



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
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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, July 14, 2015

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

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

3. **Calendar and Communications**

Councilor Watson noted that Hazardous Waste Collection Day in Groton is Saturday, July 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2015-0181 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 meeting of June 23, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Antipas, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2015-0185 Emergency Communications MOU with Navy

Discussed

Joe Sastre, Manager of Emergency Communications, explained that the Navy has asked the Town and State to sign a Memorandum of Understanding related to dispatching emergency services on the Submarine Base. Calls to the Navy emergency number are dispatched by the Navy while 911 calls from the base come into Groton dispatch and are forwarded to Navy dispatch. The Navy has built a new regional dispatch center in Norfolk, Virginia, which they will now use to dispatch services on all of the Navy bases on the east coast. As a result, the Navy will be closing the dispatch center on the base.

Councilor Cerf arrived at 6:05 p.m. and Councilor Flax arrived at 6:07 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

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

address concerns and contingencies with the plan. Mr. Sastre answered Councilors questions about how calls from the submarine base are handled by dispatch.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0182 U.S. Small Business Administration Startup in a Day Competition

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger explained that this is a grant application being submitted by the Office of Planning and Development Services. The program is set up as a competition to create a model to start a small business online in a day.

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

In response to Councilor Flax, Jon Reiner, Director of Planning and Development Services, explained that the effort will use staff resources rather than a new consultant. Staff may confer with Client First on software issues. If the Town receives the award, it will need to purchase software and potentially bring someone in to set it up. Discussion followed.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0183 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

Discussed

Mayor Schmidt explained that the Board of Education had previously submitted the name of Andrea Ackerman for a vacancy on the School Facilities Initiative Task Force, but it was not approved by the Council. Ms. Ackerman has been serving on the Task Force since August, 2014.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0136 Effects of Heroin on the Community

Discussed

Councilor de la Cruz noted that Chief Campanella from the Gloucester Police Department is coming to Groton to speak on July 23rd at 6:00 p.m. at Fitch High School. Chief Campanella's talk will be followed by a question and answer session at 7:00 p.m. Community groups will have information tables set up. Councilor de la Cruz noted that Shine a Light on Heroin (SALOH) is looking for volunteers to assist with getting people in need to rehabilitation programs.

2014-0312 School Facilities Initiative Update

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger noted that at the last meeting of the School Facilities Initiative Task Force (SFITF) the initial findings of the community survey were presented. More analysis of the survey results is required to help identify the community's issues and concerns and tailor the message. A meeting will be scheduled in the future for the Board of Education, Town Council and RTM. Despite the limited effort to publicize the plan, there are a fair number of people who understand the issue and support the plan.

Councilor Cerf expressed concern with the results of the survey, the potential impact on the church, and the proposed synthetic turf field.

Town Manager Oefinger explained the timeline which anticipates an April or May referendum with the formal process beginning in January.

Discussion followed on the results of the survey. The Town Manager noted that with a little information, people positively changed their perceptions. The consultant noted that compared to similar efforts in other communities, Groton residents are following the issue and the baseline acceptance of the project was much higher than in other communities. Once people are engaged

in a discussion, there is a huge swing in the level of acceptance. The Town Manager suggested that Councilors attend the next SFITF meeting if possible. Councilor Watson stated he would raise the artificial turf issues again at the next liaison meeting.

2014-0256 Procurement of USS Groton Sail and Planes

Discussed

Town Manager Oefinger previously shared a letter from Connecticut DEEP regarding use of the Groton Heights property for the USS Groton Sail. The committee has met in response to the letter and sent it back to the site selection committee, which will be looking at some sites again and deliberating further. The committee will also engage the state, which has offered to help identify another site. Discussion followed on concerns with the Groton Heights site. The Sub Vets have offered assistance and support the effort. Town Manager Oefinger reviewed the site selection process and the involvement of DEEP.

Councilor Moravsik introduced the Chief of the Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department who addressed the Council about changes at the department.

2014-0202 City Highway Budget Committee - Update

A motion was made by Councilor Cerf, seconded by Councilor Watson, that the Town Council enter into executive session at 7:20 p.m. with Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Attorney Matt Auger pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-200(6) to discuss strategies and/or negotiations about likely pending claims by the City against the Town concerning the pending City highway budget funding request.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session concluded at 8:11 p.m. The Committee of the Whole recessed for approximately 10 minutes.

2015-0006 Labor Negotiations (2015 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson, that the Town Council Committee of the Whole, along with Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Director of Human Resources Robert Zagami, and Town Attorney Eileen Duggan go into executive session at 8:20 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 9:16 p.m.

2014-0130 Non-Union Terms and Conditions

Not Discussed

2015-0177 Town Manager Annual Evaluation (2015)

Discussed

The consensus of the Council was to have a special meeting of the Committee of the Whole prior to a future Town Council meeting to discuss this item.

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

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.