

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

March 3, 2020

Call to Order: Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled March 3, 2020, Plymouth Town Council Regular meeting to order at 6:45 p.m., in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present were Town Councilman Daniel 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.

Adoption of the Agenda

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to add the following Tax Refund Overpayments to the March 3, 2020 Agenda: Najhai Gomes-Walton \$563.80; and Michael or Pamela Malley \$201.62. This motion was approved unanimously.

Fire Exit Notification

Mayor David 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 David Merchant stated, "God Bless the United States of America and the Town of Plymouth" and noted prayers for safety for all of our troops around the world for the record.

Mayor David Merchant asked for a moment of silence in memory of First Selectman Walter Lassy, Jr. and Housing Authority of the Town of Plymouth Vice Chairwoman Heidi Caron who passed away this week.

PLYMOUTH, CT
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
MAR 12 12 16 PM '20
Sue Murawski
TOWN CLERK

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Acceptance of Minutes (January 7, 2020 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes, January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes, and February 11, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes)

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to accept the January 7, 2020, Public Hearing Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to accept the January 7, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to accept the February 11, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No report.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor David Merchant briefly commented, reviewed and updated the following items: Budget process underway; Barbara Deschaine resignation Republican Registrar of Voters; Debra Brown taking on position of Republican Registrar of Voters; Barbara Deschaine taking on position of Assistant Registrar; LCD Transition meetings; and the Plymouth Connection.

Finance Director's Report

Mayor David Merchant noted the Director of Finance was not in attendance this evening and if anyone had questions on her Monthly Report to please contact him or email the Director.

Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations: To accept the resignation of Stephen W. Mindera, Jr., from the Western CT Convention and Visitors Bureau

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to accept the resignation of Stephen W. Mindera, Jr., from the Western CT Convention and Visitors Bureau with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

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Discuss and take action to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Patricia Adams \$151.27; Cab East LLC \$78.90; Timothy Johnson \$90.33; Lydia Santacroce \$399.39; Najhai Gomes-Walton \$563.80; Michael or Pamela Malley \$201.62

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to approve and refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Patricia Adams \$151.27; Cab East LLC \$78.90; Timothy Johnson \$90.33; Lydia Santacroce \$399.39; Najhai Gomes-Walton \$563.80; and Michael or Pamela Malley \$201.62. This motion was approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on the Municipal Resolution for Regional Performance Incentive Program Application

Mayor David Merchant stated Glenda Prentiss, NVCOG, was present this evening to explain the Municipal Resolution to the Town Council and public and what it means to the Town of Plymouth.

Glenda Prentiss, GIS Program Coordinator, stated the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) is applying for two (2) grants under the State of Connecticut's Regional Incentive Performance Program with monies gleaned from vehicle taxes and set aside for regional projects. She further stated the first project, which would be useful to the State, region and towns, was a regional Open Space Inventory, referenced her distributed map on Plymouth's Open Space and detailed the project at length.

Glenda Prentiss stated the second project builds on NVCOG's 2016 project for Geographic Information System (GIS Mapping). She further noted the State of Connecticut uses GIS data, and its towns need to have a good record of what they have on the ground, which is the basic framework for Municipal Town Boundaries.

Referencing her distributed Statewide Municipal Boundary Survey Map, Glenda Prentiss noted the State of CT's boundary maps are very inaccurate which leads to problems when the COG's are collectively trying to do Regional and State planning. Glenda Prentiss stated this project would provide more refined municipal boundaries, which is the framework to build on additional special mapping because the State of CT is not stepping up to do it. She further stated if and when the Town of Plymouth wants to proceed to improve its spatial layer, the framework will be there because of this project and briefly elaborated.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Glenda Prentiss noted the State of CT is not doing this project because of the cost involved to have accurate spatial data layer information and noted it cannot be done with spatial data layers sitting on top of each other. She further stated it is important for record keeping purposes in order to build on geographic mapping data; a lengthy discussion followed.

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Discuss and take action on the Municipal Resolution for Regional Performance Incentive Program Application Cont'd.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, to approve the following Resolution: The Legislative Body of the Town of Plymouth convened on March 3, 2020, and adopted a Resolution by the vote of (*blank*) to (*blank*) which endorsed the Regional Performance Incentive Program proposal(s) listed below, referenced in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s, (2014 Supplement). 1. Regional Open Space Inventory. 2. Statewide Municipal Boundary Survey (Class D) Update. In addition, the Legislative Body has authorized David V. Merchant, Mayor, to act on this endorsement by signing all necessary agreements and take all necessary actions related to this proposal to enter into a binding agreement with the Office of Policy and Management according to terms of the RPI Grant Program.

Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/no; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes; motion approved 4:1 in favor.

Discuss and take action on the proposed Application to the State of CT Department of Housing for the HUD Small Cities Community Development Block Grant

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to authorize David V. Merchant, Mayor Town of Plymouth, to submit to CT DOH the 2020 HUD Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Application. The Mayor is authorized to sign all appropriate DOH HUD CDBG Grant Documents, as well as to work with the Housing Authority of the Town of Plymouth in execution of the approximate \$3,000,000 CDBG Grant Application. The ADA Bump Outs will be the priority of the Application though some other renovations may be added to the ADA Bump Outs. The Mayor, Town agencies, as well as the Housing Authority of the Town of Plymouth, are to comply with all applicable local building codes, CT DOH and HUD CDBG laws rules and regulations.

Discussion

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, Vincent Klimas stated this Application was at no cost to the Town itself.

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, Vincent Klimas stated when the Application is completed, he would give a copy to Town Councilman Tom Zagurski.

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Discuss and take action on the proposed Application to the State of CT Department of Housing for the HUD Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Cont'd.

When questioned by Town Councilman Joe Green, Vincent Klimas stated the total amount for renovations (complete comprehensive proposal) is approximately \$3 million and the amount of the CBDG Grant is \$1.2 to \$1.5 million but, he wanted to put it in perspective of the entire renovations at Gosinski Park and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilman Tom Zagurski stated he wanted to thank Vincent Klimas, noting if the work that Vincent Klimas was doing was anything like the work he did for the Lions Club it would be fantastic.

Vote

Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes; motion approved unanimously.

Discuss and take action on Homeland Security Grant Resolution and Plymouth MOA for Homeland Security Grant Program FFY2019

Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini provided a lengthy presentation for the Homeland Security Grant Resolution and Plymouth MOA for Homeland Security Grant Program FFY2019, which the Town applies for annually as follows: The Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) allows DEMHS Region 5 to purchase equipment/assets which is then distributed to the Region 5 communities as custodial owners of the equipment/assets. 2. The MOA outlines the terms of custodial ownership of the equipment/assets purchased with the Regional Homeland Security Funds. 3. The Town of Plymouth is presently the custodial owner of the following equipment: a. Accountability/Command Board with Tags b. 5k Generae Generator c. Laptop d. Light Tower e. SART Animal Starter Kit f. Shelter Kits g. Sump Pump h. Variable Message Sign i. Amateur (Ham) Radio and Antenna j. License Plate Reader k. 50 Cots l. Food Service Kits for Shelter m. iPad n. 24 in. x 36 in. Sidewalk Sign o. Cut Vinyl Decals p. Crisis Truck. The Crisis Truck helps a State or local emergency operation center conduct damage assessments and process FEMA Grant Applications for faster, more efficient and collaborative recovery management. Charles Wiegert and Anthony Orsini will be attending a RESF 5 meeting at the Watertown Fire House on March 12, 2020, to review the use of Crisis Track and to look into the possible formation of a Crisis Track Users' Group. Anthony Orsini stated the Responsibilities of the Custodial Ownership as follows: 1. To safeguard the assets in a secure location. 2. To regularly test, use, and maintain the assets in working order. 3. To provide the assets in a timely manner, in working order, and with appropriate staffing, if necessary when requested by another community. 4. To maintain records of the use of the assets. 5. To maintain an inventory of the assets so that the assets can be easily identified as separate from Plymouth's assets or other property.

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Discuss and take action on Homeland Security Grant Resolution and Plymouth MOA for Homeland Security Grant Program FFY2019 Cont'd.

5. To maintain all necessary insurance regarding the assets and their uses. 7. To cooperate with any State or Federal audit of the assets. 8. The State, including DEMHS, does not guarantee any further funding for provision of repair of the assets.

Anthony Orsini stated he will find out what the Town of Plymouth will be receiving at the next REPT meeting.

When questioned by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini stated some of the equipment has a shelf life and he would be getting answers regarding the shelf life at the next REPT meeting.

When questioned by Town Councilman Tom Zagurski, Emergency Management Director Anthony Orsini stated the Town applies for custodial ownership from the Region 5 listing and requests to be the custodial owner, noting there is no dollar amount involved.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to resolve that the Town of Plymouth may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and FURTHER RESOLVED, that David V. Merchant, as Mayor of the Town of Plymouth, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Plymouth and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and the documents contemplated by such documents.

Vote: Town Councilman Dan Gentile/yes; Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilman John Pajeski/yes; Town Councilman Tom Zagurski/yes; motion approved unanimously.

Town Council Liaison Reports

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

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

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski stated she had nothing to report on at this time.

Town Councilman Joe Green stated he had nothing to report on at this time.

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Town Council Liaison Reports Cont'd.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the students at Terryville High School raised \$4,000 for the animals affected by the Australian fires. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education held a second Public Hearing regarding moving and combining schools within the system, noting it had gone well.

Town Council Comments

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

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

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he wanted to thank Vincent Klimas and Anthony Orsini for the great job they do as volunteers. He further stated he loved Vincent Klimas detailed reports, noting it makes it easy to make decisions. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he wanted to express his condolences for Walter Lassy, Jr. and Heidi Caron's passing.

Town Councilman John Pajeski stated he had no Council comments at this time.

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

Executive Session for Pending Litigation

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to move into Executive Session at 7:46 p.m. to discuss Pending Litigation and to invite Town Attorney William Hamzy into the Executive Session. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were Town Councilman Daniel Gentile, Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor David Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, Town Councilman John Pajeski, Town Attorney William Hamzy and Town Councilman Tom Zagurski.

Mayor David Merchant called the Town Council meeting back into Regular Session at 7:56 p.m.

Action, as may be necessary, from Executive Session

No action taken.

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Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia A. Hale', with a large, loopy initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary