

Minutes

February 1, 2022

Call to Order: Mayor Joe Kilduff called the scheduled February 1, 2022, Plymouth Town Council Regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present for the meeting were Town Councilman Nate Brown, Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor Joe Kilduff, Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann and Town Councilman Ron Tiscia.

Adoption of Agenda

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann to add #15 agenda item: To discuss and take action on endorsing the request for CDBG CV Cares Act Funds for the Gosinski Park Health Care Clinic. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to accept the February 1, 2022, agenda as amended. This motion was approved unanimously.

Fire Exit Notification

Mayor Joe Kilduff noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance

Town Councilman Nate Brown led the Town Council Members and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated “May God Bless the United States and the Town of Plymouth” for the record.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Jim Mozlak, 18 Carriage Drive, Terryville, questioned progress of renovations at Prospect Street School; Dollar General Store in Plymouth; Cumberland Farms by Seymour Road; Town Hall Hours five days week.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Vicky Carey 665 Greystone Road, # 13 noted Building Inspectors shortage; questioned hours and potential budget of Building Inspector with City of Bristol.

Acceptance of Minutes (January 4, 2022)

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Nate Brown to accept the January 4, 2022, Plymouth Town Council minutes.

Discussion: Town Councilman Nate Brown stated under his Town Council Liaison Report the location of the Town Houses he referenced Wilton Road however the correct address was 9 Scott Road, property owner Joseph Zappone Builders Construction.

Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Nate Brown, to accept the January 4, 2022, minutes as amended.

Financial Report

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Town Council had been provided with the most recent financials and as soon the January financials were ready, they would be provided. He further stated if anyone had any questions to please contact his office.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Joe Kilduff briefly reviewed and discussed the following: Attended Mayor's Mixer in New Britain hosted by Mayor Stewart with 101 of 169 Mayors/First Selectmen in CT being Republican; Plymouth's recent winter storm over the weekend/Town was prepared—Emergency Management Team (Police/Fire/PVAC/Public Works/Eversource/School System/Region 5) in attendance; toured High School as an emergency event shelter; potential ice storm for Friday; Town and Human Services Department will be holding a COVID Test Kits/Masks distribution for disabled residents February 2nd and 3rd at Town Hall; Budget coming along; should have budget to Board of Finance on time; Grand List 17.41% increase; Audit extension approved—goal is March 31st will be done by end of fiscal year; still one person short in Finance Department; Marijuana/Ordinance and Zoning discussed; Affordable Housing Plan discussed; Police Station update discussed; in-person Town meetings with COVID being below 10% positivity; JAG Grant approved by Council was accepted and Grant was awarded.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Antoine Charest \$32.02; Brandon Kozikowski \$276.57; Paul Santopietro \$45.58; Holly K. Mascaro \$397.36; Tammy Lavenski \$88.65; Bashkim Sadriu \$97.79, Mark J. Przybysz \$365.67

Town Councilman Nate Brown made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, to approve the refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Antoine Charest \$32.02; Brandon Kozikowski \$276.57; Paul Santopietro \$45.58; Holly K. Mascaro \$397.36; Tammy Lavenski \$88.65; Bashkim Sadriu \$97.79, and Mark J. Przybysz \$365.67. This motion was approved unanimously.

Resignations/Appointments/Reappointments: To accept the resignation of Reverend Joel Kotila from the Human Services Commission; to accept the resignation of Helena Schwalm from the Human Services Commission; to accept the resignation of Frederick Schwalm from the Human Services Commission; to appoint Mark D. Malley to the Human Services Commission with a term ending date of 10/1/2024

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to accept the resignation of Reverend Joel Kotila from the Human Services Commission with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, to accept the resignation of Helena Schwalm from the Human Services Commission with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Nate Brown, to accept the resignation of Frederick Schwalm from the Human Services Commission with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to appoint Mark D. Malley to the Human Services Commission with a term ending date of 10/1/2024. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Bristol to provide the services of a Building Inspector as needed

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he wanted to emphasize on the words "as needed" for this agenda item, noting this agenda item was only for an emergency situation, not regular or scheduled hours of that nature, and briefly elaborated on his discussion with Mayor Jeff Caggiano, City of Bristol, on a previous issue that brought to light the Town did not have a backup plan for its Building Inspector.

When questioned by Town Councilman Nate Brown, Mayor Joe Kilduff stated this MOU would be in place in case the current Building Inspector was unable to fulfill his duties and was not a reduction in his current working hours and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Nate Brown stated this was a great move on Mayor Kilduff's part to have a relationship with the City of Bristol's Mayor, as well as a great opportunity.

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Bristol to provide the services of a Building Inspector as needed.

Discussion: Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated on line three of the MOU, he would like to see both Building Inspector's names removed and the words "between the two Building Inspectors" added.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she was in agreement with Town Councilman Gentile's recommendation.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he would have Town Attorney Bill Hamzy make the name change in the MOU, as recommended by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, before he sends the MOU to the City of Bristol.

Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, to accept the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Bristol to provide the services of a Building Inspector as amended. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and approve the Library Board of Directors proposed By-Laws

Barbara Galvin, Terryville Library Board of Directors, briefly outlined the Library Board of Directors proposed By-Laws as previously distributed to the Town Council. Barbara Galvin stated their By-Laws had not been updated since 2008 and briefly elaborated on their proposed changes.

Mayor Joe Kilduff questioned if the nominating committee is appointed at the October meeting by the Chairman who will present the slate of officers at the November meeting (when the elections are in November during election years) how could the Board of Directors have a nominating committee start in October when they won't know if those officials will be reelected and further, who would be on the board since the elections are not until November.

Randy Picard, Terryville Library Board of Directors, stated this question had been previously discuss and noted their meeting is usually held the week after the elections; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Joe Green stated he had the same question as the Mayor.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she would like this agenda item clarified.

Barbara Galvin stated she would bring this agenda item back to the Board of Directors at their next meeting.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he appreciated the Library Board of Director revisiting their By-Laws and would like to see clarification for his question and the agenda item brought back to the Town Council for a vote.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to table the approval of the Library Board of Directors proposed By-Laws until the next scheduled meeting of the Plymouth Town Council. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on endorsing the request for CDBG CV Cares Act Funds for the Gosinski Park COVID Health Care Clinic

Vinnie Klimas, Chairperson of the Town of Plymouth Housing Authority of the Town of Plymouth, stated he was present this evening to ask the Town Council and Mayor for their endorsement of the two-page summary for the CDBG CV Cares Act Funds for the Gosinski Park COVID Health Care Clinic going through the State of Connecticut's Department of Housing. He further stated the application and information he previously distributed to the Town Council and Mayor was requesting the extension and doubling the size of Gosinski Park's Community Room and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to endorse the request for CDBG CV Cares Act Funds for the Gosinski Park COVID Health Care Clinic.

Discussion: Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated Vinnie Klimas always impresses him and leaves him speechless, which is hard to do. He further stated that he wanted to thank Vinnie Klimas for giving the Town Council the necessary information to make good decisions.

Town Councilman Nate Brown stated he echoes Town Councilman Gentile's comments on Vinnie Klimas' due diligence.

When questioned by Town Councilman Nate Brown, Vinnie Klimas stated the extra additional funding would be coming from Federal funds to the State to the local level. He further stated they would be accepting the low bidder and the bids were as follows: the highest bidder was \$5.9 million, the next bid was \$4.2 million, followed by \$3.9 million and the lowest bid came in at \$3.8 million for the hard costs.

Vote: This motion was approved unanimously.

American Rescue Plan Discussion

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee had a lengthy meeting, noting it was a really good start with presentations from the Fire Department, the Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation, the Police Department, Communications Commission and the American Legion. He further stated Town Councilman Joe Green had presented on behalf of PVAC and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she was impressed with the Committees bringing forth solid information and thoughtful projects that will benefit a large amount of people. She further stated that she had spoken with other towns and other people and would have more ideas for the next American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she also had information for the Fire Department's Exhaust System, noting two of the Town's Fire Departments did not have these in place and briefly elaborated on taking care of and providing adequate exhaust systems for the men and women who give of themselves for their communities. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she would encourage everyone to bring forward ideas, questions and concerns, noting it was important for everyone to know where the money is going and have a level of comfort with the American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee and where they would be put the funding. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated Park and Recreation had great ideas and opportunities for both youth and adult activities, which would bring recreation to the Town.

Town Councilman Joe Green stated the Fire Department had a newer Jaws of Life piece of equipment and PVAC had a particular device they brought forward. Town Councilman Joe Green stated some of the items brought forward were no brainers and were what COVID was all about. He further stated the American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee was making progress.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he wanted to thank Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann and Town Councilman Joe Green for sitting on the American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee, noting he was looking forward to working with them, the Board of Finance and members of the Public on ways to spend these monies.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he wanted to see the monies divided up fairly so that everyone gets some of the \$3.4 million available; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Nate Brown, Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the next meeting of the American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee would in-person but would consider a Hybrid meeting should one be requested or something drastic changes and the COVID percentage climbs very high.

Other Business

No report.

Town Council Liaison Reports

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education was working on their budget. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated it was noted at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting they still don't have a Parks and Recreation Director. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Town of Thomaston's Park and Recreation Director had retired and questioned if Plymouth could share a Director with them. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the WPCA still has to have the State mandated Phosphorus Project completed. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated Vinnie Klimas was doing a great job with the Housing Authority.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated he had already held very preliminary discussion regarding sharing Parks and Recreation with the Thomaston First Selectman, noting he felt sharing would be a great idea and briefly elaborated.

Mayor Joe Kilduff discussed the WPCA Phosphorus Project, noting the State would be starting enforcement, noting this would have to go to Referendum and the final price would be determined; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Nate Brown stated Inland Wetlands had discussed the Oakwood Townhouse application off of Scott Road, noting the application was accepted and another Public Hearing would not be required. Town Councilman Nate Brown stated Planning and Zoning had approved the site plan re-approval for the Oakwood Townhouses for construction in the spring to early summer at the latest. He further stated the road cut was already in. Town Councilman Nate Brown stated Planning and Zoning had met for three special permits and site plan applications. Town Councilman Nate Brown stated Public Works Board had reviewed their 2022/2023 FY Budget, noting Route 6 Agney Avenue Project had gone out to bid, and that it looked like it would be pushed back, and construction would begin later this summer. Town Councilman Nate Brown stated there were eight bidders and that two of them were Town Contractors. Town Councilman Nate Brown stated Housing Board of Appeals did not meet.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated the Human Services Commission held their Election of Officers, noting there were resignations and one appointment the Council had already received. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated the Police Commission was focusing on their budget. She further stated the JAG Grant had been approved. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated the department was extremely busy, they were still short-handed with vacancies but working through the issues. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated most of the team has been great about volunteering and coming forward to fill the vacancies and noted there was nothing mandated at this point in time. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated the Fire Department was working on their budget. She further stated Chief Mark Sekorski is being inducted into the State of Connecticut Fire Fighters Association Hall of Fame and stated kudos to him for the recognition. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated a dinner will be held to recognize him and some other Fire Chiefs, as well. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated the Board of Finance would be kicking off their twice-weekly budget meetings on February 17th and thanked the Board Members for putting their personal lives on hold so the Town can have a budget. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated we were in good shape; the Committees were turning their budgets into the Mayor's office, and noted the budgets are realistic. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated the Police Building Committee had held a meeting, but she was not made aware of it and missed it.

Town Councilman Ron Tiscia stated the Communications Commission had met and passed their budget. He further stated they had also discussed their Emergency Services Radio Upgrade Project and that Norcom was present and gave a great presentation. Town Councilman Ron Tiscia stated the two towers in question were over 40 years old with no replacement parts available, so the Communications Commission voted to replace the towers just for the municipality use and noted down the road for carriers. He further stated this vote passed unanimously.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the two towers were items that have been brought forward for ARPA funding consideration.

Town Councilman Joe Green stated PVAC was looking at various improvements to their building (carpeting and painting, etc.) and had submitted their requests to Public Works. He further stated Capital Improvements Committee had not met and the Code Enforcement Committee meeting had been cancelled.

Town Council Comments

When questioned by Town Councilman Joe Green regarding the Human Services Commission resignations, Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Human Services Commission still had a quorum of members.

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

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

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

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 Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Nate Brown, to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary