjina Jakaj \$49.48; David or Denise Maslak \$108.06; Michael Girard \$108.06; Milan Grant Jr. \$108.06; Liberty Bank \$2,033.69 (45 Fall Mt. Terr); John McNeiece \$50.32; Thomas Grimes \$108.06; Wallace Hart \$108.06; Richard Kreidel Jr. \$108.06; Claudette Weis \$108.06; Erik or Jessica Kowalski \$322.38; Richard or Hope Covello \$108.06; Halina or Eugenius Kazmierczak \$242.77; Robert Telke \$1,000.00; Thomas or Janice Simpson \$108.06; Michael Mclane \$318.90; Gerald or Carol Szoka \$108.06

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: CCAP Auto Lease \$945.53; Vincent or Janet Losee \$108.06; Rregjina Jakaj \$49.48; David or Denise Maslak \$108.06; Michael Girard \$108.06; Milan Grant Jr. \$108.06; Liberty Bank \$2,033.69 (45 Fall Mt. Terr); John McNeiece \$50.32; Thomas Grimes \$108.06; Wallace Hart \$108.06; Richard Kreidel Jr. \$108.06; Claudette Weis \$108.06; Erik or Jessica Kowalski \$322.38; Richard or Hope Covello \$108.06; Halina or Eugenius Kazmierczak \$242.77; Robert Telke \$1,000.00; Thomas or Janice Simpson \$108.06; Michael Mclane \$318.90; and Gerald or Carol Szoka \$108.06. This motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations: To appoint Janice Skonard to the Beautification Committee; to accept the resignation of Eleanor Petke from the Library Trustees Board

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to appoint Janice Skonard to the Beautification Committee. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the resignation of Eleanor Petke from the Library Trustees Board with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action on transferring the Rental Assistance Grant duties from the Assessor's office to the Human Services office

Mayor Merchant provided a brief overview of the Rental Assistance Program, noting the Assessor had informed him that the applicants needed to be qualified and that the duties and responsibilities of the Assessor in this particular area should go to the Human Services office.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to transfer the Rental Assistance Grant duties from the Assessor's office to the Human Services office. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action, as per the Charter, to Certify the Blight List

The Town Council and Mayor Merchant collectively thanked the Plymouth Zoning Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr for the packet he had distributed, noting he had done a great job.

Plymouth Zoning Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr gave a lengthy detailed report on all the properties listed on his report as follows: 309 Town Hill Road, 129 South Eagle Street, 152 Todd Hollow Road, 10 Charles Street, 239 Main Street, 212 Main Street, 4 Chidsey Terrace, 259 Main Street, sand 150 Main Street; a lengthy discussion followed.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept/certify the Blight listing as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

To set a Public Hearing date regarding an Ordinance to create a Retirement and Pension Oversight Board

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to set a Public Hearing for June 6, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall, for an Ordinance to create a Retirement and Pension Oversight Board. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to sign off on the Resolution for the Supplemental Application for the Local Bridge Program for the North Main Street Bridge

Mayor Merchant stated the North Main Street Bridge Project had been a part of the \$9.6 million Bond Package that had previously been approved. Mayor Merchant stated the \$9 million was already part of the debt service, and the \$600,000 will be used once the Supplemental Application is signed, noting it was not a reimbursement. He further stated that once the check is received for the \$600,000 the Town would draw on it while the bridgework is being done and if the work came in under the amount it would be returned to the State.

Public Works Director Charles Wiegert stated the grant was awarded to the Town in 2004. Public Works Director Charles Wiegert stated if the bridge work goes over the amount the State would provide additional monies; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Public Works Director Charles Wiegert stated this was not a reimbursement and that the bridge had been listed for \$1.6 million and briefly explained the financial aspect of the bond.

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Public Works Director Charles Wiegert stated the bond was approved in 2011/2012 for the \$9.8 million dollars and this was the grant; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Mayor Merchant stated the bond money is deposited into an account and the Town takes that money and draws on it for each particular project; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to approve the following Resolution: To authorize the Mayor to sign off on the Resolution for the Supplemental Application for the Local Bridge Program for the North Main Street Bridge: Be it resolved that David Merchant, Mayor of the Town of Plymouth is authorized to sign the Local Bridge Program Supplemental Application and any associated agreements between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Plymouth for the North Main Street, Plymouth, Bridge No. 01670. This motion was approved unanimously.

Old Business

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to rebid 150 Main Street with a cap of \$60,000.

Discussion

Mayor Merchant stated the Public Works Department would be taking care of all the concrete work and grading and briefly elaborated, noting the monies would come from the Blight Fund.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he wanted this item on the next Town Council meeting agenda.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated he wanted to see the bids come before the Town Council.

Vote

This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she would continue to work with the Town Attorney on the Ordinance to have the Town Employee job evaluations updated; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he wanted this item on the next Council meeting agenda to see how it was progressing.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Education was working on their budget. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Real Estate Committee had given the Recording Secretary a map of the road made by Bob Green for the Town Council's review, noting it would give a right of way to the Lions Club at the Terryville Fairgrounds and briefly elaborated. He further stated he wanted this item on the next Town Council meeting agenda.

Mayor Merchant stated this property had to remain as Town property and the Town would grant the Lions Club a right of way or easement to use it; a brief discussion followed.

Town Attorney Hamzy stated this item would have to go to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 and then the Town Council could supersede it after the Commission considers it.

Town Councilman Pajeski stated Gosinski Park was still full and had a waiting list. Town Councilman Pajeski stated HRA of New Britain had taken over BCO in Bristol and they were now working for the Town of Plymouth. He further stated they had put on a wonderful presentation, noting they had no problem taking on new projects for the Town such as the Backpack Program, Small Wonders Christmas Toy Program, etc. He further stated they were a great asset to the Town and were great to work with.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Planning and Zoning Commissioners wanted the Town Council to know that Scott Eisenlohr had been doing a great job as the Zoning Enforcement Officer, noting they felt his workload was overwhelming with his zoning duties, Inland/Wetland, and blight work. Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Commissioners wanted the Town Council to consider the Zoning Enforcement Officer as a full time position.

When questioned by Town Councilman Zagurski, Mayor Merchant stated a gazebo had been being donated by a Town resident for Baldwin Park and Public Works had been asked to make a foundation for it to sit on.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had been concerned about this donation because it would have to be moved when Route 6/North Main Street was realigned; noting the Commission did not want another burden placed on the State when they addressed the intersection; a brief discussion followed.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had approved the gazebo with the condition that Parks and Recreation, along with the Public Works Department, figured out the exaction location for the gazebo ensuring when the improvements came through from the State it would not need to be moved.

Mayor Merchant stated Scott Eisenlohr had a lot of work and there would be further discussion regarding make his position full-time.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated the Planning and Zoning Commission had discussed increasing its fees, as well as adding a few others. He further stated that currently the fees were very low.

Scott Eisenlohr briefly elaborated on the Planning and Zoning fee amounts and increasing all of them; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey recommended researching other area Town fees.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Commission had voted to approve their 2017/2018 budget requests. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Commission was offering two scholarships to graduating Seniors. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Commission Chairman had submitted a grant application for a new Dial-A-Ride van, noting the current van had many expensive repairs. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Commission had held an Executive Session to discuss Personnel. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she had passed out pages from the Charter at the Human Services Commission meeting that referred to Human Services, clarifying the Mayor hires and supervises the Director and the Commission was advisory. She further noted the Charter also states the Human Services Commission may be established by Ordinance, noting the Chairman said she would be going to the Charter Revision Commission to try to change that since they already exist. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Human Services Commission held a Special meeting to hear about HRA, who had been hired to run the Human Services Department. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Communications Commission would be scheduling training sessions with new dispatchers, the Fire Department and the Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Board of Finance had discussion about Park and Recreation's Revolving Account activities, noting it had never been formally approved. She further stated the Comptroller wants something written up about how it works and presented to the Town Council. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Police Commission had approved a Pedestrian Crossing sign out in front of Immaculate Conception Church, noting it was purchased by Public Works and briefly elaborated. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated the Police Commission had approved two "no thru trucks" signs, which had been placed on Carter Road and near the Matthews Street bridge area.

Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Plymouth Volunteer Ambulance Corps (PVAC) was working on their budget and their abatement. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC members were working about their upcoming anniversary. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC were giving out scholarships and urging students to fill out the application. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC was working on updating their information on the Town's website. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the PVAC was holding a huge tag sale this Saturday and requested everyone to stop by. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the WPCA was down to two candidates to replace Terry Vigeant. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated Bill Kryzanowski was the Acting Plant Superintendent and was keeping things on track; a brief discussion followed. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the WPCA was working on their budget. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the WPCA had held training in CPR and First Aid. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the WPCA was working on manholes across the Town to keep them from becoming backed up. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she was very pleased with the speeding sign that had been put up on North Main Street, noting it was a good start to the speeding problem on the street.

Town Council Comments

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

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

Town Councilman Zagurski stated per the Plymouth Firehouse Building Committee's request, he would like to have them added as an agenda item on the next Town Council agenda so they could provide the Town Council with an update.

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

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Police Chief, the Public Works, the Board of Finance (and others) used to be in attendance at all Town Council meetings and questioned if the Council needed to put something on the agenda if the Council wanted something from them. He further stated they used to all come and would provide the Council with a quick two/three minute report.

Mayor Merchant stated all the Boards/Commissions now had Town Council Liaisons; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he had previously requested the Town Council members be included on all information concerning the removal of the tanks from Town Hall. He further stated he had a good knowledge of what this type of project should cost, etc. Town Councilman Gentile stated he would like to be kept informed of anything else that might come up on this project, noting Charles Wiegert should use his knowledge and briefly elaborated. He further stated there were many local people who do tank removal. Town Councilman Gentile stated he and the Town Council should be kept informed about all outgoing bids and updates and requested emails be sent. Town Councilman Gentile requested he be kept updated on the furnace bids, would like to know when it goes out, as well any information regarding the work for the inside of the building; a brief discussion followed.

Public Works Director Charles Wiegert stated the Town had gone off the State bid for the tank removal and briefly elaborated.

Executive Session to discuss Negotiations

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to move into Executive Session to discuss Negotiations at 8:05 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were Town Councilman Gentile, Town Attorney Bill Hamzy, Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman Pajeski and Town Councilman Zagurski.

Mayor Merchant called the Town Council back into Regular Session at 8:23 p.m.

Action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session

No action taken.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGasse, to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.