

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

August 1, 2017

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled August 1, 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, and Town Councilman John Pajeski. Excused Absence: Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance were Town Attorney William Hamzy, Plymouth Tax Collector Joe Kilduff and Director of Public Works Charles Wiegert.

Adoption of the Agenda

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to add the words “*on agenda items*” after “*Public Comment*” to Agenda Item #8. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to adopt the August 1, 2017, 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.

Invocation

Mayor Merchant stated, “May God Bless the U.S.A. and the Town of Plymouth and all of our troops serving around the country and the world protecting our freedoms” for the record.

Mayor Merchant stated the Town of Plymouth’s prayers and thoughts were with the family of the youth who was killed in the car accident this past weekend in Town.

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Acceptance of Minutes: Town of Plymouth Public Hearing June 6, 2017; Plymouth Town Council June 6, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Town Councilman John Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the Town of Plymouth Public Hearing June 6, 2017 as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to accept the Plymouth Town Council June 6, 2017 Regular meeting minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated Terryville Chevrolet was not in compliance with Planning & Zoning and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated she was concerned about the Plymouth Police no longer patrolling at Lake Winfield and briefly elaborated.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated she was in favor of a Town Manager and briefly elaborated.

Mayor's Report

Mayor David Merchant reported and provided updates on the following: working with the State of Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) on a Brownfield Grant for the cleanup of the old Mayfair Garage property and briefly elaborated. Working with Plymouth Town Hall Department Heads on contingency plan to address possible impact from the State Budget and briefly elaborated. North Main Street Bridge work under construction and briefly elaborated. Demolition of the former OZ Gedney property temporarily stalled pending legal issues and briefly elaborated. Property at 150 Main Street, Terryville, will be torn down in the upcoming month or so. Town is in the process of tearing down the burned out house next door to the Plymouth Town Hall.

Finance Director's Report

Mayor David Merchant stated Financial Director Ann Marie Rheault was not present this evening, however if any Council member had any questions for her to answer please let him know and he would forward them to her directly.

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Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. \$945.53; Deborah A. Wartonick \$108.06; James Christopher \$41.25; Maureen LeBlanc \$290.82; Melissa Lamy \$22.50; Robert Impresa \$69.70; Joanne Kopcha \$75.11; William Porter \$129.98; Henry or Dolores Grabowski \$24.22; Timothy Dime \$108.06

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman John Pajeski, to approve and refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: CCAP Auto Lease Ltd. \$945.53; Deborah A. Wartonick \$108.06; James Christopher \$41.25; Maureen LeBlanc \$290.82; Melissa Lamy \$22.50; Robert Impresa \$69.70; Joanne Kopcha \$75.11; William Porter \$129.98; Henry or Dolores Grabowski \$24.22; and Timothy Dime \$108.06. This motion was approved unanimously.

Presentation of Draft Report by Charter Revision Commission

Mayor David Merchant stated the Council would be setting a Public Hearing date this evening for the Charter Revision Commission after their presentation by Chairman Mark Malley.

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley stated the following Charter Revision Commission members were present this evening: Barbara Rockwell, David Sekorski and Elizabeth Wollenberg. Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley reviewed the proposed changes recommended by the Charter Revision Commission in detail; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to set Thursday, August 10, 2017, 6:30 p.m., Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall, as the Public Hearing date on the Charter Revision proposals and a joint Special meeting of the Plymouth Town Council and the Charter Revision Commission immediately following the Public Hearing. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on Thomaston Savings Bank Tax Processing Branch Agreement

Plymouth Tax Collector Joe Kilduff gave a detailed overview of the Thomaston Savings Bank Tax Processing Branch Agreement; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, to approve the Tax Processing Agreement with the Thomaston Savings Bank, as presented this evening, for the collection of taxes. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action to approve the Department of Transportation Grant for a Wheelchair Vehicle

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Discuss and take action to approve the Department of Transportation Grant for a Wheelchair Vehicle Cont'd.

Mayor David Merchant thanked Human Services Chairwoman Heidi Caron and Housing Authority of Plymouth Housing Authority Chairman Vinnie Klimas for their personal time and hard work in procuring the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation Grant for the Dial-A-Ride vehicle.

Human Services Commission Chairwoman Heidi Caron gave a brief overview of the Department of Transportation Grant for the Dial-A-Ride Van and thanked Plymouth Housing Authority Chairman Vinnie Klimas for all of his hard work and contribution in procuring the grant.

Plymouth Housing Authority Chairman Vinnie Klimas stated Human Services Chairman Heidi Caron had been ill and that it was wonderful to see her present this evening, noting how hard she had worked alongside of him on procuring this grant; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman John Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the Department of Transportation Grant for a Wheelchair Vehicle, and to authorize the Mayor to sign it, as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Capital Improvements Committee had approved the Dual Fuel recommendation for the Town, noting it was a hybrid system, which would be saving the Town money. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he would bring the Public Comment concern regarding Police Officers patrolling Lake Winfield forward to the Park and Recreation Commission, the Parks and Recreation Director Michael Ganem and the Plymouth Police Commission. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Code Enforcement Committee meets the first Thursday of each month and that Zoning Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr was doing an excellent job cleaning up blight in Town. He further stated Zoning Enforcement Officer Scott Eisenlohr was diligent about his work hours. Town Councilman Dan Gentile thanked the Charter Revision Commission members for their time as volunteers, noting they were trying to make the Town better.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated everyone had a great time at the July 4th Gosinski Park picnic. He further stated they had a wonderful person taking care of the grass now and doing minor repairs at the Park and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman John Pajeski stated if anyone knew of anyone looking for housing at the Park to please ask them to fill out an application. Town Councilman John Pajeski stated the Conservation Inland-Wetlands Commission had not met.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Mayor David Merchant, Liaison to the Plymouth Firehouse Building Committee, stated the Building Committee had accepted the low bid from Burlington Construction as the low bidder for the construction of the Firehouse and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Retirement and Pension Oversight Board had sent out an RFP for a Financial Advisor and would be meeting again to review them. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Plymouth Police Commission had voted to support the Police Officers patrolling the Lake Winfield walking trails in their cruisers. She further stated after receiving a resident complaint and explanation, the Police Commission felt they should back up the Police Officers. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated there would be a Police Officer leaving this month that will be replaced. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Board of Finance and the Board of Education had approved the revised agreement concerning the Board of Education's Sinking Fund; noting the cap was raised, but the expenditures must now be approved by the Board of Finance. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Communications Commission had a discussion on contracting out emergency medical dispatching rather than recertifying the Police Officers who fill in during the Dispatcher's breaks; noting that conversation was ongoing.

Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey Public Works Board meeting had been cancelled and the Economic Development Commission meeting was cancelled for lack of a quorum. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the PVAC had hired an Assistant Chief, Dave Cody. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the PVAC was still working on the Abatement Program for the work there. She further stated she did not have an updated for the PVAC Explorers. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the PVAC had a problem with one of the ambulances, but it was getting repaired. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the WPCA, noting they had a lot of information and discussion on their contracts and they were checking out the nitrogen, etc. They also discussed their UV Light Contract and briefly elaborated.

Town Council Comments

Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated she wanted to thank the Charter Revision Commission, noting they had done a great job; it was a big task that they had undertaken and she appreciated them. Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated she also wanted to thank all the volunteer Board and Commission members, noting it takes a lot of work and personal time to take these positions on. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated she wanted to thank Heidi Caron and Vinnie Klimas for all their hard work in getting the Dial-A-Ride Van, noting it was awesome. Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey stated the WPCA had spoken to her regarding an investment program and she would speak to Town Attorney William Hamzy regarding their request.

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Town Council Comments Cont'd.

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

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated he was in favor of a Town Manager, and briefly elaborated. Town Councilman John Pajeski stated he also wanted to thank Heidi Caron and Vinnie Klimas for procuring the Dial-A-Ride grant to get the citizens of Plymouth a safer mode of transportation.

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

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, to adjourn at 7:58 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary