

**MINUTES  
PLAINVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL CENTER  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 17, 2023 – 6:30p.m.**

**WORK SESSION:**

**Middle School of Plainville -**

Chairwoman Pugliese called the Work Session to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Vice Chairman Underwood, Council members Morante, Catanzaro, Rocco, Wazorko, Town Manager Paulhus, Assistant Town Manager Cirioli, and Town Clerk Porrini. Councilwoman Tompkins was absent.

Town Manager Paulhus gave an overview of the handout presented to the Town Council members for a Feasibility Study which had been done by the City of Bristol of an overview of the school system in 2017. The purpose of the handout was to better explain in detail the step-by-step process of the study.

Discussion ensued.

The Work Session was adjourned at 7:08 p.m. No action was taken.

**I. PRESENTATIONS:**

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

**III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

April 3, 2023, Regular Meeting

**IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS**

**V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

1. Appointments and Re-appointments to Boards and Commissions

**VI. BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON (3<sup>rd</sup> Monday Meetings Only)**

**VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY**

**VIII. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER**

1. Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project
2. 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act
3. Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Alignment Discussion
4. Tax Ordinances Discussion
5. Financial Dashboard
6. Happenings

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**X. OLD BUSINESS**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project Preliminary Assessment Fee
2. Bid #2023-15E, Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project
3. Establish public hearing regarding 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act
4. Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Alignment
5. Establish public hearing regarding Tax Ordinances for small balances
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 7:10 pm. Present were Chairwoman Pugliese, Vice Chairman Underwood, Council members Morante, Rocco, Catanzaro, Wazorko, Town Manager Paulhus, Assistant Town Manager Cirioli, and Town Clerk Porrini. Councilwoman Tompkins was absent.

Councilman 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 April 3, 2023, Regular Meeting: The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

### **IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS – REPORTS**

### **V. APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATION**

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

### **VII. REPORT OF TOWN ATTORNEY**

Town Attorney Mastrianni mentioned Eversource contacted his office regarding a gas situation near the White Oak building. Attorney Mastrianni's office will be receiving an agreement for review and will keep the Town Council updated.

### **VIII. TOWN MANAGER**

Town Manager Paulhus presented and discussed the following topics:

- **Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project**

At the last meeting, I reported that the town opened bids for the project and of the seven (7) proposals received, the apparent low bidder submitted a bid of \$1,186,260. That low bidder is Ludlow Construction of Ludlow, Mass.

Tighe & Bond Consulting along with the Town Attorney assisted the Town Engineer with the review of the low bid. The team has completed their due diligence and is recommending the award of the project to Ludlow Construction. There is an item under New Business to award Bid #2023-15E, Honor Heights

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Sewer Extension Project to Ludlow Construction in the amount of \$1,186,260.

In addition to the award of the bid for construction, it is also recommended that the Town Council set a “Preliminary Assessment” on the property owners and the recommendation is \$10,000. There is an item under New Business to authorize the Town Manager to file notices on 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. A final assessment will be set after the project is completed. The construction is estimated to begin in June 2023.

- **2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act**

The 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act is a Tax Credit Program designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporate business tax credit for businesses which make cash contributions to these entities. Interested organizations must mail a completed application form to the Town for review by 3:00 pm on April 19, 2023. A fillable form is available on the DRS website.

As part of the application process the municipality must hold a public hearing on all programs and must vote to approve all applications. There is also an audit feature that is triggered if any organization receives a contribution that is more than \$25,000.

There is an item under New Business to establish a public hearing for May 1, 2023, at 7:00 pm to hear public comment on the proposals.

- **Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Alignment Discussion**

The Farmington Canal Trail currently ends in Plainville at Northwest Drive in the vicinity of Johnson Avenue. From this location the trail must be extended southerly. No practical corridor exists easterly of Johnson Avenue. A slight modification of the trail alignment has been made along the perimeter of Perron Road which will hug the property line. This will require the removal of several Pitch Pine trees that form along the property border and wrap around Johnson Avenue. (See revised map-north section)

The second area of modification involves Tomasso Nature Park. Recently, the Conservation Commission has reintroduced their objection to using Tomasso Nature Park. Their latest objections seem to center around how more activity in the area will disturb the character of the park. The proposed trail corridor skirts the easterly limits of Tomasso Nature Park utilizing an existing path. Separation between the two facilities, (FCHT and Nature Park) can be achieved by removing the previous proposal for access points to the park and install 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 or a low beam fence and landscaping are the likely fencing/landscaping alternatives. (See attached maps)

There is an item under New Business to approve the recommended changes to the alignment with respect to the section on Perron Road and Johnson Avenue and the fencing and landscaping to deter access to Tomasso Nature Park. A work session is recommended for the Town Council for the May 1, 2023, meeting to review the timeline and status of all three phases of the FCHT.

- **Tax Ordinance Discussion**

Sarah Carey has been working on two new ordinances related to tax payments.

The first ordinance would give the tax collector the authority to waive small balances under \$5.00. There are various reasons the tax office ends up with accounts that owe small amounts that would be more costly to collect than the revenue received. CGS 12-144c allows a municipality to adopt an ordinance to waive no more than \$25.00. I agree with Sarah that having a threshold of \$25.00 seems excessive. Based on research of other municipal ordinances under this statute \$5.00 appears to be the most common amount.

The second ordinance pertains to refunds. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 12-129 the tax collector is authorized to retain any payment more than the amount due of any property tax, interest or lien fee which

is less than five dollars (\$5.00), whenever the tax collector determines that the administrative cost of issuing the refund is likely to exceed the amount of the refund. However, if a taxpayer (for example) has an overpayment on an account of \$3.00 and has an open balance in the same name on something else the tax office would then transfer the \$3.00.

There is an item under New Business to set a public hearing date for the two proposed ordinances.

- **Financial Dashboard**

The Financial Dashboard report has been provided to the Town Council through March 31, 2023, and has been posted to the Town website.

- **Happenings**

Assistant Town Manager Cirioli reported on programs and activities with Town Departments. More information can be found at [www.plainville.com](http://www.plainville.com).

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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.

Colleen McGarry, 4 Orchard Ln., 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.

Laura Meehan, 4 Orchard Ln., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Sophie Mann, 4 Orchard Ln. (student), spoke against closing the Middle School Plainville.

Ben Sweeney, 40 Glenwood Dr., spoke in favor of 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.

Thomas Fote, 15 Bradley, St., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

Natalia Kasabrukha, 8 Maxine Rd., spoke against closing the Middle School Plainville.

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

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

Donna Lentini, 17 Hillcrest Rd., spoke against closing the Middle School Plainville.

Eric Melanson, 237 Unionville Ave., spoke in favor of renovation as new for the Middle School Plainville project.

## **X. OLD BUSINESS**

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project Preliminary Assessment Fee**

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned for the Town Council acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority to authorize the Town Manager to file notice(s) 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 Sanitary Sewer Extension Project. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

### **2. Bid #2023-15E, Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project**

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned for the Town Council acting as the Water Pollution Control Authority to award Bid #2023-15E, Honor Heights Sewer Extension Project, to Ludlow Construction, Ludlow, MA, in the amount of \$1,186,260. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

### **3. Establish public hearing regarding 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act**

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to establish a public hearing in the Municipal Center on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00pm to hear public comment on proposals for the 2023 Neighborhood Assistance Act. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

### **4. Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Alignment**

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the recommended changes to the Phase 2 – North Section of the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail Alignment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

### **5. Establish public hearing regarding Tax Ordinances for small balances**

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to establish a public hearing in the Municipal Center on Monday, May 1, 2023, at 7:00pm to hear public comment regarding ordinances entitled “Provisions on the Collection of Revenue – Waiver of Nominal Taxes” and “Provisions on the Collection of Revenue – Refund of Nominal Balances”. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

### **6. Tax Refunds- See Addendum**

Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to approve the tax refunds as listed on the Addendum. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

## **XII. OTHER DISCUSSIONS OF INTEREST**

## **XIII. MATTER APPROPRIATE FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION**

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:45 pm Vice Chairman Underwood motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rocco and passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by,



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

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**Refunds**

**4/17/2023**

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Amount</b>
1     Drezek Karen & Richard J, 1 Mel Rd		\$91.92
Hyundai Lease Titling Trust, 4100 Wildwood		
2     Pkwy Atlanta, GA 30339		\$471.86
3     Lantiere Michael A, PO Box 403 29 Park Street		\$3,777.00
4     Farrington Donna M, 17 Maiden Ln		\$411.10

**Total**

**\$4,751.88**

**Previous  
Year**

1     Drezek Karen & Richard J, 1 Mel Road	\$103.68
2     Drezek Karen & Richard J, 1 Mel Road	\$103.86
3     Drezek Karen & Richard J, 1 Mel Road	\$103.86
4     Drezek Karen & Richard J, 1 Mel Road	\$101.52
5     Drezek Karen & Richard J, 1 Mel Road	\$98.04

**Total**

**\$510.96**