



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 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

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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

3. Calendar and Communications

None.

4. Approval of Minutes

2015-0019 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole meetings of January 13, 2015 and February 3, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2015-0018 Fishtown Road Pump Station Rehabilitation/Effluent Pump Station Refurbishment Bond Ordinance

Discussed

Director of Public Works Gary Schneider and Assistant Director Chris Lund were present to address the Council regarding two projects - replacement of the Fishtown Road pump station and renovation of the effluent pump station. Mr. Schneider reviewed the history of the pump stations, previous requests for funding, their functions, and potential impacts of pump failure. Public Works is seeking the Council's concurrence to hold a November 2015 referendum.

Councilor Watson arrived at 6:13 p.m.

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

Discussed

Mr. Schneider and Mr. Lund described the increase in the cost from last year's estimate.

A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, to authorize preparation of a bond ordinance for the Fishtown Road Pump Station Rehabilitation/Effluent Pump Station

Refurbishment.

Mr. Schneider explained that the \$28.00 per month sewer use fee funds sewer operating costs. These two projects will be funded by the sewer district tax, which is currently .25 mills. Everyone except City residents pay the sewer district tax. Discussion followed on the potential for additional referendums in November 2015. In response to Councilor Cerf, Mr. Schneider stated he would post the pump station study and cost breakdown on the Town's web site. It is unknown if there is currently a fund balance in the sewer fund. It was noted that City residents can vote on the referendum even though they don't pay for it. Discussion followed on the condition of the remaining pump stations and the extent of renovations required at the Fishtown Road pump station. Mr. Lund and Mr. Schneider answered questions about the operation of the plant and potential effects and liability in the case of pump failure. The motion carried unanimously

2015-0028 Master Municipal Agreement for the Readjustment, Relocation, and/or Removal of Utility Facilities
Discussed

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, explained that the Connecticut Department of Transportation has requested a master municipal agreement for readjustment, relocation, and/or removal of utilities. Without the agreement in place, the Town will not be reimbursed by the state for such projects.

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Antipas, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.
The motion carried unanimously

2014-0340 Building 114 - Request for Financial Incentive
Discussed

A public hearing on the request for financial incentive was held on February 3rd. Mr. Tom Green, who is purchasing for the former Pfizer Building 114, is eligible for a two-year abatement. The Town Manager distributed a memo from Kristin Clarke, Economic Development Specialist, who reviewed the information with the Council. The initial request from Mr. Green has been updated and clarified. Three abatement scenarios were presented to the Council. Scenario 1 provides 100% abatement in both years.

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

Councilor Peruzzotti explained that the Council was initially willing to give Mr. Green a seven-year abatement, so this is small in comparison. Also, she would like to allow Mr. Green two years to establish the business and obtain tenants. The property is located in the Enterprise Zone (EZ), but abatements in the EZ are based on the increase in assessment of the property. Because the assessment for this property is higher as a Pfizer use, Mr. Green's proposal will not result in an immediate increase in the assessed value and there will be no benefit associated with the EZ.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0034 Small Cities Development Block Grant - 2015 Application
Discussed

Susan Cullen, Planner II, provided a brief history of the Small Cities Development Block Grant program and last year's grant in the amount of \$800,000 for the Groton Housing Authority. She described this request to apply for an additional \$800,000 to continue work for the Housing Authority. The application deadline is April 2 and Ms. Cullen is requesting a March 3rd public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to hold a public hearing on the 2015 Small Cities Development Block Grant on March 3, 2015.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0032 Possible Mooring Fee for Mystic River

Discussed

The Town Council received copies of letters from the Mystic Harbormaster, Paul Watts. The purpose of having this item on the agenda is to determine the Council's interest in establishing mooring fees, although the Town Manager is not sure of the Council's jurisdiction in this matter at this point. Discussion followed and the consensus was to invite Mr. Watts in to meet with the Committee of the Whole.

2014-0167

Airport Development Zone**Discussed**

Kristin Clarke, Economic Development Specialist, was present to update the Council on the Airport Development Zone (ADZ). She requested formal action from the Town Council in support of the ADZ to accompany legislation that would modify the boundary of the zone. The new London City Council has taken formal action.

Councilor Cerf raised procedural issues, suggesting that the Town must obtain DECD support prior to going to the legislature.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to express the Town Council's support for the Airport Development Zone.

In response to Councilor Cerf, Ms. Clarke explained that the cost to the municipality and the economic benefit are calculated by the municipality and those figures cannot be calculated until it is known if the boundary will be shifted. Staff has had detailed conversations with DECD, the Connecticut Airport Authority, seCTer, the Chamber of Commerce, and SCCOG and all are very supportive. The boundaries of the zone are measured from the edge of the airport property as determined by GIS. Councilor Cerf expressed her objection to the size of the zone and the lack of any studies.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Antipas, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Cerf

The Committee of the Whole recessed at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Watson, to recess for the Groton Resource Recovery Authority meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

2015-0006

Labor Negotiations (2015 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that the Town Council Committee of the Whole, along with Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Director of Human Resources Robert Zagami, Manager of Emergency Communications Joe Sastre, and Town Attorney Eileen Duggan go into executive session at 8:49 p.m. for the purpose of discussing strategy and/or negotiations with respect to current and pending collective bargaining units. This action is taken without prejudice to the Committee of the Whole's right to discuss these matters in a private meeting pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(2).

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at ____ p.m.

A motion was made by Mayor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Flax, that the Town Council Committee of the Whole approve the funds necessary to implement the tentative agreement between the Town and the Groton Telecommunicators Association/United Electrical Local 222, Connecticut Independent Labor Union Local 86, Inc., Affiliated with United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America, for the period July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2018.

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0164

Police Chief Recruitment

A motion was made by Mayor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that members of the Town Council, along with Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Human Resources Director Robert Zagami, and Town Attorney Eileen Duggan go into executive session at 9:20 p.m. pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(6)(A) for the purpose of discussing the potential appointment of a candidate to a non-union position.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 10:06 p.m.

7. **Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List**

None.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.