



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, April 05, 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

2016-0081 Approval of Minutes (Town Council) Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 1, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

2016-0094 Approval of Minutes (Town Council) Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of March 15, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

Legislative History

3/15/2016 Town Council Adopted as Amended

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Nault stated that Mayor Galbraith was at the March 1, 2016 Town Council meeting and the minutes did not include a discussion about the parking lot. She noted that there were some things the Mayor said that were left out of the minutes, and those things should be included in the minutes.

Councilor Watson stated that Councilor Nault could review a recording of the meeting and inform the Town Clerk's office of the changes she would like to see included in the minutes.

Mayor Flax stated that the Council will postpone the vote on the Consent Calendar.

Councilor Watson stated that omitted comments could be added and the Council could pass the Consent Calendar as amended.

Councilor Antipas stated that the Town Council could pass on the basis that omitted comments would be included in the minutes. He stated that the Town Council could pass everything else in the Consent Calendar and skip passing the minutes.

Councilor Watson amended the motion to approve the Consent Calendar without approving the Minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting until they have been looked at. Councilor Nault seconded the amendment. The amendment passed by a vote of 8-0-0.

A motion by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas to pass the Consent Calendar as amended without approving the Minutes from the March 1, 2016 Town Council Meeting. The vote was 8-0-0.

Mayor Flax announced the Town Council would vote on approving the Consent Calendar as amended. The motion carried by a vote of 8-0-0.

b. Administrative Items

2016-0085	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:	
	Thomas Norris - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous	
	Pfizer - \$500.00 - Library Miscellaneous	
	Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary	

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2015-0219	FYE 2017 Budget Discussion	Referral
2016-0036	Small Cities Community Development Block Grant - 2016 Application	Referral
2016-0082	Distracted Driving Grant	Referral
2016-0083	Authorization to Prepare a Bond Ordinance for the School Facilities Initiative	Referral
2016-0086	Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding	Referral
2016-0087	Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant	Referral
2016-0091	Alexey von Schlippe Gallery at Avery Point	Referral
2016-0095	Authorization for Town Manager to Execute Settlement Documents	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 -**

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut.

The contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with job-related qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, mental retardation or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved.

The contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the contract, such contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employee without regard to their sexual orientation.

Legislative History

1/27/2016 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th
2/9/2016 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Paige Bronk, Economic/Community Development Manager, requested approval to submit a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant application. For the last few years, the state's top priority has been housing. This application would be for \$800,000 to assist the Groton Housing Authority with the Pequot Village property. Mr. Bronk requested a public hearing on March 15th. The application deadline is April 11th. Mr. Bronk provided a brief overview of a substantial renovation project at Pequot Village that is almost complete, and the plans for the new funding. The grant will be written in conjunction with ECHO.

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

to schedule a public hearing on the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant 2016 Application for March 15, 2016

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Town Council held a public hearing on the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant 2016 application at the last Town Council meeting. An overview of the program and project were provided by Paige Bronk, Manager of Economic and Community Development. The application is for \$800,000 to continue the rehabilitation and improvement initiatives at the Groton Housing Authority properties. No public comments were received.

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

2016-0082 Distracted Driving Grant Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SAFETY DISTRACTED DRIVING - HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police Department plans to utilize the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety Distracted Driving - High Visibility Enforcement grant funding to support enforcement operations that go beyond normal police patrols, and

WHEREAS, the grant provides for a concerted effort to enforce distracted driving laws and consists of checkpoints as well as vehicular detection patrols, and

WHEREAS, the goal of the grant is to increase law enforcement presence above and beyond normal police patrols in order to address the increased incidence of distracted driving during the grant

period, which runs April 4 through 30 and August 3 through 16, 2015, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may apply for the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety Distracted Driving - High Visibility Enforcement grant with an anticipated total state grant amount of \$15,000 including the Police Department match in the amount of \$5,000 (25%) as required under the grant provisions.

Legislative History

3/10/2016 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained this is a recurring grant to increase police patrols to address distracted driving.

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

2016-0083 Authorization to Prepare a Bond Ordinance for the School Facilities Initiative Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A BOND ORDINANCE AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS FOR GROTON 2020 SCHOOL FACILITIES INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a plan to construct a new middle school on the former Merritt property and two new elementary schools at the West Side Middle School and Cutler Middle School sites, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town staff and the Town bond attorney are authorized to prepare a bond ordinance to be introduced by the Town Council, along with other resolutions as necessary.

Legislative History

3/14/2016 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

(Discussion of this referral was continued from the previous referral #2014-0312 School Facilities Initiative Update)

Councilor Grim asked if the Board of Education budget could be reduced through special legislation to reflect cost savings associated with the Groton 2020 plan in light of the Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR). Town Manager Oefinger explained that documented cost savings can be deducted from MBR under the current legislation.

Mike Graner, Superintendent of Schools, noted that closing a school is one of the provisions in the MBR legislation. Sizable operational savings would be reflected in the Board's budget. Dr. Graner noted that the state was very positive about helping Groton, but they want to know that the municipal leaders support the referendum. For a \$196 million project, the Town is asking the state for \$141 million. The Task Force has done its work and now it is a question of political will. If the special legislation is not successful, the Council can stop the referendum process. Dr. Graner noted that the cost to Groton would then be \$119 million and a referendum would not be successful.

Councilor Antipas suggested that people will start to become more involved at this point and he would like to move the project forward to let the conversation begin. Councilor Peruzzotti noted that the Task Force was made up of diverse people and interests. Town leaders must educate the community so that voters are informed. She feels the plan is viable and wants to move forward.

In response to Councilor Grim, Town Manager Oefinger explained that the bond authorization will be for the total project cost, but that is not the amount that is ultimately bonded. If anything were to happen to the state

funding, the Town Council could pull the project prior to construction.

Councilor Morton supports the project because of the phenomenal amount of funding that may be available from the state. She expressed concern with the increase in the FYE 2017 Proposed Budget and stated the Town Council must do its part to keep the tax increase at zero.

Mayor Flax noted the Groton 2020 initiative is the culmination of years of work by a group of dedicated people. It is time for information, questions, and ideas to be discussed. With respect to vacant schools, Mayor Flax believes that the first order of business is to let the neighborhoods have a say in their disposition.

2016-0086 Department of Education Youth and Family Services Funding Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FYE 2017 YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES FUNDING

WHEREAS, crisis intervention, prevention and support programs and short-term counseling services will benefit at-risk Groton youth and their families and

WHEREAS, funding is available from the State of Connecticut Department of Education to supplant a portion of the salaries of Groton Human Services Counselors who provide intervention and prevention services for at-risk Groton youth, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, or his designee, is authorized to file an application with the State of Connecticut Department of Education (DOE) for FYE 2017 municipal youth services funding in an amount to be determined by the DOE and to amend contractual agreements for such funding to ensure continuation of short-term counseling, crisis intervention and prevention and support programs for Groton youth and families.

Legislative History

3/15/2016 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted this is a recurring grant from the State Department of Education that covers the costs of counseling activities and programs.

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of the Whole Recommended for a Resolution

2016-0087 Department of Education Youth Services Enhancement Grant Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR FYE 2017 YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU ENHANCEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FUNDING

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Education offers Youth Services Bureau Enhancement Grant program funding to municipally-based Connecticut youth services programs for supplies and related expenses connected with programs and activities which directly and indirectly benefit Groton youth and families in areas such as youth enrichment, outreach programs, general support and positive youth development, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services has demonstrated its success in providing youth enrichment, outreach programs, general support and positive youth development, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, or his designee, is authorized to apply for and contract with the State of Connecticut Department of Education (DOE) for FYE 2017 Youth Services Bureau Enhancement Grant program funding in an amount to be determined by the DOE.

Legislative History

3/15/2016 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Town Manager Oefinger noted this is a recurring grant from the State Department of Education and funds are used to support a popular summer program.

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

2016-0091 Alexey von Schlippe Gallery at Avery Point Referral

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RETAINING THE ALEXEY VON SCHLIPPE GALLERY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT AVERY POINT CAMPUS

WHEREAS, the Town Council has been advised by David Madacsi, Emeritus Professor of Physics at the University of Connecticut and co-founder of the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery of Art, that the university is planning to close the gallery at the end of July, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the Alexey von Schlippe Galley and its programs are a cultural resource that is important to the Town, the region, and the state, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to prepare a letter to members of the University of Connecticut administration and state and local legislators in support of retaining the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery at Avery Point under the direction of Julia Pavone.

Legislative History

3/17/2016 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

David Madacsi, a co-founder of the Alexey von Schlippe Gallery at Avery Point, was present to address the Council. He explained that UCONN at Storrs plans to close the gallery at the end of July, which will eliminate all of the arts and cultural programs developed by the gallery over the last 24 years. Mr. Madacsi wrote an editorial for The Day, which generated many on line comments. He asked the Council to support retention of the gallery at Avery Point. Mr. Madacsi summarized the history of and programs associated with Alexi von Schlippe and the gallery named in his honor. The gallery's core programs have included artists' exhibitions, the sculpture path, a jazz festival, a Shakespeare festival, poetry boxes, and a Latin exhibition/festival.

Councilor de la Cruz arrived during discussion of this referral.

Councilor Peruzzotti asked why the college wants to close the gallery and Mr. Madacsi stated for budgetary reasons. He does not feel that the gallery is appreciated and there has been no response to his appeals for reconsideration. The only cost is for one full time salary; otherwise the gallery operates on a non-profit model.

Mr. Madacsi asked the Council to write a letter of support asking that the gallery be retained and stressing its significance to the region as a component of cultural tourism and economic development. Mr. Madacsi asked that the letter be sent to members of the UCONN administration and legislative delegation, and that the letter mention retaining the gallery under the direction of Julia Pavone.

3/22/2016 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

2016-0095 Authorization for Town Manager to Execute Settlement Documents Referral

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE SETTLEMENT DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, an employee in the Department of Public Works has filed Grievance 15-01 and CHRO Complaint Number 1540237 against the Town regarding certain alleged employment conduct, and

WHEREAS, the Town and employee have reached an amicable agreement to resolve the Grievance, the CHRO claim, and any other claims, and for the employee to retire in good standing from the

Town, and

WHEREAS, due to a question concerning the Town's notice compliance under FOIA for its special meeting of the Committee of the Whole on March 15, 2016 that required the Committee of the Whole to supersede the action on March 15, 2016 and reapprove this item on March 22, 2016, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to execute the documents necessary to finalize the settlement reached between the Town and the aforementioned Department of Public Works employee. This action supersedes the prior action taken by the Town Council on March 15, 2016.

Legislative History

3/22/2016	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution
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X. OTHER BUSINESS

XI. ADJOURNMENT