

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

November 16, 2015

Call to Order: Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled November 16, 2015, Plymouth Town Council Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, 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 the Town of Plymouth and May God Bless the United States of America" for the record.

Mayor Merchant welcomed Town Councilwoman Ana LeGassey and Town Councilman Daniel Gentile to the Council and new members.

Council Rules and Procedures

Mayor Merchant read excerpts from the Council Rules and Procedures, noting the rules would be adhered to more closely than in the past and briefly reviewed and explained the document.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to remove a. The agenda item "Council Rules and Procedures" be designated as a regular line item on all regular Plymouth Town Council Meeting agendas, from all future Town Council agendas.

Discussion

Town Councilman Gentile stated this item was already covered under Roberts Rules of Order and also noted on Page 10 of the Town Charter; and briefly read from the Charter and explained his statement.

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Council Rules and Procedures Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski stated this had never really been an issue in the past and noted this item was where the Council normally had amended the agendas in the past.

Town Councilman Gentile stated any changes to the Council's agendas could be made at any time and anywhere on the agenda, noting this should be done before the agenda was accepted per Roberts Rules of Order.

It was noted the Council never accepted their agendas in the past

Vote

This motion was approved unanimously.

It was noted that all future Town Council agendas would include "Accept Town Council Agenda" as a regular line item after the Call to Order line item.

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to remove the second time for one-minute comment under Privilege of the Floor.

Discussion

Town Councilman Gentile stated the three-minute time limit was sufficient, noting this wasn't a debate it was a meeting of the Town Council. He further stated the Council members were interested in what everyone had to say and briefly explained his statement.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated when Town Councilman Heering had brought up adding the one-minute rebuttal the speakers were actually addressing each other, not the Council, noting even Town Councilman Heering had said it wasn't working. Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she was in agreement with changing it.

Vote

This motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated the Council Rules and Procedures were done by the Council and briefly explained her statement. Melanie Church stated when there were problems in Town, the Council meeting was where it was brought up and it was tough to get everybody on the phone and briefly explained her statement.

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Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items Cont'd.

Melanie Church requested that the vote be rescinded and the Council brings it back to a Town meeting. Melanie Church stated the Town was over 61 days and the Emergency Appropriation had not been done and said to bring it back to the public for a Town Meeting.

John Murphy, 385 Greystone Road, Terryville, congratulated all of the newly elected and reelected Council people. John Murphy stated all of the business the Council performed was also the taxpayer's and briefly explained his statement.

Cathy Kosak, 201 Harwinton Avenue, Terryville, stated she wanted the Council to rethink removing the one-minute extra time to clarify and briefly explained her reasoning.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, congratulated the Council members on their election and noted the Council represents the people and briefly explained her statement. Pattie DeHuff stated the removal of the one-minute rule was a bad motion and briefly explained her statement. Pattie DeHuff stated she thought the Town Council's agendas and documents should be posted on the website prior to the meetings so the public could read them and briefly explained her statement. Pattie DeHuff stated the Council used to debate the topics and then opened them up to the public requesting the Council change the order of the three-minute rule and briefly explained her statement.

Acceptance of Plymouth Town Council Regular Minutes September 1, 2015; Plymouth Town Council Public Hearing Minutes September 1, 2015; Plymouth Town Council Special Minutes September 15, 2015; Plymouth Town Council October 21, 2015 Special Minutes

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the September 1, 2015 Plymouth Town Council Regular Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Gentile/abstained, Town Councilwoman LeGassey/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the September 1, 2015 Plymouth Town Council Public Hearing Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Gentile/abstained, Town Councilwoman LeGassey/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Pajeski, to accept the September 15, 2015 Plymouth Town Council Special Minutes as presented. Vote: Town Councilman Gentile/abstained, Town Councilwoman LeGassey/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

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Acceptance of Minutes Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the October 21, 2015 Plymouth Town Council Special Minutes with the following correction: Page Four, Paragraph Nine, did not reflect the unanimously favorable vote taken for the motion "Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the Employment Agreement between the Town of Plymouth and Ann Marie Rheault, Director of Finance, as presented." Vote to accept the minutes as amended: Town Councilman Gentile/abstained, Town Councilwoman LeGassey/abstained; Town Councilwoman Murawski/yes; Town Councilman Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Zagurski/yes. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Merchant stated he was currently very busy with many different items. He further stated that he wanted to, again, welcome the new members to the Town Council.

Discuss and take action to refund the following Property Taxes: Hyundai Lease Titling TR \$306.11; CCAP Auto Lease LTD \$186.43

Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to refund the following Property Taxes: Hyundai Lease Titling TR \$306.11 and CCAP Auto Lease LTD \$186.43.

Discussion

When questioned by Town Councilman Gentile, Mayor Merchant stated some of the refunds were for overpayments; however there were other reasons for refunds such as someone paying their car lease off early, etc.

Town Councilman Gentile stated it would be more transparent for the public to know the reason for the refund(s).

Vote

This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on the 2015/2016 Plymouth Town Council Calendar Meeting Dates

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to accept the 2015/2016 Plymouth Town Council Calendar Meeting Dates as presented.

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Discuss and take action on the 2015/2016 Town Council Liaison Assignments

Mayor Merchant stated the only change to the Town Council Liaison Assignments was Town Councilman Zagurski would be the Town Council Liaison to the Library Board of Directors and Town Councilwoman LeGassey would be the Town Council Liaison to Public Works.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Gentile, to accept the 2015/2016 Town Council Liaison Assignments as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments and Resignations: To accept the resignation of Michael Drozdick from the Board of Finance

Pattie DeHuff stated she wanted to thank Michael Drozdick for his service to the Board of Finance.

Pattie DeHuff stated the rules noted the public should raise their hand and await recognition and briefly explained her statement, noting the Mayor didn't recognize her hand that was raised three times.

Mayor Merchant stated the Council had been discussing the Calendar dates and he did not notice Pattie DeHuff's raised hand.

Town Councilman Gentile stated Pattie DeHuff read it correctly; her hand was raised, but at that same time the Council was accepting the Calendar, the Mayor didn't recognize her, she didn't accept that and she came up to the podium and made a comment. He further stated the Mayor did follow the rules and if the Mayor didn't acknowledge that Pattie DeHuff's hand up he was still following the rules. Town Councilman Gentile stated if the Mayor doesn't recognize someone from the floor it doesn't mean that person or the public can interrupt the Council's discussion, yell and/or scream out, or come up to the podium. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Council would not be able to get their business done with this kind of behavior. Town Councilman Gentile stated the Council was following Roberts Rule of Order and Pattie DeHuff didn't understand this and didn't want to accept it and requested she not do that anymore.

John Murphy stated he wanted to thank Michael Drozdick for his service.

Melanie Church questioned if this would go to a special election and briefly explained her question.

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to accept the resignation of Michael Drozdick from the Board of Finance with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Appointments and Resignations: To accept the resignation of Michael Drozdick from the Board of Finance Cont'd.

Town Councilman Gentile stated the Board of Finance was a tough board to serve on and thanked Michael Drozdick for his service.

Executive Session to discuss the Tax Appeal of 220 Main Street

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to move into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m., to discuss the Tax Appeal of 220 Main Street. This motion was approved unanimously.

Mayor Merchant invited Town Attorney William Hamzy to attend the Executive Session.

Present for the Executive Session were Town Councilman Gentile, Town Attorney Hamzy, Town Councilwoman LeGassey, Mayor Merchant, Town Councilwoman Murawski, Town Councilman Pajeski, and Town Councilman Zagurski.

Mayor Merchant called the Plymouth Town Council meeting back into the regular session at 7:50 p.m.

Town Attorney Hamzy briefly explained the Stipulated Agreement for the Tax Appeal of 220 Main Street.

Discuss and take action from Executive Session on the Stipulated Agreement of the Tax Appeal of 220 Main Street

Town Councilman Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Zagurski, to accept the Stipulated Agreement of the Tax Appeal of 220 Main Street. This motion was approved unanimously.

Council Comments

Town Councilwoman LeGassey thanked everyone who voted for her and providing her with the opportunity to serve everyone fairly. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated she wanted to hear the public comments, but liked to see business getting taken care of as Town Councilman Gentile had previously stated. Town Councilwoman LeGassey stated the Council could discuss providing information ahead of time to the public, and hoped the public would trust the elected members so they could do their job.

Town Councilwoman Murawski stated she had no comment at this time.

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Council Comments Cont'd.

Town Councilman Zagurski congratulated and welcomed Dan Gentile and Ana LeGassey as new Council members.

Town Councilman Pajeski thanked the people who voted for him, noting he would continue to work with the Mayor in moving the Town forward as he had been doing in the past.

Town Councilman Gentile stated he appreciated everyone who supported him and he would do what was in the best interest of the Town. Town Councilman Gentile stated he planned on taking care of the Town residents.

Town Councilman Gentile stated Parks and Recreation had scheduled a bus trip to New York on December 12th for \$49.00 per person and briefly provided details.

Town Councilman Gentile stated Park and Recreation Basketball classes had begun.

Town Councilman Gentile stated if anyone from the public had an issue they wanted addressed he planned on arriving to all the Town Council meetings 30 minutes early (whenever possible) and briefly explained his comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman LeGassey, to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.