



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, Greg Grim, Rich Moravsik, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

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

Also present were Town Manager John Burt and Assistant to the Town Manager Nicki Bresnyan.

3. **Calendar and Communications**

None.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2017-0184 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 July 11, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Morton, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

Councilor Watson arrived at 6:03 p.m.

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

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2016-0244 Charter Revision - Update

Discussed

Charter Revision Commission Chair Dee Hauber and Commissioner Bob Frink were present. Ms. Hauber stated the Commission is hoping to have a public workshop on August 21st. She asked if the Town Council would like to have a legal opinion on the draft report before that.

Mr. Frink noted the Commission finished their work last night, and the final report is being prepared. Mr. Frink expects to deliver a new Chapter IX and a markup of the other chapters.

Councilor Nault arrived at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Barber, Councilor Grim, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Moravsik

Discussed

Mr. Frink reviewed highlights of the recommended changes and a timeline. Councilor Moravsik suggested that a definition change would allow non-residents to vote in referenda. Mr. Frink noted receipt of an opinion from the Town Attorney, and stated the Charter Revision Commission does not believe that non-resident taxpayers can vote. The Commission would like to meet with the Town Attorney on the issue. Ms. Hauber and Mr. Frink answered questions on various subjects from the Council. The draft report will be reviewed by the Director of Finance to provide input on required timelines associated with tax billing.

Councilors thanked the Charter Revision Commissioners for their service.

Mayor Flax recognized Dan Mello and Jane Dauphinais from the Charter Revision Commission. Discussion followed on the proposal for a budget referendum and how having a budget referendum affects decision-making during budget preparation.

Mayor Flax suggested including rationale in the report of the Charter Revision Commission to assist the public in understanding how the recommendations came about.

Jennifer White, another Commissioner, addressed the Council regarding the vote for an elected Town Clerk rather than an appointed Town Clerk. She asked the Council to consider the Commission's recommendations as a whole.

Town Manager Burt stated he would get a copy of the Town Attorney's opinion from the Town Clerk and speak to the Town Attorney to clarify the issue of non-resident taxpayer voting.

2017-0181**State Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Grant Authorization****Discussed**

Joe Sastre, Manager of Emergency Communications/Emergency Management Director, explained that the Town is eligible to receive state and federal funds through the state for emergency management operations. A condition of eligibility is a resolution from the Town Council authorizing the new Town Manager to sign various forms.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0182**Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program - Modification of Roads For Calendar Year 2017****Discussed**

Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, explained that in January the Department identified roads that would be resurfaced in 2017 as part of the road maintenance and rehabilitation program. The department has been working with Eversource, Aquarion, and the State of Connecticut, which all have projects affecting the roads scheduled for repaving. This request is to move the 2017 roads to 2018 and do the roads planned for 2018 in 2017. Mr. Schneider noted the specific roads affected. Discussion followed on resurfacing roads patched after utility work.

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

Mr. Schneider noted he would provide information on the status of bonding for the roads.

The motion carried unanimously

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

Councilor Morton requested referrals on the elimination of funding in FYE 2019 for the Groton Long Point Police Department; elimination of funding in FYE 2019 for the City of Groton and

Groton Long Point streetlights unless Groton Utilities converts them to LED; an annual review to determine which Town of Groton retirees are eligible for COLA increases and to decide the percentage of increase, if any (standing referral).

Councilor Moravsk asked for a presentation on the USS Groton Sail and Mayor Flax stated he will try to arrange it.

Town Manager Burt has met with the Chief of Police regarding dispatch and communications and will be coming forward with recommendations.

Recommended for Deletion:

2016-0178 Groton Heights School/Bill Memorial Library Land Swap

Not Discussed

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Nault, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.