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2. Auditor Appointment
3. 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 Chairwoman Tompkins, Town Council members Wazorko, Morante, Gnazzo, Rocco, Underwood, Town Manager Lee, Assistant Town Manager Daskal, Town Attorney Chomick, and Town Clerk Porrini.

Councilwoman Morante led the Pledge of Allegiance.

***Vice Chairwoman Tompkins motioned to add agenda items:**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

***3. Establish Public Hearing for a Proposed Amendment to the Open Burning Ordinance.**

The motion was seconded by Councilman Wazorko and passed 7-0.

I. PRESENTATIONS

Town Clerk Porrini gave a presentation to the Town Council on the online searchable meeting minutes database created in General Code.

II. PUBLIC HEARING**III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Vice Chairwoman Tompkins motioned to approve the minutes of April 19, 2021 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Underwood and passed 7-0.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS**V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION**

1. Councilman Gnazzo motioned to accept with regret the resignation of Robert Michalic from the Inland Wetlands Commission. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

Conservation Commission

2. Councilwoman Morante motioned to ratify Town Manager Lee's reappointment of:
- a) Lisa Lozier, (U), 17 Grant Avenue to the Conservation Commission for the term ending January 15, 2025.
 - b) Linel Noble, (D), 6 Peace Court to the Conservation Commission for the term ending January 15, 2025.
 - c) Randall Paz, (R), 36 Washburn Drive to the Conservation Commission for the term ending January 15, 2025.

The motion was seconded by Vice Chairwoman 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. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

- **CT Main Street Center – Patrick McMahon**

The FY2022 Budget includes monies to join the CT Main Street Center. During the budget discussion, Town Council members had several questions regarding the benefits of joining the CT Main Street Center. Patrick McMahon, the Chief Executive Officer of the Center is here this evening to give a brief power point presentation of the organization and to answer any questions from the Town Council members.

- **Norton Park Pool Discussion for Summer 2021**

Recreation Director Courtney Hewitt is here this evening to discuss the plans for Norton Park Pool which is scheduled to open on June 12th. Courtney has suggested two options for residents to utilize the pool based upon the current COVID-19 restrictions that state that the employees should "limit the total number of patrons in the pool area and pool to the number of people/households that can safely fit on the pool deck area while maintaining the six feet distance guidelines including 3 feet wide walking paths", with the size of the pool decks at Norton Park, this would limit the number of pool visitors to a maximum of 50 at any one time.

She is suggesting two ideas on how to limit the capacity to best serve the Plainville residents.

- 1). Limit pool season passes to 400 on a first-come, first serve basis and
- 2). Sell tickets daily for \$2 each on a first-come, first-serve basis until the capacity is reached.

Courtney is seeking Town Council feedback on each of these suggestions.

- **Police Body Camera Discussion**

Last summer the Police Reform Bill was signed into law in Connecticut. That law requires that all police departments in the state to have body and in-dash cameras by July 1, 2022. The Plainville Police Department has had in-dash cameras for several years. Prior to Chief Catania passing away, he was in the process of putting together a recommendation for the purchase of body cameras for the Department. Lt. Peterson and Lt. Mullins have continued this effort and are prepared to move forward with the purchase and implementation of body cameras for the police officers. They are suggesting two options:

- 1). Outright purchase of the system from Watchguard or
- 2). Enter a Managed Care Plan. The Managed Care Plan would save approximately \$26K over a five-year period.

Lt. Peterson & Lt. Mullins will give a brief presentation of the Watchguard system and the policy regarding the use of body cameras issued by the Police Officer Standards & Training Council and to answer any questions from Town Council members. They are seeking Town Council input on which option to pursue. No action is being requested this evening.

- **Valley Water/Aquarion Water Company Acquisition**

Valley Water recently notified the Town that their parent company, New England Service Company, has entered an “Agreement and Plan of Merger” with the Aquarion Water Company of Bridgeport. Subsequently, on April 21, 2021, Valley Water sent a letter to the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) requesting that their current application for a rate increase be “temporarily suspended” until such time as the merger is approved by the required regulatory agencies in CT, MASS., and NH.

Valley Water is estimating that the approvals can take from three to six months. Valley Water is also proposing that they “initiate discussions among the parties and report back to PURA...if a settlement is achievable” with regards to their proposed increase. I recently met with the President of Aquarion and Valley Water representatives in which they expressed their interest in negotiating a rate increase rather than having PURA make the decision. I told them that I would be willing to participate in such discussions.

- **Standard & Poor’s Rating**

On April 22nd, Standard & Poor re-affirmed Plainville’s Bond Rating of AA+. This is one notch lower than a AAA rating which is the highest rating a Town can attain. They also stated that the financial outlook for Plainville is “stable”. In their report, Standard & Poor noted that it “reflects a strong growing residential and commercial base” and that “lending further stability to the rating and the outlook are” Plainville’s “very strong liquidity and stable revenue mix, with the predominant revenue stream of property taxes, with collections remaining strong”. They also noted that Plainville has “strong management, with good financial policies and practices”,

“strong budgetary performance”, “very strong budgetary flexibility, with an available fund balance in FY 2020 of 18% of operating expenditures”. They noted that the Town has “very strong debt and contingent liability profile with debt service carrying charges at 7.6% of expenditures...with 66.7% of debt scheduled to be retired in 10 years”. They have recognized that the Town Council recently adopted a fund balance policy.

In conclusion, Standard & Poor stated that Plainville has a “strong economy”, “strong management”, “strong budgetary performance”, “very strong budgetary flexibility”, “very

strong liquidity”, and “very strong debt and contingent liability profile”. As the Town Manager I am proud that Standard & Poor has recognized the efforts of the Town Council and Town staff to achieve a financial record that earned a Bond Rating of AA+.

- **All Day Budget Vote Results – FY2022**

On April 27th both the General Government and Board of Education Budgets were overwhelmingly approved by those who voted.

The General Government Budget was approved by 81% of those who voted (377, yes – 90, no)
The Board of Education Budget was approved by 77% of those who voted (359, yes – 106, no)

The next step in the process is for the Town Council to set the mill rate. The Appropriation and Finance Committees of the State legislature recently issued their recommended State Budget for

the next two fiscal years. Their recommendations restored the phase-in of the ECS formula. That phase-in would result in an additional \$198,930 above what was originally anticipated. This increase in ECS monies would reduce the mill rate increase to 0.09 mills or 0.25% increase in taxes based upon earlier revenue discussions. This is \$129,801 from a no tax increase. It is recommended that the Town Council consider setting the mill rate at the May 17th meeting.

- **FAA Grant Agreement**

Several months ago, the F.A.A. notified the Town that the Town would receive \$13,000 from the Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program for Robertson Airport. To receive the grant, the Town Council must provide authority to execute the grant to the individual signing the grant. There is an item under New Business that would authorize the Town Manager to be the authorized representative for the Town.

- **Open Burning Ordinance Discussion**

The Open Burning Ordinance was adopted on November 6, 2006. The purpose of the Ordinance is to require that a permit be issued by the Fire Marshal or the Open Burning Official before any person initiates open burning in any public or private area outside of a building.

Fire Marshal Ron Dievert is requesting that the Town Council consider amending Section 219-9 E (3) to comply with updated D.E.E.P. danger levels. Specifically, the current language allows for the revocation of an open burning permit in the case of “extreme or high forest fire danger”. D.E.E.P. has added a third level, namely, “very high” fire danger. The Fire Marshal is requesting that Section 219-9 E (3) include “very high” as one of the levels now recognized by

the State for measuring fire danger. The proposed language would read: “An extreme, very high, or high forest fire danger exists”.

If the Town Council is agreeable to this suggestion – the next step would be to schedule of Public Hearing to solicit comments from residents before considering action. If there is no objection, a Public Hearing on the proposed amendment to the Open Burning Ordinance will be scheduled for the May 17th Town Council meeting.

- **Auditor Appointment**

Each year the Town Council is required to appoint the firm to conduct the annual Town audit. For many years, the Town Council has appointed Blum Shapiro of West Hartford to perform this work. Last December Blum Shapiro announced that they were joining the national professional services firm of Clifton, Larson & Allen, LLP. The Blum Shapiro “team” will continue to serve clients locally from their location in West Hartford. Town staff is recommending that the Town Council appoint CliftonLarsonAllen LLP to perform the FY21 Town Audit. There is an item under New Business regarding this recommendation.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Health Director Shane Lockwood is here this evening to give an update the latest status of the COVID-19 restrictions and to discuss what may be expected going forward in the coming months.

- **Happenings**

Assistant Town Manager Daskal reported on activities in the Tax Office and Senior Center details can be found on the Town’s website: www.plainvillect.com

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joanne Edman, 166 West Main St spoke discussed concerns of additional traffic in downtown area.

Lou Frangos, 10 Fairbanks St, asked questions regarding the presentation from CT Main Street Center.

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Vice Chairwoman Tompkins motioned to approve and authorize the Town Manager to execute the FAA’s Airport Coronavirus Relief Grant Program – Grant Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gnazzo and passed 7-0.

2. Vice Chairwoman Tompkins motioned to appoint the firm of Clifton Larsen Allen, formerly Blum Shapiro, to conduct an audit for the Town of Plainville’s 2021 Fiscal Year. The motion was seconded by Councilman Underwood and passed 7-0.

3. Vice Chairwoman Tompkins motioned to establish a public hearing for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Municipal Center to hear public comment regarding

amendment to the Open Burning Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gnazzo and passed 7-0.

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

XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Personnel Matter

Vice Chairwoman Tompkins motioned to enter into Executive Session at 9:00pm, to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Councilman Underwood and passed 7-0.

Present for the Executive Session were Chairwoman Pugliese, Vice Chairwoman Tompkins, Council members Wazorko, Morante, Gnazzo, Rocco, Underwood, Town Manager Lee, Assistant Town Manager Daskal, Town Attorney Chomick, Lt. Peterson, and Lt. Mullins

Discussion was held.

Councilman Underwood motioned to end the Executive Session at 9:37pm. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

No action was taken.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:38 pm Vice Chairwoman Tompkins motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Gnazzo and passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

Refunds**5/3/2021**

	Current Year	Amount
1	Porsche Leasing LTD, Po Box 24329 Nashville, TN 37202	\$594.15
2	Zaniewski, Cezary, 5 Whites Crossing, Plainville	\$101.70
3	Corelogic, PO Box 9202, Coppell, TX 75019	\$3,553.92
4	Saverino, Vittorio, PO Box 7261 Kensington CT 06037	\$77.71
	Total	\$4,327.48

Sewer Usage

1	Select Portfolio Serv Inc., Salt Lake City UT, 84119	\$272.51
	Total	\$272.51