



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

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

5:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor de la Cruz

3. NEW BUSINESS

2016-0023

Town Council Goal Setting

Discussed

At the last meeting, the Council organized their ideas into broad areas. Mayor Flax asked Councilors to share their thoughts on the issues identified.

Councilor Grim suggested that the Council needs Town Manager and department head buy-in on the goals. Town Manager Oefinger explained that the Town Manager works for the Town Council. He suggested finding two or three goals that all Councilors are passionate about so that Councilors work together.

Discussion followed with individual Councilors stating their priorities. Throughout the discussion, goals were agreed upon as noted below.

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that she is looking for consensus to support the school initiative, noting that in the past some Councilors have sabotaged referendums. Discussion followed on the Town Council's role in the referendum process and whether or not individual Councilors support the project. Mayor Flax noted that the Council created the School Facilities Initiative Task Force, should trust that they have done their best, and should listen to their recommendations.

Town Manager Oefinger noted that the Task Force would like to make a presentation to the Town Council. The Town Council asked for a special meeting on Tuesday, March 15th at 5:30 p.m. or Wednesday, March 16th.

Significant discussion took place regarding merging services with the City and Board of Education.

Councilor Grim left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

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

Discussed

Discussion followed on areas throughout the Town where economic development should be encouraged, and on branding and marketing Groton as a whole.

With respect to establishing a Charter Revision Commission, the Town Manager distributed a draft application and list of people to date who have expressed interest in being appointed to the Commission. This item will be on next week's Committee of the Whole agenda.

The four goals identified up to this point in the discussion were:

Goal #1 - To Establish a Charter Revision Commission.

Goal #2 - Evaluate Town and other community services with a focus on prioritizing Town expenditures.

Goal #3 - Continue support of Town-wide community and economic development with a focus on these areas: Thames Street, Route 117, Airport, Downtown Groton, and Downtown Mystic.

Goal #4 - Brand and market One Groton."

Councilor de la Cruz arrived at 7:18 p.m. He reviewed the goals already identified and expressed his support.

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

Discussed

The discussion on goals continued. In response to a suggestion that the Town establish a uniform procedure for disposition of Town properties, Town Manager Oefinger noted that OPDS has already outlined a plan and reviewed it with the Town Council.

The consensus of the Council was to limit the goals to the four identified.

2015-0285

Town Council Orientation

Discussed

The Town Manager distributed a draft budget review calendar along with Councilors' schedules. He asked Councilors to review the schedule and forward their conflicts to the Town Manager's office. The Proposed Budget will be available on or before March 15th and the public hearing is scheduled for March 29th at the Senior Center.

Councilors asked that the session on Thursday, March 31st begin at 5:30 p.m. if the Board of Education is available at that time.

4. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Nault, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.