

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 30, 2023 – VIA COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND ZOOM
5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Brian Roth

Mayor Roth called the meeting to order and welcomed all attendees..

PRESENT	ABSENT	COUNCILMEMBER
X		Mayor Roth
X		Mayor Pro Tempore Spencer
X		Councilman Boston
X		Councilwoman Byers
X		Councilman Tharps
X		Councilwoman Williams
X		Councilman Wobbleton

II. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

Mayor Roth asked Town Manager Floyd to address this issue. Town Manager Floyd explained Resolution 2023-13, a Resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Plymouth, North Carolina Authorizing the Sale of Real Property, 111 E. Main Street, Plymouth, by Electronic Public Auction. Town Manager Floyd confirmed the location of the property along with a map showing the location of the property. She also explained that the property needed to be divided and shared the property value as a whole as well as the value of the portion of the property that is proposed to be declared surplus and sold. Town Manager Floyd further explained that the Resolution would authorize the property to be declared surplus and sold under §N.C.G.S.160A-265 and §N.C.G.S. 160A-266. After extensive discussion, it was suggested that the Resolution be revised to include language that distinguished only a portion of the property will be declared surplus, including the name and location of the property, as well as how the property will be sold.

A motion was made to amend Resolution 2023-13 as discussed by Councilwoman Byers and seconded by Councilwoman Williams. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was then made to approve amended Resolution 2023-13 by Councilwoman Byers with a second by Councilman Wobbleton. The motion passed unanimously.

III. CONSIDERATION TO APPROVE UNIFORM GUIDANCE PROCUREMENT POLICY

Town Manager Floyd explained that the policy is a part of the Town's Streetscape Project. She stated that per the North Carolina Department of Commerce, a Uniform Guidance Procurement Policy must be approved and sent to the Department of Commerce for the Main Street Streetscape Grant before funding can be released to the Town. She further explained that the Policy must follow the guidelines set forth by the UNC School of Government. A motion was made to approve the Policy by Councilman Wobbleton with a second by Councilman Boston. After discussion for the purpose of clarification of the Policy, the motion passed unanimously.

IV. DRAFT BUDGET DISCUSSION

Town Manager Floyd explained the FY 2023 – 2024 Draft Budget, beginning with reading the Budget Message. She then explained budget numbers for the General Fund and the Enterprise funds in detail, including both increases and decreases which were calculated through historical data and assumptions. During her explanations, she answered questions from the Council regarding the amount budgeted for the Attorney. An extensive discussion took place regarding trash service contracts, which fell under the Sanitation portion of the budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Williams for staff to proceed forward to put out a contract with Curtis Vinson for Sanitation and that the contract will come back to the Council and any action on behalf of the bidder is at their own risk prior to having a signed contract, with a second by Councilman Wobbleton. The motion passed 5-1 with Councilwoman Byers dissenting.

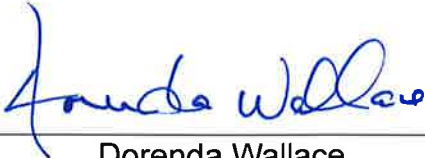
Mayor Roth continued to discuss the proposed budget and explained that it covers operating expenses and the services provided through enterprise funds. He made reference to Mayor Pro-Tempore's statement in a previous meeting that the Town cannot continue to survive on grants. During the discussion, Councilman Boston needed to be excused. A motion was made to excuse Councilman Boston from the meeting by Councilwoman Williams with a second from Mayor Pro Tempore Spencer. The motion passed unanimously. Discussion continued about the state of the Town, the shortage of Police staff, and the concern for safety. Mayor Roth stated for the record that the Council knows the Police Department is understaffed, working long hours and overtime. He stated that taxes have not been addressed in nearly a decade although inflation is on the rise everywhere. During the discussion, Mayor Roth asked staff to come back with a comprehensive transformative plan to keep the public safe, end the shootings and fully staff the Police Department. Mayor Roth stated, for the record, that there is a safety issue in the Town. Discussion continued around that issue.

Mayor Pro Tempore Spencer raised the idea of ways to generate revenue beside increasing property taxes. She also agreed about the issue of safety as well. Mayor Pro Tempore Spencer asked about the CPNI report and proposed that the Town hire an Economic Developer as the Town needs long term solutions. Councilmembers also discussed looking at building the Town up through affordable housing, homeownership, schools, and trades. Mayor Pro Tempore also congratulated the DDA for their efforts to bring business from Hwy 64 downtown; however, she would like to see them concentrate their efforts in town as well.

In regard to safety, Councilwoman Williams stated that she would like to see the Police Department patrol more. It was stated that there was a time when the Sheriff's Department would patrol as well, but they are also short staffed. Once the discussion ended, it was announced that a Public Hearing would be held at the next regular Council meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Councilwoman Williams to adjourn the meeting with a second by Councilwoman Byers. The motion passed unanimously. Town Manager Floyd thanked the staff for their assistance with the budget.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorenda Wallace
Clerk

Brian Roth
Mayor