

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

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

**Minutes**

**January 6, 2015**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled January 6, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Special Meeting to order at 7:09 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

**Roll Call:** Present were Town Councilman William Heering, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Susan Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, Town Councilman Gary Wyszynski, and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski. 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.

### **Invocation**

Mayor Merchant stated “May God Bless America” and May God Bless the Town of Plymouth” for the record.

### **Council Rules and Procedures**

Mayor Merchant read the proposed changes to the Council Rules and Procedures into the record as follows: Privilege of the Floor a. Qualified electors, taxpayers, and interested or affected parties attending a Council meeting and wishing to address the Council on a particular agenda item, may when that particular agenda item is introduced, raise their hand and await recognition. Once recognized by the chair, the speaker should approach the podium and state their name and address. Each speaker will be able to approach the podium one time and be limited to three minutes at the podium per agenda item.

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**Council Rules and Procedures Cont'd.**

Remarks by the electors, taxpayers, or interested or affected parties, must be relevant and limited to the agenda item being discussed. The speaker should only address the Town Council and no one in the audience, that all spectators should refrain from side conversations. All speakers must have courtesy and respect and behave in a manner appropriate to the Council Chambers. No response should be expected from the Chair, or the Town Council. b. No Change. c. The agenda item "Public Comment" shall be designated as a regular item on all "Regular" Plymouth Town Council Meeting agendas. Speakers must be recognized by the Chair, Approach the podium and state their names and address. Each speaker may approach the podium one time during Public Comment and will have a time limit of three minutes to make their comment. All speakers must have courtesy, respect and behave in a manner appropriate to the Council Chambers. No response should be expected from the Chair or the Town Council.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to approve and adopt the proposed changes to the Town Council's Rules and Procedures as presented this evening, January 6, 2015.

**Discussion:**

Town Councilman Heering stated the proposed changes represented a significant amount of time reduction and briefly explained his comment.

Mayor Merchant stated if a viable comment was being made the rules could be suspended, as noted in the Rules and Procedures.

Vote: Town Councilman Wyszynski/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Heering/no. Motion passed.

**Public Comment**

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, spoke in favor of the proposed three-minute Council Rules and Procedures change and briefly explained his comment.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, spoke against the proposed three-minute Council Rules and Procedures change and briefly explained her comment.

David Smith, 145 South Main Street, Terryville, requested that the Mayor recuse himself from voting on Agenda item numbers 13 and 14, this evening.

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**Discuss and take action to set the Plymouth Town Council 2015 Meeting Dates**

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to set the Plymouth Town Council 2015 meeting dates as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Appointments/Resignations: To appoint Keith Golnik as a Regular Member to the Fire Commission; to reappoint George Andrews to the Water Pollution Control Authority as a Regular Member; to reappoint Phil Armbruster to the Water Pollution Control Authority as a Regular Member; to reappoint Peter Giancesini as an Alternate Member to the Water Pollution Control Authority**

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Wyszynski, to appoint Keith Golnik as a Regular Member to the Fire Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint George Andrews to the Water Pollution Control Authority as a Regular Member. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Phil Armbruster to the Water Pollution Control Authority as a Regular Member. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to reappoint Peter Giancesini as an Alternate Member to the Water Pollution Control Authority. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund the following Property Taxes: Troy D. Norton \$233.18; CoreLogic Tax Service \$1,943.90, \$2,992.51, \$3,074.05; Hyundai Leasing Titling TR \$95.14; VW Credit Leasing LTD. \$122.37, \$255.14; Joy Scott \$100.02; Kevin E. Bycoski \$7.25**

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to refund the following Property Taxes: Troy D. Norton \$233.18; CoreLogic Tax Service \$1,943.90, \$2,992.51, \$3,074.05; Hyundai Leasing Titling TR \$95.14; VW Credit Leasing LTD. \$122.37, \$255.14, Joy Scott \$100.02 and Kevin E. Bycoski. This motion was approved unanimously.

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**Consider and take action on the Tax Abatement request made by Inland Fuel Terminals, Inc., 367 and 370 South Main Street, Terryville**

Mayor Merchant briefly discussed the Tax Abatement request made by Inland Fuel Terminals, Inc., noting this agenda item had been approved by the Economic Development Commission and the Tax Incentive Committee, and that Council approval was the last contingency item to close the contract.

Town Councilwoman Murawski read the Resolution into the record as follows: Whereas Inland Fuel Terminals, Inc., (Inland Fuel) has proposed to purchase the properties located at 367 and 370 South Main Street, and Whereas Inland Fuel is planning to invest approximately \$6.5 million to improve the property at 370 South Main Street, and Whereas Inland Fuel has requested assistance from the Town of Plymouth to proceed with these improvements, and Whereas the Economic Development Commission and the Tax Incentive Committee have recommended approval of the following agreement pursuant to CGS sec. 12-65b. The value of all real property improvements made in 2015 by Inland Fuel at 367 and 370 South Main Street shall be fixed at \$5 million for a period of seven years. Upon approval of this agreement and purchase of the properties by Inland Fuel, a 50% abatement of taxes shall be granted to Inland Fuel for a period of five years. A 40% abatement of taxes shall be granted to Inland Fuel in year six and a 30% abatement of taxes shall be granted in year seven.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Wyszynski to approve the Resolution as presented.

Discussion:

Melanie Church 328 Main Street, Terryville, spoke against the Resolution project and briefly explained her comment.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, spoke in favor of the Resolution project and briefly explained his comment.

Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane, Terryville, spoke in favor for the Resolution project and briefly explained his comment.

Mayor Merchant stated when property is foreclosed on with “x” amount of owed taxes, the taxes go to zero because a Town cannot owe itself and noted this issue should have been stopped 10 years ago and briefly explained the reasoning behind the Resolution.

Joe Longo, 134 Seymour Road, Terryville, spoke in favor of the Resolution project. Joe Longo thanked the Town of Plymouth Administration for cleaning up the Town of Plymouth, citing Triem Industries as an example and adding other businesses in the Park besides Triem Industries.

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**Consider and take action on the Tax Abatement request made by Inland Fuel Terminals, Inc., 367 and 370 South Main Street, Terryville Cont'd.**

Joe Longo thanked the Town of Plymouth Administration for the great roadwork done on the Seymour Road project.

Daniel Gentile, 269 Mount Tobe Road, Plymouth, spoke favorably for the Resolution project and briefly explained his comment.

Vote: This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action to authorize the Mayor to approve and sign a Resolution for the Connecticut State Library Historic Preservation Grant**

Town Councilwoman Murawski read the Resolution into the record as follows: That David V. Merchant, Mayor of the Town of Plymouth, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

Town Councilman Wyszynski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman, to approve the Resolution as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

**Discuss and take action to appoint Ann Marie Rheault as Interim Comptroller**

Mayor Merchant stated that Ann Marie Rheault would be an outstanding asset to the Community/Town and briefly reviewed her extensive Accounting background.

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, spoke in favor of appointing Ann Marie Rheault as the Interim Comptroller and briefly explained his comment.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, questioned what line item the Interim Comptroller would be paid out of; a brief discussion followed.

Pattie DeHuff stated that the Council made an illegal vote regarding Public Comment and briefly explained her comment.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to appoint Ann Marie Rheault as Interim Comptroller. This motion was approved unanimously.

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**Discuss and take action on the Interim Tax Collector Position**

Robert Ives, Republican Town Committee Chairman, 282 Main Street, Terryville, stated that the Republican Town Committee wanted to bring forward and recommend to the Town Council the name of Joseph Kilduff as the Interim Tax Collector for the Town of Plymouth and once appointed would complete the term of the office.

Robert Ives read CGS, section 12-137, into the record as follows: An Acting Tax Collector shall serve until his successor is elected or appointed. Robert Ives stated that the Republican Town Committee also wanted to thank Acting Tax Collector Ted Smith for his service to Community.

Brian Dunn, 19 Carriage Drive, Terryville, spoke against the removal of Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector and briefly explained his comment.

Roxanne Smith, 20 Williams Way, Terryville, spoke against the removal of her husband, Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector and briefly explained her comment.

Rob Wilcox, South Main Street, Terryville, spoke against the removal of Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector and briefly explained his comment.

David Smith, 145 South Main Street, Terryville, requested clarification on agenda item number 14. David Smith spoke against the removal of his brother Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector.

Rae Anne Wolcott, Assessor Town of Plymouth, 80 Main Street, spoke against the removal of Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector and briefly explained her comment.

Robert Ives, Republican Town Committee Chairman, 282 Main Street, Terryville, stated that the removal of Ted Smith as Interim Tax Committee had been a decision made by the Republican Town Committee's Nominating Committee and briefly explained the process that had taken place, noting it was not a personal action that had been taken.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, briefly explained why she thought Ted Smith was the Interim Tax Collector and the removal process currently being discussed. Melanie Church spoke against the removal of Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector.

Terri Dewell, 17 Prospect Street, Terryville, stated that the Town Council and the Mayor represent the constituents, not the Republican Town Committee.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, questioned since the Republican Town Committee brought a name forward and the Council approved the person, shouldn't the Council have to vote to remove that person, as well. Cathy Kosak spoke against the removal of Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector.

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**Discuss and take action on the Interim Tax Collector Position Cont'd.**

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated she was speaking as a member of the Board of Finance and spoke against the removal of Ted Smith as Interim Tax Collector and noted that his removal would make working on the budget difficult for her as a member of the Board of Finance and briefly explained her comment.

Peter Cook, 11 Orchard Street, Terryville, stated that Ted Smith was a bully to his wife when she tried to pay her taxes. Peter Cook, speaking as a member of the Board of Finance, stated that there was zero money left in the Tax Department's budget for the part time help, noting that Mr. Smith knew the budgeted amount, spent all of the money in six months time, did not manage it well and did what he wanted to with it. He further stated that this was not good money management. Peter Cook stated that Mr. Smith had come before the Board of Finance several times with reports of what he actually had collected and that his information was terrible. Peter Cook stated that he did not need the Tax Collector's assistance with the upcoming budget and that it was the Comptroller that helped the Board of Finance, not the Tax Collector. He further stated that he was not worried about the upcoming budget season.

Vicky Carey, 665 Greystone Road, Plymouth, Vice Chairman, Board of Finance, stated that she had trouble with Mr. Smith quite a few times including the way his reports were written. Vicky Carey stated that for 24 years the reports were simpler. Vicky Carey stated that if there was insubordination in the Tax Collector's office, including Mr. Smith's inability to deal with the public, this might part of the reason to get another Tax Collector. Vicky Carey stated that she had no problem with working on the upcoming budget, noting that the Board only needed the Comptroller's assistance, not the Tax Collector's.

Town Councilman Heering questioned what would happen if there were a budget shortfall and briefly elaborated on his question, noting he was giving a little credit to Mr. Smith.

Mayor Merchant stated that the higher tax collection rate was due to policy and procedure changes, i.e. the foreclosure process, three to four year old back car tax collections, that were made before Ted Smith was hired. Mayor Merchant briefly explained why the higher collection rate would continue, noting it was not because of someone sitting in the Tax Collector position, but because of the policy and procedural changes that he had instituted.

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to remove the Acting Tax Collector, Ted Smith, with appreciation for his service.

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Vote:

Town Councilman Wyszynski/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes, Town Councilman Heering/no. Motion passed.

**Discuss and take action on the Tax Collector Position**

Town Councilman Pajeski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to appoint Joe Kilduff as the Interim Tax Collector.

Discussion:

Brian Dunn, 19 Carriage Drive, Terryville, spoke in favor of keeping Ted Smith as the Interim Tax Collector and briefly explained his comment.

Dennis Fowler, 268 Town Hill Road, Terryville, spoke on behalf of Joe Kilduff and briefly highlighted Joe Kilduff's decency and work ethics.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, requested Joe Kilduff's resume be made public.

Mayor Merchant briefly highlighted background information from Joe Kilduff's resume.

Vote:

Town Councilman Wyszynski/yes; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes, Town Councilman Zagurski/yes, Town Councilman Pajeski/yes, Town Councilman Heering/yes. Motion passed.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Heering, to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Recording Secretary