



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Agenda

Town Council

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager 860-441-6630

Mayor Bruce Flax, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Diane Barber, Joe de la Cruz, Greg Grim, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 01, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

This is the portion of the Council Agenda where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to Groton. Town Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the Town Council meeting. Citizens should make their presentations from the lectern and state their names and addresses for the record.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters listed under Item VI (Consent Calendar) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. No separate discussion of these items will take place, unless cause is shown prior to the time Council votes on the motion to adopt.

a. Approval of Minutes

2016-0070 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 16, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2016-0067 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Sharon Pictures, LLC - \$72.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Hinerfeld - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Fred & Gail Yeo - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds - \$645.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton/Groton Utilities - \$1,200 - Veterans' Memorial Park

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0061 Market Analysis and Regulatory Audit Presentation

Referral

2016-0063	Sale of William Seely School Property	Referral
2016-0023	Town Council Goal Setting	Referral
2016-0045	Vehicle Purchases	Referral
2016-0047	Noank Town Dock Pier Reconstruction	Referral
2016-0048	Sidewalk on Johl Property Open Space	Referral
2016-0049	Relinquishment of Sewer and Drainage Easement at Watrous Subdivision, Pleasant Valley Road North	Referral
2016-0062	Mystic Education Center Property	Referral

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

- a. Town Councilors
- b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting
- c. Clerk of the Council
- d. Town Manager

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Community Relations -
- b. Finance -
- c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson
- d. Rules -
- e. Public Safety -
- f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2016-0023	Town Council Goal Setting	Referral
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RESOLUTION ADOPTING THIRTIETH GROTON TOWN COUNCIL GOALS

RESOLVED, that the 30th Groton Town Council adopts the following goals for 2016-2017:

Charter Revision

- Establish a Charter Revision Commission.

Budget/Fiscal Responsibility

- Evaluate Town and other community services with a focus on prioritizing Town expenditures.

Increase Town Revenue

- Continue to support Town-wide community and economic development with a focus on the Thames Street, Route 117, Airport, Downtown Groton, and Downtown Mystic areas.

Communication

- Brand and market "One Groton."

Legislative History

1/7/2016	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
1/14/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Mayor Flax led a goal setting brain storming session.

Broad areas identified were:

- Economic Development
- Charter Revision
- Consolidate Town Offices
- Merge City and Town Services
- Merge Police Services
- Prioritization of Town Services
- Evaluate the Use of Consultants
- Pension Reform
- School Building Initiative
- Review Non-Union Salaries and Benefits
- Combine Planning and Zoning Commissions
- Reduce the Number of RTM Members
- Work with Legislators to Reduce the Board of Education Budget (MBR)
- Increase Revenues
- Vacant Schools
- Regular Public Relations
- Increase the Fund Balance (.25% a year to 10%)
- Evaluate Hiring a Lobbyist
- Community Center
- Navy/Military Relations
- Environmental Consciousness
- Legislation to Tax Services (Local Tax)
- Brand Groton
- Citizens Academy
- Town Hall/Public Information Meetings
- Communication
- Communicate and Work with State and Federal Legislators

After some discussion, Councilors worked on organizing their ideas into broad headings as follows: (It was noted that the next step will be to prioritize goals.)

A. Increase Town Revenue

- Economic Development
- Streamline Development Process

B. Charter Revision

- Reduce Number of RTM Members

C. Merge

- Consolidate Town Offices
- Merge Town and City Services
- Merge Police Services

D. Legislative Initiatives

- Evaluate Hiring a Lobbyist
- Work with State Legislators to Reduce Board of Education Budget (MBR)
- Legislation to Tax Services (Local Tax)
- Communicate and Work with State and Federal Legislators

E. School Building Initiative

F. Budget/Fiscal Responsibility

- Pension Reform

- Prioritize Town Services
- Evaluate Use of Consultants
- Non-Union Salaries and Benefits
- Increase Fund Balance
- Evaluate Outsourcing
- Vacant School Buildings

G. Communication

- Citizen Academy
- Town Hall/Public Meetings
- Regular Public Relations
- Navy/Military Relations
- Business Friendly
- Environmentally Conscious
- Brand Groton
- Communicate and Work with State and Federal Legislators

H. Community Center

I. Community Health

1/26/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole was scheduled for Thursday, February 4th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, CR3.

2/9/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

A special meeting of the Committee of the Whole was scheduled for February 16th at 5:30 p.m. to discuss goal setting, followed by orientation as time permits.

2/16/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

At the last meeting, the Council organized their ideas into broad areas. Mayor Flax asked Councilors to share their thoughts on the issues identified.

Councilor Grim suggested that the Council needs Town Manager and department head buy-in on the goals. Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Town Manager works for the Town Council. He suggested finding two or three goals that all Councilors are passionate about so that Councilors work together.

Discussion followed with individual Councilors stating their priorities. Throughout the discussion, goals were agreed upon as noted below.

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that she is looking for consensus to support the school initiative, noting that in the past some Councilors have sabotaged referendums. Discussion followed on the Town Council's role in the referendum process and whether or not individual Councilors support the project. Mayor Flax noted that the Council created the School Facilities Initiative Task Force, should trust that they have done their best, and should listen to their recommendations.

Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Task Force would like to make a presentation to the Town Council. The Town Council asked for a special meeting on Tuesday, March 15th at 5:30 p.m. or Wednesday, March 16th.

Significant discussion took place regarding merging services with the City and Board of Education.

Councilor Grim left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

2/16/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Discussion followed on areas throughout the Town where economic development should be encouraged, and on branding and marketing Groton as a whole.

With respect to establishing a Charter Revision Commission, the Town Manager distributed a draft application and list of people to date who have expressed interest in being appointed to the Commission. This item will be on next week's Committee of the Whole agenda.

The four goals identified up to this point in the discussion were:

Goal #1 - To Establish a Charter Revision Commission.

Goal #2 - Evaluate Town and other community services with a focus on prioritizing Town expenditures.

Goal #3 - Continue support of Town-wide community and economic development with a focus on these areas: Thames Street, Route 117, Airport, Downtown Groton, and Downtown Mystic.

Goal #4 - Brand and market One Groton."

Councilor de la Cruz arrived at 7:18 p.m. He reviewed the goals already identified and expressed his support.

2/16/2016 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

The discussion on goals continued. In response to a suggestion that the Town establish a uniform procedure for disposition of Town properties, Town Manager Oefinger noted that OPDS has already outlined a plan and reviewed it with the Town Council.

The consensus of the Council was to limit the goals to the four identified.

2/23/2016 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a the Whole Resolution

2016-0045 Vehicle Purchases Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF REMAINING FUNDS IN THE FYE 2016 VEHICLE REPLACEMENT COST CENTER

WHEREAS, there is a balance of \$52,881.80 in the Vehicle Replacement cost center after the planned FYE 2016 vehicle purchases, and

WHEREAS, the Town has the opportunity to use the remaining funds to purchase a replacement patrol vehicle and to provide the match required by the grant for the purchase of an electric vehicle, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Public Works Department is authorized to purchase one additional patrol vehicle and one electric vehicle using funds from the FYE 2016 Vehicle Replacement cost center (#60400).

Legislative History

2/4/2016 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

2/23/2016 Town Council Committee of Discussed the Whole

2/23/2016 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a the Whole Resolution

2016-0047 Noank Town Dock Pier Reconstruction Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN FYE 2017 CIP PROJECT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE THE NOANK TOWN DOCK

WHEREAS, construction funds in the amount of \$100,000 were approved in the FYE 2016 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for reconstruction of the Noank Town Dock, repair of the seawall damaged by Superstorm Sandy, and ADA compliance, and

WHEREAS, bids for the project exceeded available funding and additional funding will be required to complete the project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the submission of an FYE 2017 CIP project requesting an additional \$50,000 for the Noank Town Dock Reconstruction project.

Legislative History

2/5/2016	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
2/23/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
2/23/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

2016-0048 Sidewalk on Johl Property Open Space Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A WETLAND PERMIT APPLICATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT LETTER FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SIDEWALK PARTIALLY ON THE TOWN-OWNED JOHL PROPERTY OPEN SPACE

WHEREAS, Stonington Institute as agreed to construct an eight-foot-wide bituminous multi-purpose sidewalk on the south side of High Rock Road in association with an approved site plan for the conversion of the former Pfizer Daycare to a 180 bed hotel/motel, and

WHEREAS, the walk will be located within the High Rock Road right-of-way and on the Town-owned Johl Property open space, and

WHEREAS, wetlands have been identified within 100 feet of the walk requiring a wetland permit for construction of the walk, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign a wetland permit application and a letter acknowledging the submittal of the application for the construction of a sidewalk partially on the Town-owned Johl Property open space.

Legislative History

2/8/2016	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
2/23/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	
2/23/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	

2016-0049 Relinquishment of Sewer and Drainage Easement at Watrous Subdivision, Pleasant Valley Road North Referral

RESOLUTION RELINQUISHING A SEWER AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT IN THE WATROUS SUBDIVISION, PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD NORTH

WHEREAS, the Watrous Subdivision was approved by the Planning Commission on April 22, 2014, and

WHEREAS, the Watrous Subdivision included an easement for both stormwater drainage and a sanitary sewer line to serve all three lots, and

WHEREAS, significant ledge conditions on the site required the installation of three individual sewer line in a different location and Public Works no longer requires a sewer easement, and

WHEREAS, the developer will record a revised easement for drainage only, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby relinquishes the sewer and drainage easement to the current property owner of the Watrous Subdivision, Pleasant Valley Road North.

Legislative History

2/8/2016	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
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