



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Agenda

Town Council

Mayor Bruce S. Flax, Councilor Dean G. Antipas, Councilor Diane Barber, Councilor Greg Grim, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Karen F. Morton, Councilor Bonnie Nault, Councilor Deb Peruzzotti, and Councilor Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, September 05, 2017

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2017-0203 Proclamation Recognizing Constitution Week 2017

Proclamation - TC

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

2017-0204 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

Resolution - Consent

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 1, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2017-0196 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:

Kaydence Foreman - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Leigh Sammons - \$95.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Michelle Baker - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Patrice Granatosky - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Ellen Russo - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Jeanette Dostie - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Michelle Coope - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Jay Levin - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Suisman, Shapiro - \$45.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Richard Foreman - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Theodore & Annette Ainslie - \$75.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Anonymous - \$83.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Raymond & Virginia Bousquet - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Richard Davies - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Eaves - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Darwin & Elizabeth Geronimo - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Diane & Denis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Hickey Family - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Peggy Johnson - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Cynthia Miffit - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 James Miller - \$24.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lisa MoneyPenny - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Armand & Nancy Morin - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Barbara & Linwood Navarro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Demetrios Orphanides - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Patricia Pearce - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Eleanor Ralls - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Adam Reckelhoff - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Stebbins Real Estate - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Vela - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Victoria Williams - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Alicia & Jill Bauer - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Everest Brustolon - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Julia Campisi - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Felipe & Irene Castro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Franklin & Diane Davis - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Dowd - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Michael & Marilyn Francis - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Charles & Rosemary Hall - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Emily Thomas - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Fred & Gail Yeo - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Marsha Zimmermann - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0178	Groton Heights School/Bill Memorial Library Land Swap	Referral
2017-0172	Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission	Referral
2017-0173	Participation in Joint Action Lawsuit Against Pharmaceutical Companies	Referral
2017-0190	Police Department - Update	Referral
2017-0192	Enterprise Information Management System - Update	Referral
2017-0193	Hiring Freeze	Referral
2017-0198	Reappointment of Donald Levenson to Historic District Commission	Referral
2017-0201	Senior Center Consignment Shop Operations Agreement	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**
- Office of Planning and Development Services Update**

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson**
- b. Rules - Chairman Antipas**
- c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- 2017-0172 Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission** **Referral**

ADOPTION OF ON AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON AND TO ABOLISH THE ZONING COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

1. Although the Planning and Zoning Commissions have provided the townspeople of the Town of Groton consistently exemplary service, changing economic and other conditions, including the increasing uncertainty of the State of Connecticut's ability to provide revenues to the municipalities, have caused the Town Council to reconsider the utility of having two separate commissions. Information obtained by the Town Council strongly indicates that it would be in the Town's best interest to create a combined Planning and Zoning Commission in order to, among other things, unify and expedite the processes of obtaining zoning approvals and thus encourage economic development.
2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-4a, the Planning Commission is hereby designated as the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town of Groton, and said Planning and Zoning Commission shall have all powers granted to planning commissions, zoning commissions, and planning and zoning commissions by the laws of the State of Connecticut, including without limitation the powers granted planning and zoning commissions by Chapters 124 and 126 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
3. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall consist of seven regular members and three alternates, all of whom shall serve five year terms, and each of whom shall be a resident elector of the Town and appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council. The present terms of office of the five regular and three alternate members of the Planning Commission, including any currently vacant seats, shall continue until their current expiration date. Thereafter the Town Council shall appoint regular and alternate members for terms of five years. The terms of the two additional seats for regular members created hereby shall terminate on December 31, 2021, and shall thereafter be filled for five year terms. No regular or alternate member of the Planning and Zoning commission may concurrently be a regular or alternate member of the Town of Groton Zoning Board of Appeals.
4. Alternate members shall have all the powers and duties conferred on alternate members of a planning and zoning commission by the General Statutes. Alternates shall be designated to act

according to a regular rotation process so as to assure to the extent practicable equal participation by each in the affairs of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

5. The Town Council shall by majority vote fill all vacancies of the regular and alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the unexpired portion of any term.
6. The Zoning Commission is abolished and shall cease to exist.
7. This Ordinance shall be effective 45 days after enactment by the Council unless vetoed by the RTM.

Legislative History

6/21/2017	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
7/11/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

Director of Planning and Development Jon Reiner and Assistant Director Deb Jones were present. Mr. Reiner noted the memo he submitted at the public hearing and explained that there will be delays in rewriting the Zoning Regulations if the Planning and Zoning Commissions are combined. Councilor Nault noted receipt of a call from Susan Dowling. Councilor Nault raised the issue of the size of the combined commission and Ms. Jones stated that five (with three alternates) would be desirable. The ordinance is written for seven, but that number can be reduced prior to adoption. Councilor Nault expressed support for eliminating both commissions. Councilor Antipas noted the Town Attorney's opinion based on statutory requirements that the Council chose one of the existing bodies for the combined commission. Councilor Barber noted the market analysis recommends combination of the commissions, and she supports it being done now. Mr. Reiner noted he has not polled the Planning Commission to see who would stay.

Discussion followed on the status of the project to rewrite the Zoning Regulations, the anticipated timeline for completion of the project, and the impact of combining the commissions.

A motion was made by Councilor Nault, seconded by Councilor Barber, to adopt the ordinance with the modification of five regular members and 3 alternates, effective in the middle of October.

Mayor Flax noted the comments received at the public hearing. Discussion followed on an appropriate timeline and whether or not members of the Planning Commission would continue to serve. The general consensus of the Council is to combine the combine the commissions. Mayor Flax stated he will reach out to Planning Commission members to see who is interested in staying on a combined commission. Mayor Flax asked Mr. Reiner to provide a suggested timeline for the transition and to identify activities that the Zoning Commission is working on.

By consensus, Councilors postponed action on the motion.

8/22/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution
------------------	--	-------------------------------------

Director of Planning and Zoning Jon Reiner and Assistant Director Deb Jones were present. Mr. Reiner reported on items that are pending before the current Planning and Zoning Commissions. It will take about 18 months to finish the Zoning Regulation rewrite, hence his recommendation that the ordinance become effective July 1, 2019. Mr. Reiner explained the project timeline and discussion followed on establishing an earlier effective date.

8/22/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Motion
------------------	--	---------------

to adopt the ordinance designating the Planning Commission as the Planning and Zoning Commission and abolish the Zoning Commission effective January 1, 2019.

Mayor Flax noted that he has spoken with all Planning Commissions except Barbara Tarbox and most are willing to stay. Discussion followed on potential effective dates for the ordinance and impact on work programs. Mayor Flax noted that the Planning Commission does not want to undertake the Zoning Regulations rewrite so some members may resign

2017-0193 Hiring Freeze

Referral

RESOLUTION REQUIRING JUSTIFICATION FOR FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the Town Council and Representative Town Meeting adopted the FYE 2018 budget by May 25, 2017 as required by the Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has yet to adopt the FY 2018 - FY 2019 biennium budget for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the various revenues that the Town of Groton will receive from the State of Connecticut are unknown as is the potential impact on the Town's budget; and

WHEREAS, delaying the filling of vacant positions in the Town will help decrease the potential shortfall between expenses and revenues in the FYE 2018 budget; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective immediately, all vacant positions are frozen and may not be filled until reviewed by Human Resources for evaluation of pressing need, and without the express written authorization of the Town Manager and consent of the Town Council; and be it further

RESOLVED that this resolution shall not apply to positions falling under enterprise funds including the Shennecossett Golf Course, and the Wastewater Treatment Plant; and be it

RESOLVED, that the hiring justification requirement shall continue in full force and effect until the end of FY 2017/2018 or a subsequent resolution reversing this resolution is adopted by the Town Council.

Legislative History

8/2/2017	Mayor	Referred	Town Council Committee of th
8/8/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Discussed	

At the last Town Council meeting it was suggested that the Town have a hiring freeze. Town Manager Burt developed a draft proposal that would require the Town Manager and Mayor to sign off on filling vacant positions. He noted that the two enterprise funds should be excluded from the hiring freeze. Councilor Grim suggested including discretionary spending. Town Manager Burt has had discussions with the Director of Finance and would prefer to enact something like that internally. Discussion followed on the Town Council signing off by consensus (rather than the Mayor) and not through a formal resolution process. Councilor Grim read a revised draft resolution.

8/8/2017	Town Council Committee of the Whole	Recommended for a Resolution	
----------	-------------------------------------	------------------------------	--

2017-0198	Reappointment of Donald Levenson to Historic District Commission	Referral
-----------	---	-----------------

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DONALD LEVENSON TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Donald Levenson, 223 Ensign Drive, Mystic, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/21.

Legislative History

8/1/2017	Town Council Personnel & Appointments Committee	Recommended for a Resolution	
----------	---	------------------------------	--

2017-0201	Senior Center Consignment Shop Operations Agreement	Referral
-----------	--	-----------------

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SENIOR CENTER CONSIGNMENT SHOP OPERATIONS AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the goal of the Groton Senior Center is to encourage independent living for older adults in our community, and

WHEREAS, the Local Creations Consignment Shop at the center has afforded seniors in the community a way earn money from their crafts, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has selected the ARC of New London County to manage the shop, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Council authorizes the Groton Senior Center division of the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into an agreement with the ARC of New London County for the management of the operations of the center's Local Creations Consignment Shop.

Legislative History

8/18/2017 Mayor Referred Town Council Committee of th

8/22/2017 Town Council Committee of Discussed
the Whole

Town Manager John Burt noted issues with increased regulations and impact on staff associated with running the consignment shop at the Senior Center. The Parks and Recreation put a bid out of operating the shop and received one response from The Arc of New London County. There will be no cost to the Town. The agreement has been reviewed by the Town Attorney.

8/22/2017 Town Council Committee of Recommended for a
the Whole Resolution

X. ADJOURNMENT