



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, September 21, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Town Manager Mark Oefinger.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ed Eckelmeyer, 75 High Street, Noank, stated that many pieces of a concrete stairway at the corner of Sylvan Street and High Street in Noank are missing due to vehicles colliding with it. He contacted the Public Works Department regarding this safety issue, but nobody got back to him. He would like his safety concern addressed, and expressed the desire for improved communication between the Town and its citizens.

Dave Campbell, 26 Cove Street, Noank, is opposed to putting in speed bumps on High Street in Noank. He stated that the neighborhood should be canvassed before any speed bumps are even considered.

Richard Moriarty, 29 Spring Street, does not think that speed bumps are the answer for High Street. He stated that they are an inconvenience, and that High Street has higher traffic volumes because of people avoiding speed bumps on Pearl Street.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

The Town Manager stated that there is no pending action on the part of the Traffic Authority to install any new speed bumps anywhere in Town.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0194

Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 7, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2010-0193 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:

Barbara A. Rhein, Ph.D. - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary

Various Donations - \$385.11 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Charlie Ewers - \$100.00 - Arts Cafe Miscellaneous

Daughters of the American Revolution - \$25.00 - Jabez Smith House

Chelsea Groton Bank - \$100.00 - Jabez Smith House

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2009-0231 South Road Underpass Flooding**

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0083 March 2010 Storm After Action Report

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.

2010-0188 Colonel Ledyard School Lease to City of Groton

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilors received emails regarding individuals belonging to multiple organizations and/or boards and emails regarding the draft Code of Ethics document.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a Ledge Light Health District meeting.

Councilor Kolnaski, along with Mayor Streeter, attended a Children First Groton meeting and "Law Enforcement Night" at the Elks Club.

Councilor Sheets received an email regarding repairs to River Road.

Councilor Peruzzotti received an email regarding traffic control.

Councilor Johnson and Mayor Streeter received an email regarding "International Day of Peace" on September 20, 2010.

Mayor Streeter received an email regarding the disposition of Groton Heights School. He attended three Thames Street Review Committee meetings, a ribbon-cutting for Advance Improvements in Mystic, a Council of Governments meeting, the Mark Andrews Scholarship Golf Tournament, the Local History Fair at the Groton Public Library, and the Special Olympics fundraiser cruise on the Mystic River.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM met on September 15, 2010. Beginning in October, the RTM will meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Assistant Town Clerk Antoinette Pancaro attended the Connecticut Town Clerks Association conference where the "MOVE Act" was discussed. This act will allow military and overseas voters to electronically request voter registration and absentee ballot applications.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager declared that River Road may open to one-way alternating traffic and emergency vehicles. There will be a public information session on October 6, 2010. Mr. Oefinger stated that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund Dinner will be on October 21, 2010 and the Groton Adolescent Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition will host a Family Day on September 27, 2010.

2010-0199 Interlocal Agreement with Durham to Provide Property Tax Relief for Emergency Services Volunteers

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH DURHAM TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES VOLUNTEERS

Councilor Sheets requested a referral to discuss local property tax assessment exemptions for eligible emergency services volunteers and investigate regional emergency services opportunities.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that a few Town of Groton facebook pages are now active.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

Councilor Watson read the minutes of the meeting held on September 14, 2010, which are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the last regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0188 Colonel Ledyard School Lease to City of Groton**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF GROTON/GROTON UTILITIES FOR THE COLONEL LEDYARD SCHOOL SITE**

WHEREAS, recent construction of new schools has left the Town of Groton with properties that are currently unused, including the Colonel Ledyard School located on West Street in the City of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council deems it to be in the long term interest of the Town's taxpayers that the Town retain ownership of the property for civic purposes, and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has stated its urgent need for space adjacent to its Municipal Building, and

WHEREAS, in the interest of due diligence concerning the value of a Town property that may be leased, sold, or otherwise encumbered, the Town Manager has obtained a standard professional appraisal of the Colonel Ledyard School property, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council referred the issue of leasing this property to the Groton Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS 8-24, and the Planning Commission returned a favorable recommendation to the Town Council, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Town Attorney have reviewed the terms of a proposed lease of the Colonel Ledyard School property to the City of Groton/Groton Utilities for an initial period of thirty (30) years, with renewal options for two successive terms of twenty (20) years, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to execute the lease with the City of Groton/Groton Utilities for the Colonel Ledyard School property.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Sheets, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Flax stated that he will be voting against this resolution because an intended use for the property has not been identified. He does not want the property converted into a new police station while a town-wide police assessment is being conducted.

MOTION TO AMEND to add "a municipal use other than a police station until the police study is complete" was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Sheets.

Mayor Streeter noted that the City of Groton has not completed an assessment of its municipal needs.

VOTE on Motion to Amend failed 1 In Favor, 7 Opposed. (In Favor: Councilor Flax).

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Streeter, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson
Opposed: 2 - Councilor Flax and Councilor Johnson

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant