

**MINUTES
PLAINVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
February 7, 2022 – 7:00p.m.**

I. PRESENTATIONS:

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

January 18, 2022, Special & Regular Meeting and January 19, 2022, Special Meeting

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. Firefighter Appointment
2. Appointments and Re-appointments to Boards and Commissions

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON (3rd Monday Meetings Only)

VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

VIII. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

1. Crooked Street Bridge Repairs – State DOT Project
2. ARPA Planning Committee Recommendation
3. White Oak Redevelopment Project Update
4. Honor Heights Sewer Update
5. Whiting Street Repaving Project
6. Road Bond Discussion
7. Town Manager's FY2023 Proposed Budget
8. COVID-19 Update
9. Happenings

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bid #2022-15B, Rental of Services & Equipment for Roadway Construction/Milling
2. Establish public hearing regarding American Rescue Plan Act Planning Committee Recommendation
3. Establish public hearing regarding Town Manager's FY2023 Proposed Budget
4. Set Special Meetings regarding Town Council FY2023 Proposed Budget
5. Tax Refunds - Addendum

XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Chairwoman Pugliese, Vice Chairman Underwood, Council members Tompkins, Morante, Wazorko, Rocco, Catanzaro, Town Manager Lee, Assistant Town Manager Daskal, Town Attorney Mastrianni, and Town Clerk Porrini.

Vice Chairman Underwood led the Pledge of Allegiance

I. PRESENTATIONS

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022, Special & Regular Meeting and January 19, 2022, Meeting: The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

Councilman Rocco reported after meeting with Recreation Director Hewett suggested reducing the number of members for Advisory Recreation & Park Board by one. The Board would now consist of seven (7) regular members.

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION

Fire Department

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to appoint David Licki, Jr., 42 Franklin Avenue, as a Probationary Firefighter to the Plainville Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON (3rd Monday Meetings Only)

No report was given.

VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

No report was given.

VIII. TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Lee presented and discussed the following topics:

- **Crooked Street Bridge Repairs – State DOT Project**

The State Department of Transportation has notified the Town of their plans to rehabilitate the Crooked Street Bridge over Route 84. Work includes the replacement of deck joints, repairs to steel members, field painting of steel elements, and repairs to spalled and cracked areas in the substructure. The work is not anticipated to have a significant impact to traffic, as Crooked Street would remain open to traffic for the duration of the project. The work will involve temporary shoulder and lane closures as needed. It is anticipated that this work will begin in the Spring of 2023.

- **ARPA Planning Committee Recommendation**

The American Rescue Plan passed by Congress has allocated \$5,189,198 to Plainville in response to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Treasury Department has issued rules on how these monies can be spent. There are five general categories where these monies can be utilized: 1) Responding to the public health emergency and the negative economic impacts of COVID-19, 2) Replacement of loss revenue, 3) Provide premium pay, 4) Water and sewer infrastructure, and 5) Broadband infrastructure.

After considerable review of each of these categories, the ARPA Committee is recommending that the Town Council choose to utilize the Replace of Loss Revenue option. This category was chosen because it is simpler and does not require extensive reporting requirements. It also provides for additional latitude in how the monies can be spent. The Treasury Department is allowing municipalities to receive our total allocation based upon a “standard allowance”. Each municipality is granted a “standard allowance” of \$10M for “loss revenue” calculation. Because Plainville’s allocation is less than \$10M, the Town can choose our entire grant under this category. Revenues received under the “Replace Loss of Revenue” can be spent on “government services” which is broadly defined as “any service that is traditionally provided by a government to its residents”. This can also include capital expenditures.

The ARPA Committee has also developed a preliminary list of where the monies would be spent if the “Replace of Loss Revenue” option is chosen. This list primarily includes larger capital improvements that have been in the 5-year plan. They include projects for the Fire Department, School Facilities, Public Works, Police Department, and other miscellaneous items. Municipalities are required to seek public input on the proposed use of the American Rescue Plan monies. There is an item under New Business to conduct a Public Hearing on the use of the American Rescue Plan monies for Tuesday, February 22, 2022, at 7:00pm in the Municipal Center. A copy of the proposed list recommended by the ARPA Committee will also be put on the Town website at www.plainvillect.com

- **White Oak Redevelopment Project Update**

Town staff continues to make progress on this project. In conjunction with the Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank (CTBLB), the Town drafted and published a request for proposal (RFP) on December 8, 2021, to qualified and CT Department of Administrative Services (CTDAS) “pre-approved” firms. These firms were cross referenced with list of finalists from the initial White Oak RFP for a full environmental site assessment in 2017.

The purpose of the RFP was the following: updating the Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment report as required by Connecticut Statute, finalization of a remedial action plan (RAP) in coordination with the development plan submitted by Manafort-Newport, noting both abatement oversight costs and a timeline to bring the site to a level deemed acceptable by the State for the intended reuse, and a cost estimate for preparation and submission of the Environmental Conditions Assessment Form. Following review of submissions, Town Staff has decided to move forward with interviewing BL Companies and Tighe & Bond as the two firms who articulated and established the most complete understanding of the Town’s goals, while also providing the most direct, concise, and affordable cost estimates. Interviews will take place via Zoom with both Town and CTBLB Staff later this week with a goal to bring a recommendation to the Town Council at the February 22, 2022, meeting. With the Town’s commitment to ownership during the remediation process, Town staff continues to work with CT DECD staff to adjust the financial assistance agreement for the previously awarded \$1.17 million in Brownfield Remediation grant funding. The now “direct agreement” will simplify the process, having grant dollars & invoices be managed by the Town, much like the previous Brownfield Assessment grant funding, while allowing CTBLB to remain in their previously approved advisory and guidance role, assisting the Town during the remediation phase of the project. Most recently, Town Staff applied to the DECD CT Community Challenge Grant ahead of the January 14, 2022, deadline. Working with representatives from Manafort-Newport, the application was for an additional \$1.2 million in State funding, combined with the required 50% matching funds to be supplied by Manafort-Newport, bringing the potential total of additional funding to ~ \$1.8 million. These funds have been identified as a potential way to off-set construction costs related to the realignment and installation of the entrance/exit boulevard, traffic light as deemed necessary by CTDOT, paving, utility installation, site work, a covered CT Fastrak bus stop vestibule on West Main Street, and access to open space on the northside of the property. A decision on the grant application is expected from DECD by April 2022.

Finally, the proposed Agreement between the Town and Manafort-Newport, based on the previously agreed Term Sheet, has been drafted and sent to the developer. Their response to the proposed language in the Agreement is expected later this week.

- **Honor Heights Sewer Update**

Several developments have recently occurred regarding the possible installation of sewer lines into the Honor Heights neighborhood. The sewers would serve 84 homes that were constructed with septic systems, most of which are 40-50 years old.

First, natural gas lines are being extended to service the development of the Willow Brooks Estate project located just north of Honor Heights, Town staff has contacted Eversource Gas to see if they would consider installing natural gas lines to Honor Heights in the event that sewers are constructed. Eversource Gas representative indicated that they would study the possibility of extending the gas lines and get back to Plainville in approximately 60 days.

Second, Town staff's preliminary cost estimate to install sewers is \$1.2M to 1.4M. It is anticipated that beneficial assessments would generate approximately \$840,000 (\$10,000 per home) leaving a balance of between \$360,000 and \$560,000.

Plainville currently has over \$600,000 in State LOCIP Grant monies that could be utilized to cover the remaining balance. Finally, if the Town Council desires to consider this expansion, a Public Hearing on the proposed expansion could be held as early as April. If approved, construction would not be expected to occur until next summer.

- **Whiting Street Repaving Project**

Last May, Plainville received preliminary approval from CRCOG to receive a \$2,8M LOTCIP grant for the reconstruction of Whiting Street from Broad Street to Fairview Avenue contingent upon State of Connecticut Department of Transportation final approval.

The State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has completed their review of the project's conceptual design and has directed the Town to modify the construction methods from total reconstruction to major rehabilitation, milling and repaving. The DOT directive has reduced the cost per linear foot of roadway repaired, thus, as a byproduct of this modification, CRCOG has agreed to permit the limits of construction to be extended southerly beyond Fairview Avenue.

The impact of this decision is that the Town will not have to use Road Bond monies for a good portion of the repaving of Whiting Street from Fairview to East Street (Route 10) as previously planned. The Engineering Department is currently revising the conceptual design to reflect the State DOT's directive and will be establishing new limits of construction. A revised Whiting Street design is expected to be completed and resubmitted to the DOT by the end of February.

Originally, it was believed that construction would occur during the 2022 construction season. As result of the DOT directive, construction will most likely occur in the 2023 construction season.

- **Road Bond Discussion**

Town staff is preparing for the upcoming paving season utilizing Year 2 of the Road Bond II program. Town staff is requesting authorization from the Town Council to utilize the equipment rental rates outlined in State of Connecticut contract for roadway milling of streets to be paved during the 2022 construction season.

The total amount of the authorization shall not exceed \$150,000. The funds used to purchase these services will be drawn from the Roadway Bond account. There is an item under New Business that would authorize Town staff to utilize State Contract Bid equipment rental rates for roadway milling of streets not to exceed \$150,000.

- **Town Manager's FY2023 Proposed Budget**

Town staff and I have been working on the FY23 Town Budget. There are still several moving parts to be

decided including the Board of Education Budget and the Governor's proposed budget which historically has provided significant state revenues to support local town budgets.

The FY23 Town Budget will be presented to the Town Council on Monday, March 7th at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers. A Public Hearing on the Town Manager's Proposed Budget is being recommended to be held on Wednesday, March 9th at 7:00 pm in the Town Council Chambers as well.

Work sessions on the budget are recommended to be held on March 14, 15, 16, 22 and 23. The review of the Board of Education's recommended budget is planned for the March 16th work session. These work sessions are open to the public and will also be taped for broadcast on the Nutmeg Public TV Network

- **COVID-19 Update**

A vaccination clinic will be held at the Plainville Senior Center on February 18th from 9:30-12 noon. The Pfizer and Moderna first, second, booster will be offered by Hartford Healthcare. Appointments required. Contact Senior Center at 860-747-5728 to make an appointment.

There is also a vaccination clinic scheduled for this coming Saturday, February 12th from 1:00 to 6:00 pm at the Congregational Church located at 130 West Main Street. Walk-ins will be accepted as well.

- **Route 372 Paving Plans**

The State D.O.T. has informed the Town that they plan to repave Route 372 in Plainville this summer. The repaving will be from Route 10 (East Street) through the center of Plainville all the way to Route 72. The length of the paving will be approximately 1.55 miles.

The repaving will cover over the seven decorative crosswalks that were install in 2014. The Town would be responsible for replacing the decorative crosswalks if desired. The estimated cost for replacement is \$62,000 to \$78,000. There are monies available in the Town Aid Road account to reinstall the decorative crosswalks. The Town Aid Road account is funded by state grants.

- **Happenings**

Assistant Town Manager Daskal announced activities and updated regarding Senior Center activities. Further information can be found on the Town's website:

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Bid #2022-15B, Rental of Services & Equipment for Roadway Construction/Milling

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to authorize the use of State Contract #18 PSX 0190 for Bid #2022-15B, Rental of Services and Equipment for Roadway Construction, for roadway milling during the 2022 paving season in an amount not to exceed \$150,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

2. Establish public hearing regarding American Rescue Plan Act Planning Committee Recommendation

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to establish a public hearing on Tuesday, February 22, at

7:00pm in the Municipal Center to hear public comment regarding the American Rescue Plan Act Planning Committee's recommended use of funds. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

3. Establish public hearing regarding Town Manager's FY2023 Proposed Budget

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to establish a public hearing on Wednesday, March 9, at 7:00pm in the Municipal Center to hear public comment on the Town Manager's FY2023 Proposed Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

4. Set Special Meetings regarding Town Council FY2023 Proposed Budget

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to establish the following special meetings of the Town Council for the purpose of considering and action upon the FY2023 Budget:

- March 14, 15, 16, 22 and 23, 2022 in the Municipal Center at 6:30pm

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

5. Tax Refunds- See Addendum

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the tax refunds as listed on the Addendum. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

Town Manager Lee informed the Town Council Mike Ferrara, has been named Roadways Superintendent, to replace Dominick Moschini who retired last December. He also mentioned that the town has applied to the State of Connecticut - Department of Transportation, for rapid flashing beacons near the high school.

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 pm Councilwoman Tompkins motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by,

Cindy A. Porrini

Cindy A. Porrini, Town Clerk
& Clerk of the Town Council

	Refunds	2/7/2022 Current Year	Amount
1	Toyota Lease Trust, Woburn, MA		327.42
2	Karwowski, David, 5 James Pl.		557.07
3	Bergenty, John Jr. & Elise, 61 Belmont Pl		78.79
	Total		\$963.28