

**MINUTES
PLAINVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL CENTER
SPECIAL MEETING
Monday, November 15, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.**

WORK SESSION: Police Department Discussion

Chairwoman Pugliese called the Work Session to order at 6:00 pm. Present were Vice Chairman Underwood, Council members Tompkins, Wazorko, Gnazzo, Rocco, Catanzaro, Town Manager Lee, Assistant Town Manager Daskal, Town Attorney Mastrianni, and Town Clerk Porrini.

Police Chief Peterson addressed the Town Council. He realizes the police overtime is a large figure within the Police Department's Budget. He has been reviewing multiple options to try and lower this dollar amount going forward. Forced overtime has been the main issue mostly due to shifts requiring a minimum number of officers needed at one given time. Workers Compensation and officers that need to use sick leave are the two primary causes of forced overtime. Chief Peterson would like to reinstitute Corporal ranking officers. He would also like to add a bicycle patrol office to his department. He reviewed office policies, procedures, and goals for the department since he has become the Police Chief.

Discussion ensued

The Work Session was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. No action was taken.

**MINUTES
PLAINVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL CENTER
REGULAR MEETING
November 15, 2021 – 7:00p.m.**

I. PRESENTATIONS:

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

October 25, 2021, Regular Meeting and November 8, 2021, Organizational Meeting

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

1. 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. Red Cross Team
2. Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Project Discussion
3. CT Communities Challenge Grant Program
4. BAN Sale Results
5. FY2021 Audit – Governance Communication
6. Honor Heights Proposed Sewer Survey
7. Farmington Avenue Tree Replacement Discussion
8. Hemingway Street Drainage
9. Eversource Gas Replacement 2022
10. Robertson Airport ARPA Grant
11. COVID-19 Update
12. Financial Dashboard
13. Happenings

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Amendment to an ordinance entitled “Tax Stabilization for Elderly Homeowners”
2. Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Project Authorization Letter
3. Bid #2022-08E, Replacement of Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Reconstruction
4. Robertson Airport ARPA Grant Offer Agreement
5. Tax Refunds - Addendum

XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Town Manager Search

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Councilman Catanzaro led the Pledge of Allegiance

I. PRESENTATIONS

II. PUBLIC HEARING

Town Clerk Porrini read the following legal notice:

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF PLAINVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
NOVEMBER 15, 2021**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plainville Town Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Monday November 15, 2021, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center, One Central Square in Plainville to hear public comments on:

Proposed amendments to ordinance - Chapter 355 TAXATION; Article IX; TAX STABILIZATION FOR ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS.

A copy of the proposed amendment is on file and available for public inspection during normal business hours in the office of the Town Clerk.

Dated at Plainville, Connecticut this 11th day of November 2021.

Chairwoman Pugliese opened the public hearing for public comments.

Hearing no comments, the public hearing was closed.

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the minutes of October 25, 2021, Special Meeting and November 8, 2021, Organizational Meeting: The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

Councilman Gnazzo reported the annual Chamber of Commerce is inviting everyone to join their evening of Holiday Cheer on Friday, December 10th at 6:30PM at Norton Park.

Chairwoman Pugliese attended the Veterans Day Ceremony and thanked all those involved.

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION

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:

- **Red Cross Team**

During the early morning hours of November 3rd, a fire occurred at the Russel Gate Condominiums located on Russell Ave. As a result, Five Families (9 Adults/2Children) were displaced.

The Red Cross immediately sent in a “Integrated Care & Condolence Team” to assist the displaced residents. Funds were provided for their immediate needs including comfort kits and Recovery Envelopes.

As a result of the fire, three of the units will need extensive repair before they can be re-occupied.

I want to thank the Red Cross for assisting our residents in their time of need. They are always there when we need them most.

- **Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Project Discussion**

The replacement of the Tomlinson Ave. Bridge is finally ready to move forward. Over 10 years ago the Town secured a federal grant to pay for 80% of the cost of the replacement. Due to many factors including bridge re-design and additional analysis required by the Corps of Engineers the project was delayed.

On October 21st, nine bid proposals were received for the project which involves the installation of a twin pre-cast concrete box culvert. The low bid was submitted by Dayton Construction of Watertown in the amount of \$1,296,849.50. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$1.4M. Town and State consultants have reviewed the submitted bid documents and have found them to be complete. Dayton Construction successfully completed the replacement of the Stillwell Drive Bridge several years ago.

Town staff is recommending that the Town Council award the replacement of the Tomlinson Ave. Bridge Project to Dayton Construction of Watertown in the amount of \$1,296,849.50. There is an item under New Business regarding this recommendation. In addition, the State is requiring that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute a "Project Authorization Letter" for the project. There is an item under New Business regarding this requirement as well.

Finally, the estimated remaining cost for the project is \$1.54M. The Town share of 20% is calculated to \$308,156. The current balance left in the Tomlinson Ave. Bridge Fund is \$157,000. The remaining amount of \$151,158 will be paid from the Town Aid Road account.

- **CT Communities Challenge Grant Program**

Governor Lamont recently announced new economic development programs to create jobs and boost community vibrancy. One of the programs is the "Connecticut Communities Challenge Program". Under the Connecticut Communities Challenge program, the Department of Economic and Community Development will fund a wide range of projects that improve livability, vibrancy, and appeal of communities throughout the state while aiming to create approximately 3,000 new jobs.

Town staff is planning to submit a grant application which, if awarded, would provide funds to assist in the infrastructure improvements which are part of the White Oak Development Project. There is a match required for the grant. Manafort Newport Realty has agreed to provide a good portion of the required match.

It is anticipated that the grant request and the match will total around \$1.6M. Town staff will work with Manafort Newport to submit an "Intent to Apply" by December 3rd and the completed application by January 14th. It is expected that the State will not announce the grant awards until next Spring.

- **BAN Sale Results**

The Town recently received bids for General Obligation Bond Anticipation Notes totaling \$7M for the period from November 17th until August 16, 2022. Three bids were received with the low bid submitted by BNY Mellon with a net interest calculation of 0.4081%.

It is now anticipated that the Town will issue a General Obligation Bond when these notes become due next summer. These notes and bonds are for the Wheeler Elementary School Project and the Road Bond Program.

- **FY2021 Audit – Governance Communication**

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP of West Hartford is currently conducting the Town audit for the Fiscal Year Ending June 2021. They issued a letter dated October 29, 2021, communicating information relating to the audit.

The letter detailed the responsibilities of both the auditors as well as the Town. The letter also speaks to the “Planned scope and timing of the audit” and “Other planning matters” related to communication between

CLA and Town staff. The letter is intended solely for the information purposes for use by the Town Council and Town management. A copy of the letter was included in the information package for this evening’s meeting. No action is required by the Town Council at this time.

The Town audit is currently underway and is expected to be completed by the end of December.

- **Honor Heights Proposed Sewer Survey**

Town staff recently solicited feedback from those residents that attended the September 16th Public Information Session held to discuss the possible installation of sewers in the Honor Heights neighborhood. The neighborhood has 82 homes.

Forty persons representing 32 homes attended the meeting. The survey results were that 69% (22 homes) of those who attended the meeting were in favor of the Town to continue considering whether to move forward with the installation of sewers. Three residents indicated that they made some repairs to their septic system in the recent past and saw no need to have the sewers installed. One person stated “maybe”, and another wanted to remain “neutral”. Five persons did not respond to the survey.

Based on the feedback, Town staff is recommending that some preliminary cost estimates be determined, and a potential financing plan be developed for review by the Town Council.

- **Farmington Avenue Tree Replacement Discussion**

Last summer the State Department of Transportation removed approximately 10 trees on the west side of Farmington Ave, (Route 10) because they were dying and showing signs of stress. Approximately 20 years ago the Town planted some of these trees that were removed.

The section of trees removed stretched from West cemetery to Roberts Street. Several residents have inquired as to whether the Town will be replacing these trees in the future. Town staff has provided a potential location for the replacement tree plantings. The estimated cost of the replacement is around \$10,000. This could be reduced if the Town crew were able to perform the plantings.

If the Town Council wishes to consider the replacement of these trees, Town staff will put together a more definitive cost and a recommended funding option.

- **Hemingway Street Drainage**

For several years some residents on the west side of Hemingway Street have expressed concerns regarding drainage issues impacting their property. This drainage issue is related to surface and groundwater flowing southerly toward remnants of the Farmington Canal located in Norton Park at the rear of their property. During most of the year, rear portions of their properties are unusable due to flowing and standing water.

Recently, several property owners have approached the Town for a solution to this matter. Information gathered indicates that when these properties were developed in the early 1960s, a pipe and swale were installed to address this issue. There are no records of the original installation nor were there any legal documents filed identifying responsibilities for the drainage pipe. Over time, it appears sections of the pipe seem to have failed and portions of the swale were regraded. The exact extent of the original

installation is unknown; however, historical aerial photographs seem to indicate the installation extended northerly from Norton Park to at least to Willis Avenue. The most practical solution to this matter would be to reestablish the original installation with modifications. The first and most important modification would be to draft and file the appropriate legal documents outlining responsibilities. Other modifications would involve design elements that would improve the efficiency and durability of the system. It is the engineering department's recommendations the new pipe be constructed of PVC and that the reestablished swale include yard drains. Any installation is contingent upon complete agreement of the property owners involved. An easement will need to be secured from every property owner involved in the project. The project can only proceed northerly from Norton Park to the point where the first property owner is not agreeable to an easement.

A conceptual design review indicates approximately 2000 linear feet of PVC pipe would need to be installed along with approximately five-yard drains. The cost for such installation is estimated to be in the range of \$75,000 to \$100,000. Costs could be substantially less if Town staff were to perform the installation. Should Town Staff install the system out of pocket costs could just be for the materials needed.

If the Town Council was interested in providing a solution to this long-standing drainage issue, it would be my recommendation that the property owners directly affected pay for a portion of the construction.

Town staff is soliciting feedback from the Town Council whether Town staff should put together more definitive information regarding this drainage problem.

- **Eversource Gas Replacement 2022**

Town staff recently met with Eversource Gas representatives regarding their plans for replacing some older gas lines in Plainville. Eversource is planning to replace gas lines on Canal Street, Strong Court, Church Street and Bank Street this winter. They are also planning to replace gas lines on Tomlinson Ave. west of Route 10 and on Park Street from Tomlinson to Broad Street.

Town staff and Eversource have agreed that any gas line replacements on streets that were repaved within the last five years would be overlayed with the cost being paid by the gas company. We also agreed to share in the cost for pavement overlay on those streets where the road is in relatively good condition to extend the life of the road. Work is expected to begin in these two areas towards the end of January. Eversource will be required to maintain the roads during construction as directed by Town staff.

- **Robertson Airport ARPA Grant**

Through the American Rescue Plan small airports of aviation similar to Robertson Airport are eligible to federal monies. Robertson Airport is receiving \$32,000 in ARPA funds the Town Council is required to pass a Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to receive the federal grants funds.

The \$32,000 will be allocated for airport improvements.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Plainville continues to be in the "red" category with an average daily rate of 15.1 cases per 100,000. This is just above the 14.9 cases per 100,000 which would put Plainville in the "orange" category. This could be partially due to the lower-than-average vaccination rate by Plainville residents.

According to the "CTPUBLIC.ORG website, 64.9% of Plainville residents have been fully vaccinated. The state "fully vaccinated" rate is 81.8%. The U.S. "fully vaccinated" rate is 68.6%.

By contrast Farmington (yellow) rate stands at 77.6%, Southington (orange) rate is at 70.1%. Another factor could be that Plainville has a much denser population than most municipalities in Connecticut.

- **Financial Dashboard**

The dashboard through the end of October has been included in the meeting information package and has been posted on the Town website.

- **Happenings**

Assistant Town Manager Daskal announced activities and updates regarding the sewer use bills, curbside leaf collections, and Senior Center activities. Further information can be found on the Town's website:

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Andrew Grandbois, 42 Maxine Road congratulated the Town Council Members on their election.

Lou Frangos, 10 Fairbanks Street had questions regarding the Financial Dashboard.

Dave Albert, 56 Hollyberry Lane spoke against the Trail.

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed Amendment to an ordinance entitled "Tax Stabilization for Elderly Homeowners"

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to adopt the proposed amendment to an ordinance entitled "Tax Stabilization for Elderly Homeowners. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

2. Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Project Authorization Letter

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve and authorize the Town Manager to execute the Project Authorization Letter with the State of CT Department of Transportation for the Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Project. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

3. Bid #2022-08E, Replacement of Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Reconstruction

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to award bid #2022-08E, Replacement of Tomlinson Avenue Bridge Reconstruction, to Dayton Construction, Watertown, CT, in the amount of \$1,296,849.50. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

4. Robertson Airport ARPA Grant Offer Agreement

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve and authorize the Town Manager to execute the FAA Airport Rescue Grant Offer Agreement for Robertson Airport in the amount of \$32,000. 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

XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Town Manager Search

At 8:05 pm Councilwoman Tompkins motioned to enter Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Underwood and passed 7-0.

All seven Council members were present for the executive session. Also, in attendance Town Manager Lee and Town Attorney Mastrianni.

Town Attorney Mastrianni exited the Exited Session at 8:30 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding the Town Manager Search. No votes were taken.

A motion was made, seconded unanimously passed, to end the executive session at 8:55 p.m. No further action was taken.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:56 pm Councilwoman Tompkins motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Underwood and passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

10-2021

Tax Stabilization for Elderly Homeowners Ordinance Amendment

§ 355-43. Eligibility.

To qualify for the tax relief, a taxpayer shall meet all the following requirements:

- A. On December 31 of the calendar year preceding the year in which a claim is filed, be:
- (1) Sixty-five years of age or over;
 - (2) The spouse of a person 65 years of age or over, provided such spouse is domiciled with such person; or
 - (3) Sixty-two years of age or over and the surviving spouse of a taxpayer who at the time of such taxpayer's death had qualified and was entitled to the relief under this article.

- B. Occupy such real property as his or her home.
- C. Either spouse shall have resided within the Town of Plainville for at least one year before filing the claim under this article.
- D. The taxable and nontaxable income of such taxpayer, the total of which shall hereinafter be called "qualifying income," in the tax year of such homeowner ending immediately preceding the date of application for benefits was not in excess of limits set forth in § 12-170aa of the Connecticut General Statutes, as adjusted annually, evidence of which income shall be submitted to the Assessor in such form and manner as the Assessor prescribes. The amount of any Medicaid payments made on behalf of such homeowner or spouse of the homeowner shall not constitute income. The income of the spouse of the homeowner shall not be included in the qualifying income of such homeowner for purposes of determining eligibility for tax relief, if such spouse is a resident of a health care or nursing facility in Connecticut, and such facility receives payment related to such spouse under Title XIX.[1]
[1] Editor's Note: Reference is to Title XIX of the Social Security Act (Medicaid).
- E. The net value of the homeowner's assets does not exceed \$250,000.
- F. After the initial qualification the taxpayer shall file biennially thereafter on forms prepared by the Assessor.

	Current Year	Amount
Refunds	11/15/2021	
	Current Year	Amount
1	Pletscher, Gregory & Tara, 15 Hemingway St	296.45
2	Baron, Raymond & Marie, 32 Julie Rd	62.24
3	Nelaj, Ervis, 5 Peach Orchard Hill	469.25
4	Riesbeck, Christopher, 64 Shuttlemeadow Rd	437.01
5	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	346.81
6	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	204.35
7	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	77.97
8	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	308.69
9	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	87.37
10	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	124.87
11	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	444.96
12	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	426.88
13	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	261.62
14	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	167.51
15	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	142.28
16	Toyota Lease Trust, 20 Commerce Way Ste. 80 Woburn MA	77.97
Total		\$3,936.23