



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, October 24, 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 Nault and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

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

3. Calendar and Communications

- FYE 2017 Budget Presentations by Public Works and Police Departments

Town Manager Burt stated these presentations will be made at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. Councilor Watson asked that the presentation address how utilities are budgeted/paid.

Councilor Morton attended a ribbon cutting ceremony for Thayer Mahan. Councilor Barber attended the Groton Business Association (GBA) breakfast. She received a call regarding The Day newspaper article on Groton Ambulance. Councilor Nault also attended the ribbon cutting and GBA breakfast.

4. Approval of Minutes

2017-0240 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 October 10, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

6. NEW BUSINESS

2017-0226 Superintendent of Groton Public Schools - Update (Standing Referral)

Discussed

Superintendent Mike Graner was present and distributed an update on staffing, grants, school facilities, Martin Luther King Jr. scholars, and a music trip. Dr. Graner responded to questions from Councilors regarding savings from the closure of Pleasant Valley School; the impact of the Groton 2020 plan on the multi-year Magnet Schools Assistance Program and how the grant will be spent; methods for evaluating principals; hiring of paraprofessionals and other non-teaching positions; bussing; failure of a proposal to synchronize school schedules in Connecticut; how the cuts to the FYE 2017 budget have been absorbed; and the International Baccalaureate Program.

2017-0242 Filling the Patrol Officer Position in the Police Department

Discussed and Recommended no action taken

Deputy Chief Paul Gately described the request to fill a patrol officer position with a certified officer laterally transferring from another Connecticut department, saving training costs. Funds are available in the budget.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Nault, to approve the filling of the Patrol Officer position in the Police Department.

Deputy Gately stated there are no remaining vacancies in the department..

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0005 Pending Litigation (2017 Standing Referral)

A motion was made by Mayor Flax that the members of the Town Council Committee of the Whole, Town Manager John Burt, Tax Assessor Mary Gardner, Finance Director Cindy Landry, and Town Attorney Eric Callahan go into executive session at 6:45 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200 (6) (B) for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations related to pending litigation and/or pending claims concerning the tax appeal filed by Odd Fellows Home of Connecticut, Inc. d/b/a Fairview.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session ended at 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Flax indicated that the Committee of the Whole would not be making a motion, but a resolution would be added to the next Town Council meeting under suspension of the rules.

2017-0172 Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission

Discussed

Mayor Flax explained that the ordinance has been revised to take into consideration the effective date (January 2, 2019 or 45 days after the Zoning Commission adopts the revised Zoning Regulations, whichever is sooner) and the number of members (seven regular members and three alternates).

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

The motion carried unanimously

Councilor Barber left the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Grim, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Barber and Councilor Peruzzotti

2017-0216 Bike Feasibility Study Presentation

Discussed and Recommended no action taken

Mark Berry, Director of Parks and Recreation, noted that his department hired VHB consultants to conduct a bike feasibility study of a bike trail connecting the Lily Lane Trail on Industrial Drive along Depot Road to South Road and ultimately Thomas Road.

Bill Desantis and Jack Madden from VHB described the purpose of the study. Mr. Desantis described the study process including interviews, field observation, and evaluating alternatives. Mr. Madden explained that the project was broken down into segments to help compare the alternatives. He reviewed the segments and alternatives. The consultants responded to questions from Councilors.

Councilor Antipas reviewed the 2015 CIP sheet for this project and projected additional costs.

Mayor Flax thanked the consultant for the presentation.

2017-0075 Disposition of William Seely School Property

A motion was made by Councilor Watson that the members of the Town Council Committee of the Whole, Town Manager John Burt, and Manager of Economic and Community Development Paige Bronk go into executive session at 8:03 p.m. pursuant to General Statutes Section 1-200 (6) (D) for the purpose of discussing the lease, sale or purchase of real estate concerning the William Seely School property.

The motion carried unanimously

Discussed

The executive session ended at 8:21 p.m.

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

Lisa Whitney of Pinpoint Commercial Real Estate stated that she has Gretchen Chipperini's property under contract, and she is in discussions with Wayne Chiapperini and owners of the Chinese Kitchen. She has spoken with several developers regarding residential and mixed use development.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 5 - Mayor Flax, Councilor Grim, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Morton and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Nault

2017-0237 Groton Education Foundation Grant - Library

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

The motion carried unanimously

2017-0238 Osteoarthritis Action Alliance Grant

A motion was made by Mayor Flax that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

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

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Nault asked about the payments to the Mystic and Noank Library. Town Manager Burt noted that all payments for outside agencies are being held until the state budget is decided.

Councilor Antipas suggested that the Town include a report on the web site regarding excess buildings. Councilor Nault stated that the information will be available on the new economic development website.

Councilor Morton stated she was shocked by the information on Groton Ambulance that was in The Day newspaper recently. She cited the lapsed lease, unknown responsibility for maintenance of the building, and poor condition of the building. The Town Manager stated he is working on a draft lease with the ambulance association that will address maintenance issues.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Morton, seconded by Councilor Nault, to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.