



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
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, November 16, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

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

Members Absent: Mayor Streeter and Councilor Flax

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

The Town Clerk called for nominations for Chairman Pro Tem. Councilor Monteiro was nominated by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson. There being no further nominations, the vote carried unanimously.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2010-0202 Proclamation Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Peruzzotti.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2010-0235 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 3, 2010 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2010-0229 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
Chelsea Groton Bank - \$500.00- Social Services Discretionary

Fred and Sarah Contrata - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Steven Mitchell - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Lee Treadway - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Various Donations - \$510.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Various Donations - \$686.79 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2010-0223 Use of Fitch High School Baseball Field by New England Collegiate Baseball League

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

2010-0228 Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District

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

2010-0231 Participation in Sister Cities International

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

2010-0233 Authorization to Prepare Bond Ordinance for Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

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

2010-0234 Parks and Recreation Funding Recommendations

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 Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, 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 in opposition to the Town becoming a public access television provider.

Councilor Kolnaski attended two Groton Heights School Reuse Committee meetings, a Celebration for Veterans at West Side Middle School, and a Veterans Day Recognition Assembly at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School.

Councilor Kolnaski and Councilor Peruzzotti attended a Phase II School Design Committee meeting.

In answer to Councilor Kolnaski, the Town Manager stated that a building owned by Electric Boat on Poquonnock Road has been removed along with a significant amount of earth and debris. To his knowledge, there are no development plans for the property.

Councilor Watson attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for "Teenscape", the newly renovated teen area at the Groton Public Library.

Councilor Johnson, Councilor Watson, and Mayor Streeter attended the RTM meeting on November 10, 2010.

Chairman Pro Tem Monteiro stated that she, along with Mayor Streeter, will meet with the Chairman of the Historic District Commission on November 18, 2010, to discuss recent communications regarding the Commission.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM met on November 10, 2010.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk noted that there are current vacancies on numerous Boards and Commissions. Interested persons are encouraged to obtain an application at the Town Clerk's office or on the Town website.

d. Town Manager

The Phase II School Design Committee concluded its deliberations and will make a brief presentation to the Council at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. The Town Manager stated that the Holiday Lights Parade will be on December 4, 2010, an informational session regarding drainage on Judson Avenue and Somerset Drive will be held on November 18, 2010, a Mystic Mobility Study meeting will be on November 22, 2010, and the Climate Change Adaptation Workshop "findings" meeting will be on December 2, 2010. Mr. Oefinger also noted that distribution of holiday baskets at the Social Services building will be on November 19, 2010. Volunteers are still needed.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti**

No meeting, no report.

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

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Chairman Pro Tem Monteiro 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**2010-0223 Use of Fitch High School Baseball Field by New England Collegiate Baseball League**

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE USE OF THE FITCH HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD
BY THE NEW ENGLAND COLLEGIATE BASEBALL LEAGUE

WHEREAS, the Board of Education has been approached by the New England Collegiate Baseball League with a proposal to use the Fitch High School baseball field, and

WHEREAS, the League's proposal includes significant upgrades to the Fitch baseball field at no cost to the Town, and

WHEREAS, the proposal would introduce high quality minor league college baseball in a family-friendly setting to the Town of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney and staff are working to develop agreements for the use of the field and addressing operational issues, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council expresses its support for the concept of the use of the Fitch High School baseball field by the New England Collegiate Baseball League with the understanding that when the draft agreements are completed, they will be subject to the Town Council's review and action.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0228

Local Prevention Council Grant for Ledge Light Health District

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL GRANT FOR THE LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Ledge Light Health District can apply for a Local Prevention Council grant in the amount of \$4,500 for FYE 2011, and

WHEREAS, grant funds will be used by the Groton Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention (GASP) Coalition for programs designed to reduce the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and drugs in the Town of Groton, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council supports and endorses the Local Prevention Council's grant of \$4,500 and authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign, on behalf of the Town of Groton, any letters or other documentation as may be needed.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0231

Participation in Sister Cities International

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION OF THE TOWN OF GROTON IN SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

WHEREAS, Sister Cities International is a nonprofit, citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between U.S. and international communities to increase global cooperation at the local level, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and Economic Development Commission have been approached by citizens interested in establishing Sister Cities relationships with cities in other countries, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council establishes a Sister Cities Committee, comprised of members from the Town Council, Representative Town Meeting, Board of Education, Economic Development Commission, Chambers of Commerce, the Submarine Base, and other interested community-based parties including citizens-at-large, for the purpose of exploring membership and participation of the Town of Groton in Sister Cities International, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Mayor to make the formal appointments to the

Sister Cities Committee.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0233

Authorization to Prepare Bond Ordinance for Thames Street Rehabilitation Project

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF A BOND ORDINANCE AND OTHER RESOLUTIONS FOR THAMES STREET REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a revised proposal by the Thames Street Review Committee for the comprehensive rehabilitation of roadways, sidewalks and related facilities on Thames Street in the City of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to present the rehabilitation project to the Town's voters in a bond referendum, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town staff and the Town bond attorney are authorized to prepare a bond ordinance to be introduced by the Town Council.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0234

Parks and Recreation Funding Recommendations

RESOLUTION ENDORSING PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has worked closely with Parks and Recreation staff to identify new approaches for funding programs and services, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has proposed to the Town Council a number of funding ideas including selling gift certificates, conducting income-generating special events, continuing the pursuit of grants, and

WHEREAS, the Commission has expressed a desire to use \$35,000 of the Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund balance to purchase upgraded software to track registrations, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council endorses the list of funding recommendations (1-9) outlined in the Director of Parks and Recreation John Silsby's referral memo dated November 2, 2010, including the use of \$35,000 of Special Revenue Fund balance for purchase of upgraded software, but excluding the use of credit cards as a payment option, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the proposed expenditure of \$35,000 of the Special Revenue Fund balance for the purchase of upgraded software be referred to the RTM for approval.

A motion was made by Councilor Sheets, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:55 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