

**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 30, 2016**

**Call to Order:** Mayor David V. Merchant called the scheduled August 30, 2016, Plymouth Town Council Charter Revision Proposed Changes Public Hearing to order at 7:26 p.m., in the Community Room, Plymouth 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 were Town Attorney William Hamzy, Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley, and Board of Finance Chairman Ralph Zovich.

#### **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.

**To consider and act upon the following proposed changes to the Town of Plymouth Charter for placement on the ballot for the November 2016 Election as follows:**

- a. **Chapter VII Section 2**, Change the date of delivery of each department, office, or agency budget estimates to the Mayor to January 31 (from February 10), the date of delivery of budget estimates from the Mayor to the Board of Finance to February 10 (from February 22), and the date of delivery of budget estimates of the Board of Education budget to the Board of Finance to February 15 (from February 28)
- b. **Chapter VII Section 3b**, to change the time period to schedule a second budget referendum, if necessary, from 20 days to 20 business days
- c. **Chapter VII Section 3b**: Change the sentence which reads “Council adjustments to the individual department budgets, excluding debt service, shall not exceed three (3) percent of the current year budget.” to “Council adjustments to the budget, excluding debt service, shall not exceed three (3) percent (plus or minus) of the original adopted current year’s budget.”
- d. **Chapter VII Section 3c**: Change the Board of Finance’s approval limit from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 for Special Appropriations
- e. **Chapter VI Section 5b-1(a)**: Remove from the section the requirement that “All such officers and employees shall, within a reasonable time after appointment become residents of the town, city, or borough contiguous thereto.”
- f. **Chapter VIII Section 3**: Delete this section in its entirety
- g. **Chapter VI Section 5d-3**: Delete this section

- h. Chapter VI Section 15: Delete the first three (3) sentences and substitute “There shall be a Housing Authority as created by the Board of Selectmen Resolution of April 26, 1965. The Authority shall be managed and have members and terms of membership in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes section 8-40 et. seq. as may be amended.”**
- i. Chapter II Section 1(b): Delete the second sentence and substitute “At such meeting there shall be elected a mayor, five (5) members of the town council to be elected town-wide at large, seven (7) constables, and a treasurer, all for terms of two (2) years.”)**
- j. Chapter II Sections 3a and 3b: Eliminate both these sections and replace with the following Section 3. Voting Districts: “All municipal elective offices shall be elected town-wide, including the Town Council and the Town shall have one voting district for the purpose of providing a polling place (or places). In the event that State elective offices are redistricted such that more than one polling place is required, the Registrars of Voters shall determine polling places in each district necessitated by such State action, and the Council shall be authorized to establish such districts. The Mayor, Town Clerk, Registrars of Voters and all other officers of the Town shall perform the duties required of them by law with respect to elections in the voting districts. All action taken under the provision of this section shall be in accordance with Sections 9-168 and 9-169 of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended.”**

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley stated the Charter Revision Commission had been on a very limited timeframe. Charter Revision Commission Chairman Mark Malley reviewed, in-depth, an overview of the Charter Revision Commission’s proposed changes.

Mayor Merchant stated this was a tough job and the Charter Revision Commission Members had done a great job.

#### **Public Comment on Agenda Item**

Vinnie Klimas, 5 Coral Drive, Terryville, Chairman Housing Authority Town of Plymouth, read testimony out loud noting on August 15, 2016, the Housing Authority of the Town of Plymouth unanimously voted to endorse and support the updated “Term Language” of the Housing Authority of Terryville, as proposed by the Charter Revision Commission. Vinnie Klimas stated the Housing Authority Members unanimously urge everyone to vote in favor of this proposed change. Vinnie Klimas stated the Housing Authority Members wanted to thank the Charter Revision Commission for their hard work; specifically for improving the Town Charter regarding the Authority and briefly elaborated.

Pattie DeHuff, 20 Lynn Avenue, Terryville, stated she wanted to thank Mark Malley for his work on the Charter Revision Commission, noting she had served on two previous Charter Revision Commissions. Pattie DeHuff stated she was in favor of Item #1, Item #2, was opposed to Item #3 and briefly elaborated; questioned why Item #4 hadn’t been enforced in the past, was in favor of Item #5, was in favor of removing the VNA from the Charter, was in favor of Item #7, wrestled with Item #8 and briefly elaborated. Pattie DeHuff stated there was no agenda item that stated “Public Comment” and questioned the legality of the meeting.

Mayor Merchant stated the Agenda stated it was a Public Hearing for Public Comment.

Ralph Zovich, 4 Knight Lane, Terryville, stated the Board of Finance members had attended some of the Charter Revision Commission meetings and thanked the Charter Revision Commission Members for their hard work. Ralph Zovich questioned how the Council would want to group some of the questions and briefly elaborated. Ralph Zovich commented on the proposed change to Chapter 7, Section 3c., noting it wasn’t probable that a Town Council would take advantage of the change and briefly elaborated. Ralph Zovich stated the Town Council might want to make this change a stand-alone question on the ballot and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, stated State Statutes has a \$20,000 limit and questioned why the Town needed \$100,000 and briefly elaborated.

Melanie Church stated the City of Bristol's Police Chief has to live in Bristol and briefly elaborated. Melanie Church stated once the Charter was changed, citing Home Rule (1970) that it could never go back and briefly elaborated.

Cathy Paskus, 4 Arrow Drive, Terryville, stated she was a member of the current Charter Revision Commission. Cathy Paskus stated the Charter Revision Commission had conferred with the Registrar of Voters, noting the proposed Voting District Change was a cost savings issue. Cathy Paskus stated all of the Council Members represent everyone in Town and they listen to everyone, noting they do not see where they live. She further stated this proposed change would be beneficial to everyone.

### **Adjournment**

Town Councilman Zagurski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Murawski, to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.