

**Town of Plymouth**  
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**Plymouth Town Council**  
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**Minutes**

**October 6, 2020**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled October 6, 2020, Plymouth Town Council Regular Virtual Zoom meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Present for the meeting were Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. Also in attendance was Town Attorney William Hamzy and Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Town Councilman John Pajeski led the Plymouth Town Council and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to add the six additional names, provided today by Plymouth Tax Collector Joseph Kilduff, to the Tax Overpayment Refund agenda item. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Invocation**

Mayor David Merchant stated “God Bless America and the Town of Plymouth” for the record. Mayor David Merchant stated our prayers were with President Trump for a quick recovery from COVID 19.

**Acceptance of Minutes (September 1, 2020)**

Plymouth Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Plymouth Town Councilman Joe Green, to accept the September 1, 2020, Regular minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

No report.

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**Public Comment on Agenda Items**

No report.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor David Merchant briefly commented, reviewed and updated the following items: The November 3<sup>rd</sup> Election; the Water Main Project on Route 6; the water line installed for the Community Garden and the Soccer Field and Nate Brown's update report; the Audit Process; the Harwinton Avenue Project the Tax Collection Report Update; and the Tax Collection to-date

**Finance Directors Report**

It was noted that the Town Council members had received the Director of Finance's Town of Plymouth General Fund Revenue/Expenditures Summary Report.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile requested a paper copy noting he hadn't received Ann Marie Rheault's email

Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault provided information regarding the MFAC meeting she had participated in for the 2020 preliminary numbers.

Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated the Auditors were scheduled to begin the final audit field work the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>, noting there would be doing some of the work on the premises and some remotely.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile regarding current tax collection percentages, Mayor David Merchant stated they were as follows: Current property taxes for 2021 was 51.17; motor vehicle 80.62; personal property 58%; lien fees 19%, for a total of 53.78%, noting last year's number at this time was 55.08%; a brief discussion followed.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile regarding the status of Federal COVID reimbursable monies, Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault stated the Town was still working on sending everything to FEMA, noting it was a long, arduous process and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile questioned the amount that Eversource charges the Town to repair burned out lights on the poles in Town, noting \$200.00 per pole was an unfair amount to pay for three bolts and two wires and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile thanked the Mayor for sending the Public Works Used Equipment Auction information to the Council, noting that hopefully the Town can make a little money on it; a brief discussion followed.

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**Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Debra Brennan \$61.07; Cab East LLC \$809.76; Kevin Dawiczuk \$140.82; Tracy Doran \$229.81; Kevin Holmes \$20.07; Maynard or Donna Kleckner \$216.35; Michael Krayeski \$8.49; Rodney or Carol Orr \$1,169.68, \$1,197.36; Cyril Pelletier \$214.53; Digna Petrisky \$7.63; Richard or Patricia Poinatale \$52.01, \$65.46; Donald or Lori Spaulding \$8.89; Donald Spaulding \$26.53; Giovanni Trovato \$42.62; USB Leasing LT \$482.08; VW Credit Leasing LTD \$82.31; Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Operations \$4,286.67; Dandre Wilson \$96.44, \$290.91; Allgreen Hydroseed LLC \$530.59; Kimberly Caputo \$34.37; Tracy Doran \$67.21; Keith McCool \$12.39; Marcy Ouellette \$16.09; Plymouth Oil Services \$137.74**

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Debra Brennan \$61.07; Cab East LLC \$809.76; Kevin Dawiczuk \$140.82; Tracy Doran \$229.81; Kevin Holmes \$20.07; Maynard or Donna Kleckner \$216.35; Michael Krayeski \$8.49; Rodney or Carol Orr \$1,169.68, \$1,197.36; Cyril Pelletier \$214.53; Digna Petrisky \$7.63; Richard or Patricia Poinatale \$52.01, \$65.46; Donald or Lori Spaulding \$8.89; Donald Spaulding \$26.53; Giovanni Trovato \$42.62; USB Leasing LT \$482.08; VW Credit Leasing LTD \$82.31; Wells Fargo Real Estate Tax Operations \$4,286.67; Dandre Wilson \$96.44, \$290.91; Allgreen Hydroseed LLC \$530.59; Kimberly Caputo \$34.37; Tracy Doran \$67.21; Keith McCool \$12.39; Marcy Ouellette \$16.09; and Plymouth Oil Services \$137.74. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Motion to un-table, discuss and take action, as may be necessary, on the permit fees for Bingo, Bazaar or Raffle Permits**

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to un-table, discuss and take action, as may be necessary, on the permit fees for Bingo, Bazaar or Raffle Permits. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor David Merchant provided a brief background on the agenda item, noting the Town Council could increase the permit fees to the maximum amount allowed by the State, leave the permit fees where they currently are or waive the fees entirely; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Joe Green stated he would vote to waive the permit fees, noting they were for non-profits.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski if anyone had to pay a fee that wasn't a charity, Mayor David Merchant stated no.

Town Attorney William Hamzy stated the only entities allowed to hold raffles, bazaars or bingo are charitable/social organizations or non-profits.

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**Motion to un-table, discuss and take action, as may be necessary, on the permit fees for Bingo, Bazaar or Raffle Permits Cont'd.**

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he felt for the small amounts collected, the permit fees should be waived and briefly elaborated citing Public Act 17-231.

Town Councilman Joe Green made motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to waive the permit fees for Bingo, Bazaar and Raffle Permits. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Other Business**

Noting the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council fell on Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Mayor David Merchant questioned if the Town Council wanted to move the meeting to the following Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>; a brief discussion followed.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to hold the next scheduled meeting of the Plymouth Town Council on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. This motion was approved unanimously.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile regarding notifying the Public of the increased check-in stations and additional workers at the Terryville High School Polling place, Mayor David Merchant stated he would be putting out a Press Release to the newspapers and also posting on his Facebook page.

Town Attorney William Hamzy stated the goal is to make the process as easy and convenient as possible so people have a positive outlook on the process. He further stated there were fewer people voting in-person than four years ago, noting that currently, the number of absentee ballots is at approximately 2,000. Town Attorney William Hamzy questioned if a second polling location were added, how would the Town be divided up and how would that change notice get out to all the voters. He further stated a second location would add more confusion to the process; a brief discussion followed.

**Town Council Liaison Reports**

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he had nothing to report on at this time.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Board of Finance had approved the Board of Education's request to keep their \$150,000 Surplus from last year and place it in their Sinking Fund. Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated the Police Commission found out there had been a high number of calls at the Plymouth Motor Lodge, noting the Department has talked

with the Plymouth Motor Lodge management and that they are paying a lot of attention to that situation.

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**Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.**

When questioned by Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor David Merchant gave a status report on the escaped beefalo, noting it was still loose and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated he had nothing to report on at this time.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Real Estate Committee was working hard to sell off Town-owned properties and correct the information on these properties, i.e., property lines, etc. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education was still operating in hybrid mode at least until October 19<sup>th</sup>, noting the students would be going on Monday, Tuesday and break on Wednesday's to sanitize, go again on Thursday and Fridays. He further stated Distance Learning would be held on Wednesdays. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the new Superintendent was doing a great job. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education had come up with a plan to resolve the Business Manager, who had left when the Superintendent did. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he missed the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting however the Director of Parks and Recreation, Briana Brumaghim, had provided him with information. He further stated there was a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Commission and that two employees, who had worked for Briana Brumaghim, had been moved to the Public Works Department. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Governor's Mask policy penalty was unjust and that people's constitutional rights were being trampled on by it and briefly elaborated.

**Town Council Comments**

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

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

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

Town Councilman John Pajeski 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 Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman John Pajeski, to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia A. Hale, Recording Secretary