



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson

Monday, November 3, 2014

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Antipas
Members Absent: Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz and Councilor Watson

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was Led by Councilor Antipas.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2014-0314 Proclamation honoring Douglas R. Ackerman

Read

A proclamation for Douglas R. Ackerman was read by Councilor Frink.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2014-0291 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 21, 2014 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2014-0283 Review of FYE 2015 to FYE 2020 Capital Improvement Program

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0284 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0287 Project LEARN Use of Fitch Middle School

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0288 Review of Recognition of Student Achievement Policy

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0292 Public Hearing on a Request for Financial Incentive by Mystic Indoor Sports

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0294 **Public Hearing on a Lease of Fitch Middle School by Project LEARN**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2014-0295 **Referral of Lease of a Portion of Fitch Middle School by Project LEARN to Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.
The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Moravsik attended the monthly SEAT meeting, the Finance Committee meeting last week and the USS Groton Siting Committee meeting on October 16th. He also attended a ceremony where the Mystic Merchants awarded funds for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center Caring Program.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk announced that the November Representative Town Meeting has been canceled and that the next meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., December 10th at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk reported on absentee ballot activity for the November 4, 2014 State Election. She reported receiving a communication from Richard and Ann Crooks of Eastern Point Road, Groton regarding tree removal located in the Shennecossett Golf Course, addressed to Sam Popinchalk, the Town of Groton Tree Warden.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager issued a reminder that the Smithsonian Exhibit at the Library will be open to the public from November 8th through December 21st. The next Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled on November 12th. Town offices will be closed Veteran's Day, November 11th. The Department of Human Services will be hosting their annual holiday food distributions on November 21st and December 19th from 9 am - 4:30 pm. They are looking for volunteers, food and toy donations. Mr. Oefinger highlighted additional items from his weekly report, noting that Jim Roy formally transferred ownership of the Kelly statue, located on West Main Street, to the Town of Groton. He explained the two FYE 2016 budget calendars are to be both a public review of the budget, and an internal review of staff target dates for departments and fire districts.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

Councilor Frink reported on the Finance Committee meeting that was held on October 21, 2014. The report will be on file in the clerk's office.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

The Committee met on November 3rd and Chairman Flax will have a report in two weeks.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

Mayor Schmidt reported that the Committee of the Whole met on the items on tonight's agenda. In

addition, the COW met with the Fire Districts from Noank and Groton Long Point. They met in executive session to discuss labor negotiations, Poquonnock Bridge Fire District and possible disposition of the William Seely School. They have asked that the three police chiefs meet with Tom Wilson to discuss implementing the recommendations from the town-wide Police Study.

IX. NEW BUSINESS**2014-0284 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant****RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DIVISION OF HIGHWAY SAFETY 2015 DUI GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police plans to utilize The Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety 2015 DUI grant funding to support their DUI enforcement operations that go beyond normal police patrols, and

WHEREAS, the grant provides for a concerted year-round effort to enforce DUI laws and consists of both field sobriety 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 incidents of drinking and driving during the DUI grant period, running until September 30, 2015, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger may apply for the Connecticut Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Safety 2015 DUI grant with an anticipated total state grant amount of \$97,900 including the Police Department soft match portion (25%) amount of \$24,475 as provided under the grant provisions.

A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The Town Manager confirmed that the match portion is a budgeted item.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0287 Project LEARN Use of Fitch Middle School**RESOLUTION DIRECTING PREPARATION OF A LEASE FOR A NEWLY IDENTIFIED PORTION OF FITCH MIDDLE SCHOOL TO PROJECT LEARN**

WHEREAS, Project LEARN has expressed a desire to use a portion of Fitch Middle School for the LEARN Dual Language and Arts Magnet Middle School for a period of one to two years, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the final use of Fitch Middle School will not be determined and necessary funding secured for at least two years, which will allow LEARN to occupy a portion of the building during this time period (School Years 2015 and 2016 with a provision for extension at the town's sole option), and

WHEREAS, Project LEARN is no longer interested in using the C and D wings and is seeking to change the scope of the use of the space, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council directs the Town Manager and Town Attorney to work with LEARN to prepare a lease for the newly identified portion of Fitch Middle School for Town Council review.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.

Councilor Frink had some concern with the resolution having language that refers to a time limit and stated that if an extension is needed, the Council could grant one. The Town Manager explained that the intention is to have the lease extend to the end of the school year in 2016.

MOTION TO AMEND the resolution to include "at the town's sole option" was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Flax.

VOTE on Motion to Amend passed unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0294 Public Hearing on a Lease of Fitch Middle School by Project LEARN

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON A PROPOSED LEASE OF A PORTION OF FITCH MIDDLE SCHOOL TO PROJECT LEARN

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing as per CGS Sec. 7-163e on a proposed lease of a portion of Fitch Middle School to Project LEARN for the Dual Language and Arts Magnet Middle School on Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0295 Referral of Lease of a Portion of Fitch Middle School by Project LEARN to Planning Commission Under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL OF LEASE OF A PORTION OF FITCH MIDDLE SCHOOL BY PROJECT LEARN TO PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers the lease of a portion of Fitch Middle School by Project LEARN to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0288 Review of Recognition of Student Achievement Policy

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A \$300 DONATION TO THE FITCH HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is directed to make a \$300 payment to the Fitch High School Women's Softball Team from Account 10010 Legislative Policy.

Withdrawn

Councilor Flax explained that this resolution is no longer needed because Mr. Streeter donated the additional funds that the softball team needed to purchase their rings.

2014-0292 Public Hearing on a Request for Financial Incentive by Mystic Indoor Sports

RESOLUTION SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING ON A REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL INCENTIVE BY MYSTIC INDOOR SPORTS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the request for financial incentive by Mystic Indoor Sports on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Flax commented on recent discussions regarding new school construction. He asked to invite the Superintendent of Schools to a meeting. The Town Manager offered a suggestion that members attend the School Facilities Initiative Task Force meeting on November 13th. In addition, he will try to set up a meeting with the Board of Education and the State Legislators.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. was made by Councilor Flax and so taken.