



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

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

Thursday, January 14, 2016

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Nault and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor de la Cruz and Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

3. NEW BUSINESS

2015-0285

Town Council Orientation

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger started the orientation by providing an overview of the department issues document.

Councilors Antipas and de la Cruz arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Nault, Councilor de la Cruz and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Morton and Councilor Peruzzotti

Discussed

The department issues overview ended mid-way at Ledge Light Health District.

2016-0023

Town Council Goal Setting

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

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.