

Minutes

September 7, 2021

Call to Order: Mayor David Merchant called the scheduled September 7, 2021, Plymouth Town Council Regular 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 and Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann. Excused Absence: Town Councilman John Pajeski. Also in attendance were Director of Finance Ann Marie Rheault and Public Works Director Charles Wiegert.

Pledge of Allegiance

Nate Brown led the Town Council Members and the Public Audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mayor David Merchant stated God Bless the Town of Plymouth and God Bless America for the record.

Acceptance of Minutes (Town of Plymouth Public Hearing May 4, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting May 4, 2021, Town of Plymouth Public Hearing June 24, 2021, Town Council June 24, 2021, Special Meeting)

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to accept the May 4, 2021, Town Council Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to accept the May 4, 2021, Town Council Regular meeting minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to accept the June 24, 2021, Town Council Public Hearing meeting minutes as presented. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to table the acceptance of the June 24, 2021, Town Council Special meeting minutes until clarification on a motion is made. This motion was approved unanimously.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Melanie Church, 328 Main Street, Terryville, commented on Union raises, Youth Soccer Field.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No report.

Mayor's Report

Mayor David Merchant commented, reviewed and updated the following items: American Rescue Plan Ad Hoc Committee; Harwinton Avenue Project; Orchard Street paving/sidewalks; Business Park; Police Building Project; and Route 6 Paving Project.

Finance Directors Report

Mayor David Merchant stated the Financial Report, as of June 30, 2021, had been distributed previously and if anyone had any questions to please contact him or the Director of Finance.

Discuss and take action, as may be necessary, to refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Acar Leasing LTE \$510.85; Canon Financial Services Inc. \$1,187.02; Richard Deleppo \$39.62; Marlene Devito \$195.02; Joseph Dolan \$17.79; Vito Flammia \$86.05; Scott Gracie \$16.41; Steven Harnish \$134.89; George Kiszka \$121.89; Richard Koski \$23.53; Shea Lopez \$22.30; Helen Makara \$58.22; Laura Melesky \$11.86; Guy Sutcliffe \$200.00; Heather Thivierge \$96.30; Gary Vallee \$32.91; Peter Whitney \$145.25; Darrin Witham \$54.04; Acar Leasing LTD \$825.19; Cassandra Brown \$331.54; Eastern Steel Erectors LLC \$11,759.95; William Eckert \$3,878.54; Maureen Galvin \$33.11; Louis Grenier \$49.73; Linda Hotchkiss \$39.29; Thomas or Sandra Huria \$9.22; Julian Luenda \$158.05, \$385.58; Jacqueline or Gary Lancioni \$365.68; Peter or Charlene Longo \$18.53; John Maher Jr. \$29.53; Mazar Murtishi \$33.81; Christiana Olmstead \$39.81; Michael Padilla \$18.89; Dawn Quinn \$86.06; Jared Rice \$2,416.07; Toni Rinaldi \$195.43, \$232.40; Santorso Family Living Trust \$8.24; Gregory or Jill Scoville \$2,283.81; Frederick or Louise Telke \$165.57; Marcel or Sarah Trudeau \$89.35; Joanna Tymura \$43.68; Attorney Matthew Vaccarelli \$2,407.33; Vault Trust \$219.89; VW Credit Leasing LTD \$101.29; Frank Wollman \$46.08

Town Councilman Joe Green a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to approve the refund overpayment of Property Taxes to the following: Acar Leasing LTE \$510.85; Canon Financial Services Inc. \$1,187.02; Richard Deleppo \$39.62; Marlene Devito \$195.02; Joseph Dolan \$17.79; Vito Flammia \$86.05; Scott Gracie \$16.41; Steven Harnish \$134.89; George Kiszka \$121.89; Richard Koski \$23.53; Shea Lopez \$22.30; Helen Makara \$58.22; Laura Melesky \$11.86; Guy Sutcliffe \$200.00; Heather Thivierge \$96.30; Gary Vallee \$32.91; Peter Whitney \$145.25; Darrin Witham \$54.04; Acar Leasing LTD \$825.19; Cassandra Brown \$331.54; Eastern Steel Erectors LLC \$11,759.95; William Eckert \$3,878.54; Maureen Galvin \$33.11; Louis Grenier \$49.73; Linda Hotchkiss \$39.29; Thomas or Sandra Huria \$9.22; Julian Luenda \$158.05, \$385.58; Jacqueline or Gary Lancioni \$365.68; Peter or Charlene Longo \$18.53; John Maher Jr. \$29.53; Mazar Murtishi \$33.81; Christiana Olmstead \$39.81; Michael Padilla \$18.89; Dawn Quinn \$86.06; Jared Rice \$2,416.07; Toni Rinaldi \$195.43, \$232.40; Santorso Family Living Trust \$8.24; Gregory or Jill Scoville \$2,283.81; Frederick or Louise Telke \$165.57; Marcel or Sarah Trudeau \$89.35; Joanna Tymura \$43.68; Attorney Matthew Vaccarelli \$2,407.33; Vault Trust \$219.89; VW Credit Leasing LTD \$101.29; and Frank Wollman \$46.08. This motion was approved unanimously.

Appointments/Reappointments/Resignations: To appoint Sarah Sandshaw to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term to expire August 3, 2024

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to appoint Sarah Sandshaw to the Zoning Board of Appeals, with a term to expire August 3, 2024. This motion was approved unanimously.

To accept the resignation of Josiah Elsaghir from the Plymouth Board of Education

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the resignation of Josiah Elsaghir from the Plymouth Board of Education with regret. This motion was approved unanimously.

To appoint the Republican Town Committee's Recommendation of Louis Zbuska to the Plymouth Board of Education

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, to appoint Louis Zbuska to the Plymouth Board of Education. This motion was approved unanimously.

To discuss and take action to approve a Resolution to accept \$30,200 from the State of Connecticut for the purchase of the Town Park adjacent to Baldwin Park for the purpose of realigning North Main Street

Mayor David Merchant stated the Town Council members had received the State of Connecticut Resolution, and information, in their packets and briefly elaborated on the purchase of property at 194 Main Street.

When questioned by Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann, Public Works Director Charles Wiegert stated discussion had taken place with the American Legion, noting the Veteran's monument would be taken apart, as well as the gazebo, would be carefully stored and then both items would be relocated in the same general area. He further stated the area would be cleaned up nicely, noting the moving of both items was included as part of the project and briefly elaborated.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to adopt the following Resolution: Whereas the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation is acquiring properties for the project known as the 110-136 Major Intersection Improvements on Route 6 At No. Main St. & Agney Ave and seeks to acquire a certain parcel from the Town of Plymouth located at 194 Main Street for a total compensation of \$30,200; and whereas the calculation of this value is described in a letter from Kenneth A. Decker, Acquisition/Relocation Section, Division of Rights of Way, dated June 22, 2021, a copy of which is attached to this resolution as Exhibit A and the parcel to be acquired further described in the Acceptance Agreement, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit B; and whereas the Council finds that the payment of \$30,200 represents a fair value for the parcel to be conveyed considering its size, location, and use of the Town or third parties. Now therefore be it resolved by the Council of the Town of Plymouth that Mayor, David V. Merchant be and hereby is authorized and directed to sign the required number of copies of the Acceptance Agreement in a form substantially similar to that attached hereto as Exhibit B, together with such documents, forms, or correspondences that may be necessary to transfer title to the State of Connecticut within a reasonable time. This motion was approved unanimously.

Other Business

No Report.

Town Council Liaison Reports

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

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

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she wanted to thank Kim Webber for her service while she was a Terryville Library employee, noting her replacement position would be posted. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated one of the big items that the Planning and Zoning Commission was working on was bringing the Seymour Road/Route 6 area from residential back to commercial zoning, noting there is a parcel that will be coming before the Town Council. She further stated that when Seymour Road was reconfigured a little slice of Town property was left in limbo and there had been discussion about giving it back give back to landowner who originally had it. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated the Inland Wetlands Commission had received a lot of applications. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she wanted to give kudos to the team regarding a request they had received for an organic farm on North Riverside Avenue. She further stated there had been great discussion with the residents in the area but where the owners wanted the organic farm to be placed was a flood area and there were also issues with taking down trees, which caused more erosion and flooding at nearby houses. Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated there was a Cease and Desist in-place order and the property owners can no longer move forward with the organic garden.

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education is looking at their policies, including a stricter Code of Conduct and anti-bullying within the school system. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education was also looking at having students put their cell phones in an area while they are in class being taught. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education was doing a great job including the brand-new Superintendent and the Chairman, noting they were getting a lot of lingering problems resolved. He further stated it is going to be a better path and environment for all students. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated the Board of Education is in constant contact with Parks and Recreation Chairman Gerry Bourbonniere and Board of Education Chairman Walt Seaman, regarding all Town fields. He further stated the fields were being reevaluated and noted they all needed to be fixed, not just one.

Town Council Comments

Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated he was staying on top of the Town fields situation and that he'd been talking to First Selectman Mike Criss in Harwinton regarding COVID monies and the use of them. He further stated the Town can appropriate COVID money to fund the masks for the Fire Department and then use that capital expenditure to get the Town fields in order. Town Councilman Dan Gentile stated Lake Winfield was also a shame and we need to get it back in good condition for our Town residents.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann stated she had no Town Council Comments at this time.

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

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

Executive Session to discuss Contract Negotiations and Pending Litigation

Town Councilman Dan Gentile made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to move into Executive Session at 7:23 p.m., to discuss Contract Negotiations and Pending Litigation. This motion was approved unanimously.

Present for the Executive Session were Town Councilman Dan Gentile, Town Councilman Joe Green, Plymouth Tax Collector Joe Kilduff, Mayor David V. Merchant, Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski and Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann.

Mayor David Merchant called the Plymouth Town Council meeting back into Regular Session at 7:57 p.m.

Action to be taken from Executive Session

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski, to accept the Agreement regarding Real Property Tax Assessment between the Town of Plymouth and Cook's Commons Realty Corporation and Susan and Walter MacDonald, from the Town of Plymouth. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Dan Gentile, to approve the agreement between the Town of Plymouth and Klimas Housing and Community Development, LLC, to administer the Housing Rehabilitation Loan Program, and other services, as outlined in the contract. This motion was approved unanimously.

Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Joe Green, to approve the Department of Public Works Contract as presented during Executive Session. Vote: Town Councilman Joe Green/yes; Town Councilwoman Sue Murawski/yes; Town Councilwoman Roxanne McCann/yes; Town Councilman Dan Gentile/abstained. Motion passed in favor 3:1.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary