

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Plymouth Town Council
Telephone: (860) 585-4001
Fax: (860) 585-4015

Minutes

August 10, 2017

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled August 10, 2017, Plymouth Town Public Hearing to order at 6:30 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. Excused Absence: Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey. Also in attendance was Town Attorney William Hamzy.

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.

Town Attorney William Hamzy stated he had one change to Item 4.b.: Chapter VI. Section 4. Subsection 2. As follows: delete and substitute “An Assessor shall be appointed in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 7-100k.”

Public Comment on Charter Revision Proposed Changes

- a. Chapter III Section 3. Delete last three sentences.
- b. Chapter VI Section 4 Subsection 2. Delete and renumber subsections.
- c. Chapter VII Section 3b. Change title from “Annual Budget Referendum” to “Annual Budget Approval Process”. Delete this section and substitute the following: “In the event the proposed budget is not more than three percent (3%) higher or lower than the current year’s original approved budget, the Town Council may consider and approve the same by a majority vote. If the proposed budget is more than three percent (3%) higher or lower than the current year’s original approved budget, then the council shall schedule a budget referendum to be held on or before May 3 for adopting a budget.

**Plymouth Town Public Hearing
August 10, 2017
Page Two of Three Pages**

Public Comment on Charter Revision Proposed Changes Cont'd.

The budget shall be accepted or rejected by a majority ballot vote cast by the electors and qualified taxpayers at the referendum. In the event of a budget rejection, the town council is authorized to adopt a budget by June 15. Council adjustments to the budget excluding debt service shall not be more than three percent (3%) higher or lower than the current year's original approved budget. At the time the budget is adopted, the Board of Finance shall file the same with the Town Clerk and shall also fix the tax rate in mills which shall be levied on the taxable property in the Town for the ensuing fiscal year."

- d. Chapter IX Section 3 Subsection 2. Delete the second sentence of this subsection and substitute the following: "All meetings and minutes of meetings shall be conducted in recorded in accordance with established rules of parliamentary procedure and shall include "Public Comment" as an agenda item. The Town Council shall also include "Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items" as an agenda item which may be combined with the "Public Comment" agenda item. Each board or commission as well as the Town Council may adopt a rule which limits the amount of time a speaker may speak during the Public Comment agenda item or in the case of the Town Council, the Public Comment on Non-Agenda items. Boards, commissions and the Town Council may use their own by-laws, rules or regulations pertaining to the allowance of Public Comment on agenda items."

Chapter III Section 3. Delete the third sentence of this Section and substitute the following: "All meetings of the Town Council for the transaction of business shall be open to the public which public shall have input in accordance with Chapter IX Section 3 Subsection 3 as amended."

Joyce Krinitsky, 11 Fairview Avenue, Terryville, briefly commented on the idea of going for a Town Manager for the Town of Plymouth and its placement on the November ballot.

Chris Simo-Kinzer 52 Old Farm Road, Terryville, stated he understood where the Charter Revision Commission was going with the 3%, however by completing eliminating a Referendum we would lose the feel and the voice of the people and that would be a mistake and briefly elaborated.

Jim Mozlak, 18 Carriage Drive, Terryville, questioned what the previous limit on the 3% had been and briefly elaborated.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated a Referendum gives everyone (voters and taxpayers) a chance to choose if they want the budget, as presented, passed. Cathy Kosak stated Public Comment has always been allowed on agendas and briefly elaborated.

**Plymouth Town Public Hearing
August 10, 2017
Page Three of Three Pages**

Public Comment on Charter Revision Proposed Changes Cont'd.

Michael Drozdick, 15 Crescent Street, Terryville, stated he was confused by the 3% discussion and that he was unsure what would happen if there wasn't a majority vote of the Council and briefly elaborated.

Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane, Terryville, questioned why the Town budgets keep failing and elaborated at length, noting he wasn't present to speak for or against it, but this was how most cities and town adopt their budget and elaborated at length. Ralph Zovich stated the question now remains if the budget is approved by the Town Council would it be harder or easier to impose fiscal discipline in the future.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated a previous Charter Commission was going to limit the public to only two Referendums and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated the Town Council had the power to bring a Referendum question forward for a Town Manager and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated she thought Public Comment should be consistent for all Boards and Commissions and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated the Assessor section didn't need to be added into the Charter and briefly elaborated.

Joyce Krinitsky thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their thought in the proposal for the Referendum, noting there was no point in going with unlimited Referendums and briefly elaborated

Mark Galvin, 294 Lake Plymouth Boulevard, Plymouth, thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their hard work. Mark Galvin stated he wanted to take issue with the previous public speaker that noted everyone in Town was broke. He further stated everybody wasn't broke, including himself, noting he lived and ate better than kings of old in the richest country in the history of the world and briefly elaborated.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Tom Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary