



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 Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councilor O'Beirne made a motion to elect Councilor Streeter Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilor Scott and so voted unanimously. Councilor Streeter called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Members Absent: Mayor Watson and Councilor Kolnaski

Also present were Acting Town Manager Doug Ackerman, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

3. Calendar and Communications

Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent asked the Council to reconsider sending a letter to the Governor regarding Fort Griswold based on a conversation that he had with State Parks Director Pamela Adams. Ms. Adams recommended sending a letter to legislators instead. The consensus of the Council was to send the letter to the Governor as originally requested.

4. Approval of Minutes

2007-0176 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 of June 19, 2007 and July 10, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. NEW BUSINESS

2007-0174 Mixed Use Zone Amendment Proposal

Discussed

Mike Murphy, Director of Planning and Development, reviewed the zone amendment proposal. He stated the caveat that the amendment is in public hearing right now before the Zoning Commission and he does not want discussions to threaten due process or the regulatory process. Mr. Murphy provided a brief background on the concept, which was recommended in the 2002 Plan of Conservation and Development. Staff began discussions with a developer last year and the Zoning Commission held a public workshop in January. A developer made application to the Zoning Commission in May. Mr. Murphy noted significant support for the regulation. He explained that the rezoning is applied to a specific project and it is very defined in terms of its focus. After the zone change, a more specific site plan is reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Mr. Murphy then answered questions for Councilors and attempted to address concerns raised by Councilor O'Beirne.

Mr. Murphy explained that the Zoning Commission is the legislative body for the Town of Groton with respect to zoning. Councilors are not usually involved in that process. He stated that if Councilors have concerns with the proposal, they should be addressed individually rather than collectively. It was decided that individual Councilors should contact Mr. Murphy with their concerns.

Councilor Bond asked how the Council could be kept up to date on pending issues. Discussion followed and Councilors requested that public hearing notices be e-mailed to them. Acting Town Manager Doug Ackerman asked Councilors to contact staff to identify the information they would like e-mailed to them.

2007-0027 Burnett's Corners

Discussed

Acting Town Manager Ackerman noted the representative from Burnett's Corner Preservation Society was unable to attend this meeting and the item will be rescheduled for the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

2007-0170 2007 U.S. Department of Justice Grant

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0178 TVCCA Supportive Housing Grant Program

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0175 Aquarion Easement

Discussed

Acting Town Manager Ackerman noted that this referral involves an easement with Aquarion Water Company related to Northeast Academy School. The Town Attorney has determined that the original referendum did not authorize this easement.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0177 Millstone Emergency Notification Siren Replacement Project - Additional Site

Discussed

Joe Sastre described the proposed location of the additional siren on Industrial Drive.

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

The motion carried unanimously

Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent referenced the inflammatory article in The Day today regarding school openings and noted that Councilors will be receiving corrected information in their Weekly Status Report.

6. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.