

Town of Plymouth
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Plymouth Town Council
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Minutes

September 15, 2025

Call to Order: Mayor Joe Kilduff called the scheduled September 15, 2025, Plymouth Town Council Special meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., in the Community Room, Plymouth Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present for the meeting were Town Councilman Joe Green, Mayor Joe Kilduff, Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, Town Councilman Anthony Roveto, and Town Councilman T.J. Zagurski. Excused Absence: Town Councilman Remie Ferreira.

Fire Exit Notification: Mayor Joe Kilduff noted the Fire Exits for the record.

Pledge of Allegiance: Keith Golnik led the Town Council Members and the Public audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated "May God Bless the Town of Plymouth and may God bless the United States of America" for the record.

Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No report.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Keith Golnik, 46 Orchard Street, Terryville, noted last year the State Legislature State Senators tried to do a good thing and looked at providing further exemptions for property taxes for Veterans that have a rating from the Veterans Administration of 100% total and permanent. He further stated the intent, per Senator Henri Martin, was that they were looking at 100% exemption on a Veteran's property (their house) but they put in the word "dwelling", noting their intent was to exempt the entire dwelling, house, barn etc. Keith Golnik noted that most State Assessors saw the word "dwelling" and said they were only going to put that exemption on the house itself, not on garages, chicken coops, land, etc. Keith Golnik stated that Senator Martin had said they would fix the wording this year, and it ended up being muddled even more. Keith Golnik stated the intent was to provide an exemption to Veterans that were 100% total and permanent and then they came back with wording that said the exemption should also apply to the widow/widower once the Veteran passed away as long as the spouse did not remarry. He further stated they gave the option to the Municipality to exempt the property up to two acres, and added other language in that stated the Municipality can go up to a certain percentage of the assessed value.

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Public Comment on Agenda Items Cont'd.

Keith Golnik stated he could see their point if we lived in Greenwich with a \$22 million dollar home because that could be a big hit to the grand list, however we do not have properties like that in Plymouth. Keith Golnik stated the Town has roughly 10 to 12 Veterans that qualify and some don't even own property, so they get an exception on their motor vehicle. Keith Golnik stated that he approached Mayor Kilduff who went to the Town Attorney, noting the Town Attorney is drafting an Ordinance that could provide further relief for those Veterans and their widows/widowers. Keith Golnik stated that according to the Veteran Administration, Connecticut only has 1,200 Veterans who have that rating. Keith Golnik stated that for full disclosure, he wanted the Town Council to know that he is 100% rated total permanent, so he would benefit from any further benefits. He further stated that his goal is to take care of his fiancé who he will be marrying in two weeks' time, so when he passes away, she won't have to worry about it. Keith Golnik stated the Mayor has the language and it will have to go out for a vote. Keith Golnik stated just because a Veteran is rated at 100% it's not the same as Social Security ratings however it also doesn't mean a Veteran doesn't have debilitating issues. Keith Golnik stated if he reads the map from the Tax Collector, it looks like almost \$46,000 a year in lost revenue to the Town but it will benefit those that have served and signed the blank check for the government whose bodies are now suffering. Keith Golnik stated that he thinks if the Town applied it, it would be an exemption on up to two acres of property, but he doesn't think the legislature addressed any accessory garages, chicken coops, barns, etc. Keith Golnik stated that he hopes the Council will set a Public Hearing date. Keith Golnik stated that he knows the Council and the Administration is very supportive of Veterans, citing approval of the monument that will be coming in several months, allowing the Veteran flags on Main Street and recognizing all the fallen Town Veterans.

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated to clarify he wanted to say that these Veterans are already receiving the exemption on their dwellings. He further stated the two main changes would be adding up to two acres onto that exception and to allow widows/widowers to receive that exemption should the Veteran pass away. Mayor Joe Kilduff stated Attorney Hamzy is not quite finished drafting the Ordinance.

Discuss and take action on Police Commission's request for a Special Appropriation to replace totaled Police vehicle

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated that this is the same item the Town Council discussed at their September 2, 2025, Special meeting, however, the Council only set the Public Hearing date and did not make a motion to approve the Special Appropriation itself.

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman Ron Tiscia, to approve a Special Appropriation not to exceed \$83,600 to replace a totaled Police vehicle and to forward this request onto the Board of Finance for their recommendation prior to the Public Hearing meeting. This motion was approved unanimously.

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To discuss and set a date for a Public Hearing on a proposed ordinance addressing local options created by Public Act No. 24-46. An act establishing a property tax exemption for Veterans who have a service-connected permanent and total disability rating

Mayor Joe Kilduff stated the Town Council Members had all received a copy of Public Act No. 24-46, noting that the Council had just discussed what the Ordinance would essentially say, so the question would now be what would the Town Council Members like to do and when can a Public Hearing be scheduled.

Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by Town Councilman T.J. Zagurski, to set a Public Hearing date for Tuesday, September 30, 2025, 7:00 p.m. to discuss a proposed ordinance addressing local options created by Public Act NO. 24-46. An act establishing a property tax exemption for Veterans who have a service-connected permanent and total disability rating. This motion was approved unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business of the Plymouth Town Council, Town Councilman Joe Green made a motion, seconded by T.J. Zagurski, to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. This motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Patricia A. Hale
Recording Secretary