

**MINUTES
PLAINVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL CENTER
May 1, 2023 – 7:00p.m.**

- I. PRESENTATIONS:** **Hygrade Precision Technologies
2023 Small Business Administration
Manufacturer of the Year**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING**
1. 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act
 2. Proposed Amendments to Taxation Ordinance
 - a. Waiver of Nominal Taxes
 - b. Refund of Nominal Balances
- III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
April 17, 2023, Regular Meeting
- IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS**
- V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**
1. Economic Development Agency Resignation
 2. Inland Wetlands Commission Resignation
 3. 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. Middle School of Plainville Update
 2. Tomasso Nature Park/Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Update
 3. Robertson Airport Projects Update
 4. Honor Heights Update
 5. Camp Street Development Project Update
 6. Happenings
- IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- X. OLD BUSINESS**
- XI. NEW BUSINESS**
1. 2023 Neighborhood Assistant Act Proposals
 2. Proposed Amendment to Taxation Ordinance – Waiver of Nominal Taxes
 3. Proposed Amendment to Taxation Ordinance – Refund of Nominal Balances
 4. Establish public hearing regarding additional appropriation for Capital Projects
 5. Legal Opinion regarding school closure or consolidation
 6. 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 Morante, Rocco, Catanzaro, Tompkins, Wazorko, Town Manager Paulhus, Assistant Town Manager Cirioli, Town Attorney Chomick, and Town Clerk Porrini.

Councilwoman Morante led the Pledge of Allegiance

I. PRESENTATIONS

II. PUBLIC HEARING

1. 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act
2. Proposed Amendments to Taxation Ordinance
 - a. Waiver of Nominal Taxes
 - b. Refund of Nominal Balances

Town Clerk Porrini read the following legal notice:

**LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF PLAINVILLE
TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
MAY 1, 2023**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Plainville Town Council will hold public hearings at 7:00 p.m. on Monday May 1, 2023, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Center, One Central Square in Plainville to hear public comments regarding:

1. Proposals for the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act
2. Proposed amendments to ordinance – CHAPTER 355 – TAXATION ARTICLE XII PROVISIONS ON THE COLLECTION OF REVENUE
 - 355-60. Waiver of Nominal Taxes
 - 355-61. Refund of Nominal Balances.

Dated at Plainville, Connecticut this 27th day of April 2023.

Chairwoman Pugliese opened the meeting to public comments regarding the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act. The first public hearing was closed when no comments were made.

Chairwoman Pugliese opened the second public hearing for comments regarding proposed amendments to Taxation Ordinance. Hearing no comments Chairwoman Pugliese closed the second public hearing.

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the minutes of April 17, 2023, Regular Meeting: The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS

1. Proclamation – National Small Business Week 2023

V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION

Economic Development Agency

Councilman Rocco motioned to accept with regret the resignation of Joseph Klepacki from the Economic Development Agency. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

Inland Wetlands Commission

Councilman Catanzaro motioned to accept with regret the resignation of David Garewski from the Inland Wetlands Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

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

VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY

VIII. TOWN MANAGER

Town Manager Paulhus presented and discussed the following topics:

- **Middle School of Plainville Update**

At the previous Town Council meeting, the members discussed holding a work session to explore the development of an RFP for an outside consultant to look at a third option for the closure of MSP and/or consolidation. The question on the authority to close a school was also raised and whether it is a BOE decision or Town Council decision. The BOE Superintendent sought a legal opinion from their counsel (Tom Mooney) and found he has a conflict with the town. To proceed in getting a legal opinion from Attorney Mooney, the BOE needs a waiver from the Town Council. Since the legal question on which body has the authority to close a school remains open, it was felt that drafting or discussing an RFP may be a moot point if the authority rests with the BOE.

There is an item under New Business to waive the conflict and allow Attorney Mooney to write an opinion.

- **TNP/Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Update**

At the last meeting, I spoke about the second area of modification involving Tomasso Nature Park. Specifically, the impact of having the trail run inside the park fence, using the existing pedestrian bridges and established path. Design concepts for the separation between the FCHT and TNP are being laid out with proposals around access points to the park, fencing and landscaping. Certain types of fencing would not be allowed because it would restrict the movement of wildlife, (Regulatory Issue), thus, a split rail fence and landscaping are likely.

Specific attention is focused on the impact the trail will have on the turtle breeding habitats or turtle beds. In working with Mark DeVoe and Art Marino, we believe we have come up with a reasonable solution to lower the impact on the turtles' breeding habits. As part of the effort to reduce the impact on the turtles, the Town will prepare and apply for the Inland/Wetlands and Watercourse Commission to request a ruling on establishing two new turtle beds within TNP as a permitted and nonregulated use.

The two proposed beds will be in areas off the path in flat locations, which will not be highly vulnerable to erosion and will offer much better access for breeding purposes. They are ringed with low vegetation that the turtles can traverse that also provide a buffer between the water's edge and the nesting areas.

A work session on the North/South alignment is recommended for the Town Council for the May 15, 2023, meeting to review the timeline and status of all three phases of the FCHT.

- **Robertson Airport Projects Update**

The Aviation Commission has been working on three important capital projects: AWOS/PAPI/Segmented Circle & Wind Cone installation, Fencing Project, and Small Roof Replacement for the Administration office. The Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) is a system that collects and reports data about airport weather conditions automatically, continuously and in real-time. The Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) project is a set of lights positioned beside a runway which

provide pilots with a visual indicator of their aircraft's position relative to the correct glidepath for the runway. The segmented circle and wind cone are visual indicators that provide traffic pattern information to pilots at airports without a control tower. All these components are expected to be completed by the end of June. The fence project will replace the existing perimeter fence line facing out away from the runway towards Johnson Avenue. The fence bid was opened on Wednesday, April 26th, and the project will likely start in the fall pending FAA review.

The roof replacement project is waiting for materials to be delivered and should be completed by July, if not sooner. The living tribute for Bill O'Leary and the new fire pit on the patio should be ready for early Summer.

- **Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project Bid**

At the last meeting, I mentioned the drafting of a "Preliminary Assessment" to file on the Plainville Land Records stating that a \$10,000 preliminary sanitary sewer assessment is pending for the (80) properties affected by the Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project. That language is being reviewed by the Town Attorney's office. The Town Attorney's office is also assisting in reviewing the draft easement agreements which involve three properties.

The Town Engineer has drafted a letter to notify homeowners that the staking of lateral lines will begin on or around May 4, 2023. The construction is estimated to begin in June 2023.

- **Camp Street Development Project Update**

A developer is proposing 74 senior citizen apartments in Bristol with property access and traffic entering and exiting via Camp Street in Plainville near Overlook Drive. The public has an opportunity to share concerns about traffic and ask questions at the Bristol Zoning Commission in the Bristol Board of Education Auditorium, 129 Church Street, on Monday, May 8, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.

To inform the public, Andy has created and posted pertinent information to the Town's Facebook page with links to the Hartford Courant article and to the site plan. I have also scheduled a meeting with the attorney representing the developer to discuss the project and raise the town's concern for traffic entering Camp Street.

- **Happenings**

Assistant Town Manager Cirioli reported on programs and activities within Town Departments. More information can be found at www.plainville.com.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Allissa Robinson, 85 Williams St., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Courtney Augustine-Palmer, 45 Metacomet Rd., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Marta Weidl, 25 Tyler Farms Rd., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Lisa Levesque, 190A Redstone Hill Rd., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Kelly Carter-Maynard, 141 Hollyberry Ln., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Amy Plourde, 17 Bradley St. spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Katherine Curtis, 15 Maiden Ln., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Mary McGinley-Couture, 48 Milford St. spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Becky Tyrrell, 174 W. Main St., read a letter to the Town Council on behalf of Cheryl Provost.

Margaret DeSena, 122 Milford St Ext., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Mike Erickson, 52 Metacomet Rd., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Diane Sperry, 21 Broad St., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Melissa Sweeney, 40 Glenwood Dr., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Meghan Geary-Strenk, 32 Webster St., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

John Kisluk, 65 Forestville Ave., spoke against the renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Anke Behrends-Cooke, 55 Redstone Hill, spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Lou Frangos, 10 Fairbanks St., commented on the possibility of closing of Middle School Plainville.

Dayna Snell, 18 Newton Ave., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Andrea Erickson, 52 Metacomet Rd., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

X. OLD BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consider 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act Proposals

- a. Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act Proposal for the Prudence Crandall Center Inc. Annual Appeal in the amount of \$150,000. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.
- b. a. Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act Proposal for the Chrysalis Center Inc. “St. Philip House Energy Conservation Project” in the amount of \$68,040. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

2. Proposed Amendment to Taxation Ordinance – Waiver of Nominal Taxes

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to adopt the proposed amendment to General Code Chapter 335 – Taxation, Article XII: Provisions on the Collection Revenue regarding Waiver of Nominal Taxes. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

3. Proposed Amendment to Taxation Ordinance – Refund of Nominal Balances

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to adopt the proposed amendment to General Code Chapter 335 – Taxation, Article XII: Provisions on the Collection Revenue regarding Refund of Nominal Balances. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wazorko and passed 7-0.

4. Establish public hearing regarding additional appropriation for Capital Projects

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to establish a public hearing on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 7:00pm in the Municipal Center to hear public comment on an additional appropriation for Capital Projects. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

5. Legal Opinion regarding school closure or consolidation

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to waive the conflict of interest for the Board of Education to obtain a legal opinion regarding the closure or consolidation of a Plainville school. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

6. 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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 pm Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tompkins and passed 7-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

Refunds

5/1/2023

	Current Year	Amount
1	Tesla Lease Trust, Fremont, CA 94538	\$1,148.80
2	Tesla Lease Trust, Fremont, CA 94538	\$1,372.06
3	Caswell Allison M, 265 Chipman St Waterbury, CT 06708	\$319.58
4	Silvari Joanne (Dimauro Maria J), 10 Ashford Rd	\$35.64
	Total	\$2,876.08

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From: Jessica Beaudoin
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 9:28 AM
To: Town Council
Subject: Renovate like new

I am writing in regards to the meeting tonight about the renovating like new MSP. I am in full support of the renovate like new and I think the townspeople should have the right to decide what happens to the schools that our children go to. It is our tax money and we should have a vote on if it should be done or not.

The town council works for the town people. Listen to the people. We want the vote, let us have .

Jessica Pernal

From: Kristin Campbell
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 11:13 AM
To: Town Council
Subject: To Be Read at 5/1/2023 Town Council Meeting

Dear Town Council,

It is with incredible frustration and heartbreak that I write this email. As many parents in our community have expressed, I echo the frustrating concerns that our children's needs are being disregarded! The mere idea of closing MSP only to overcrowd and underserve our elementary students is ludicrous! Our students, teachers, and administrative staff deserve better!

Yet, it's more than that! My fundamental right to vote on issues directly impacting my family's well-being has been taken away as a citizen! How is it even possible that Renovate Like New is not being put to town vote? You, Plainville's Town Council, serve the entire town of Plainville, not just a select few!

Put Renovate Like New to a town vote. Let our voices be heard!!!

Sincerely,

Kristin Campbell

From: Erika Graff
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 11:19 AM
To: Town Council
Subject: Please Read at May 1st Meeting

I am unable to attend the May 1, 2023 Town Council meeting, but ask that this be read at the meeting.

Erika Graff

I am disheartened to learn that the MSP Renovate Like New project has not been put to a town vote, and instead we are looking to pay for a study to look at the feasibility of consolidating our already crowded elementary schools.

Why was every other school renovation project put to vote, yet the determination for the future of MSP is left to only a select few? Why would we spend unnecessarily for someone to tell us what we already know – that the elementary schools would become even more crowded, our staff would be even more overworked?

Our students - the future of our town - as well as our teachers and staff deserve more.

If the over 800 signatures on the petition won't change your mind, hopefully hearing direct from parents and other citizens will. Please reconsider the renovate like new project for MSP, and allow the citizens of Plainville to vote and voice their opinion.

Thank you,
Erika Graff

From: Jennifer L Chase
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 12:06 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Please read at tonight's meeting 5/1/23

Dear Town Council Members,

Please listen to your town. Please hear what we are asking. Please let the town vote on the decision to renovate like new. It is unfair that this decision is being made by 7 individuals and not our entire community. Please do not follow in the footsteps of surrounding towns who waste thousands of dollars on studies for projects, that in the end do not work and need to be reverted back to the original design. Please realize we have a fantastic middle school in place and instead of changing everything, simply apply for the state grant and allow the renovate like new project to move forward. We voted for you to represent the best interest of the town at large, please hear our concerns. THANK YOU!

Jennifer Chase

From: Nora Madore
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 4:15 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: PLEASE READ AT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING--5/1

Hello, I am unable to attend due to prior engagements with my children's sports.
Please read at the town council meeting

Nora Madore

I would like to start out with a question. How many of you, sitting on the town council have raised children in Plainville? Or are even Plainville alums themselves? I am a graduate of Plainville community school system. I moved out of town and came back when my oldest was ready to start kindergarten in the Linden district. We made that decision as a family because Plainville is known for their wonderful school system. We currently have a 6th grade student at MSP and a 4th grade student at Linden. So, I am asking that you please allow us to renovate like new. It is not necessary to spend taxpayers' money to have a work study to tell you the obvious. It is not going to work! Class sizes in the elementary schools are already around 20-23 children. Can you imagine consolidating and redistricting a whole elementary school? Is that what our children are to you, just numbers? Or are they not worth the town's money? Because that will for sure affect their education. In case you have also forgotten what it is like having children in middle school. It is an integral time for them to find themselves and grow into pre-teens. Children as young as 8th grade do not need to be put into high school. They need their time to grow and evolve before they are in high school. Middle school is where they build the foundation of lifelong friendships between clubs, sports and getting to know their peers from the other elementary schools. I dropped my son off at his 6th grade dance the other night at MSP. He was eager and excited and when my daughter saw him leaving for the dance, she said she cannot wait to be at MSP for her first school dance. Is the town council going to face our children and explain to them why you feel it is best to shut down their school? It's the little things in life. It is our job to do better for our future. These children are our future. We do not want them to forget where they came from. They deserve to have the Middle School of Plainville be a part of their story. And want to come back and raise their children in this town because Plainville showed they cared about education. Realistically shutting it down is not feasible, and our children deserve better. By shutting down the school it will make people look elsewhere. No one wants their children crammed in a class. Plainville prides themselves on the wonderful education and educators that we have in town. Why would you not want to embrace that? Do you know how many educators will be out of a job? And if you know anything about your educators you know that this is much more than a job to them. It is their calling. Did you have a 1st grade teacher come to your house during the pandemic to drop off a care package because she knew I was a healthcare worker? Does your daughter stay connected with her kindergarten teacher and aspire to be her because of the kindness she radiates and the true love for her students? Those are just a few examples of the type of educators that would be let go because of the town's decision to close MSP and move around an elementary school. Please I ask for us to have the chance to renovate like new. MSP deserves it, the educators deserve, the students deserve, and the town of Plainville deserves it. Also, I would like to thank Mr. LePage for being a constant in our scholar's life and for his unwavering dedication to Plainville Community Schools. He will surely be missed.

From: Marie Clark
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 5:09 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Town council meeting - public comment 5/1/23

Town Council Members,
Please read at the 5/1/2023 meeting.

I'm reaching out once again in support of the Renovate Like New project at MSP. I am not in support of the idea to reduce the number of schools in town. I'm curious how many council members have been inside all of the schools recently. Have you spoken with administrators, teachers, principals, etc and asked what an increase in class sizes will do to the students as well as the administration?

It seems to me that the council is coming up with many excuses and road blocks as to why they won't let the taxpayers decide for themselves in order to push the can down the road as long as possible until we are unable to apply for the state grant and/or we'll no longer qualify for it.

If you are sure that the reason you were voted into your positions as a republican majority was to be fiscally conservative, then allowing the taxpayers to vote on this matter should be something that you endorse, knowing this vote should follow suit.

If the taxpayers view this as fiscally irresponsible, they will vote as such.

The safety, education, and opportunities of OUR children should not be determined by you alone.

Thank you for your time.

Marie Clark

~Marie Clark

From: Nicole Paradis
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 5:37 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Middle School Renovation

Dear Plainville Town Council Members,

My name is Nicole Paradis, and I am writing to express how desperately The Middle School of Plainville deserves the chance to be renovated.

I am a parent whose child attends MSP and who myself attended the school in its current location when it was state of the art. I would like you to consider the positive repercussions of such a renovation. In reading though surveyed districts that have invested in their schools I have yet to read about one regretting the investment into their future. I have read many positives that have come out of the decision to invest in a districts school renovation including but not limited to the production of jobs in the community, increased property value and increased student and parent involvement. Our community deserves ALL of that!

I appreciate the time and effort the that is put into such important decisions that directly affect our children. I look forward to hearing the decision has been made to renovate MSP.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Nicole Paradis

From: Kylie Schemmel Sepko
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 5:40 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: To be read at the meeting 5/1

I am in favor of renovating the middle school like new. I am rather perplexed that this is even a question. As a homeowner we know that tasks don't just get better if we do nothing. In this case there was even funding available to even help offset the cost! Repairs don't get cheaper if we put them off; actually leaks get worse if ignored and cause more damage. The issue of the front vestibule is one of security; something that is also ridiculously important these days. The idea of simply shutting down the middle school and redistributing is a waste of time and money. Students would benefit from smaller class sizes as is, and student populations just go up in time not down. We need a middle school, we have a middle school, all the other schools have been fixed, simply fix this one too.
Sincerely, Kylie Sepko

From: Ghost
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 6:46 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Middle school

Hello,

We do not need anyone to do a study to repair or tear down.

It does not seem logical to displace students from any of the schools. The students will not fit without any modifications to the other schools which will cost more money.

A new middle school with money from the state is the best option.

Please renovate like new.

Paul Mann

From: Krystal Harrison
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 6:47 PM
To: Town Council
Subject: Renovate like new town vote

Please read at tonight's town meeting as I can't attend. This is in reference to the renovate like new project.

My name is Krystal Harrison and I have 2 sons enrolled in Plainville Elementary Schools.

Previously, they were enrolled in CREC. As a graduate of CREC schools, I believe in their programming and enrolled them there for a variety of reasons including updated buildings and resources.

COVID hit and I became acutely aware of the lack of local friends my children had and how important that truly was. So we went back to CREC in 2020-2021 and I took that year to do my research. I met with administrators in Plainville, curriculum specialists, district social workers and psychologists, so on and so forth. We came back to Plainville schools in the Fall of 2021. We were met with acceptance and since that time my children have been given some of the best people possible for their village...that I believe it takes to raise a child. Miss Bartley, Mrs. Pelletier and Ms. Woodward have been more than teachers but advocates for my children and I am forever grateful for the impact they've had.

The one thing that didn't sit right with me was a virtual board of Ed meeting I attended in February of 2022. It was about taking masks away. I was frustrated that certain Board Members were still arguing to keep masks on and their reasoning, approach and demeanor all just didn't sit right with me. In that moment I knew that those board members views weren't aligning with mine and they weren't representing me. I kept that in mind when I went to vote in November in 2022.

I voted for people that would represent me and the values I felt were important. I voted for people that would restore some sanity after what was an insane 2 years and give a voice back to the community and the parents.

So when I hear Town Council members say at the last meeting that they were voted in to represent a certain party and that party wants taxes low...I would ask you, is that truly our primary and only objective? Now I'm questioning if you know the party you represent.

I voted to restore sanity, to give some control back to parents. Not allowing parents and the community to even just vote on a project that affects our children and yes, our taxes seems like you're doing the opposite of what I thought I voted for. It seems irrational and yet again like a parents say in what happens in their child's education doesn't matter.

Letting the community vote will only either prove your point or prove that there's more than taxes on our mind.

Either way letting the community vote shows that you are the people that believe in giving community members a say. You are the people saying that we have a right to determine what happens in our town and what our priorities are.

By not letting us vote, you are simply saying your priorities prevail over ours. You are saying we can't determine what our priorities are.

I hope that's not the case. Let us vote.