



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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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, December 21, 2010

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

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

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 Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Jeff Blevens, 17 Ashby Street, Mystic, is concerned by recent negative comments about the Historic District Commission. He stated that those comments were generated by an architect trying to "sell" what his employer plans to do. These plans include additional condominium units, conversion of public parking spots into private ones, and construction of a building that does not meet the local fire code. Mr. Blevens lives in Mystic's Historic District and believes that the Historic District Commission defends the character of the area from those who would destroy it.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Administrative Items

2010-0251 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING SPECIAL TRUST FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

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

New England Filipino American, Inc. - \$100 - Library Discretionary
Sharon and Robin Hollay - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Knights of Columbus - \$300.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pfizer Foundation Volunteer Program - \$2,000.00 - Library Discretionary
Corrine and Bill Houle boat donation valued at \$5,399.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund
Groton Regional Theater - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund
Nancy D'Estang - \$100.00 - Library Discretionary
Groton Regional Theater - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving Fund
Anonymous - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
Robert Ashworth - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
Avery Heights Activity Group - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
Cardinal Honda - \$355.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund

Evening Circle of Noank Baptist Church - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
 George Marshall - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
 Mystic Lions Club - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
 Richard and Karen Neff - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
 Frederick and Barbara Palm - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
 Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary Fund
 Various Donations - \$1,188.22 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Martha Reichard - \$15.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2010-0253 Scheduling a Public Hearing on River Road Repairs

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

2010-0254 Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation Grant - Arts Cafe Mystic

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

2010-0255 Agreement Between Town of Groton, Board of Education and Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club, Inc.

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

2010-0258 Reappointment of David Russell to the Permanent School Building Committee

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

2010-0259 Reappointment of Robert Austin-LaFrance to the Permanent School Building Committee

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

2010-0260 FYE 2012 Budget Guidelines for City of Groton and Groton Long Point

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

2010-0261 Reappointment of Lorraine Santangelo to the Jabez Smith House Committee

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 Flax, 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 an email regarding the disruption to downtown businesses due to the Mystic Streetscape project.

Councilor Johnson reminded citizens that the annual "Groton Run" from the Allyn Street exit to the beach at Groton Long Point will be on January 1, 2011.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended an Economic Development Commission meeting.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Groton Heights Reuse Task Force meeting.

Councilor Flax attended the Noank School Reuse Task Force meeting.

Mayor Streeter received emails regarding the Phase II School Design Committee recommendations. He attended the Noank Group Homes and Support Services open-house for its new administrative offices, a Fire Chiefs' luncheon, and the Admiral and Captain's Christmas gathering at the SubBase.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM met on December 8, 2010.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager updated the Council on the municipal prohibitive practice claim against the telecommunicators' union. He stated that the CAFR Town Audit report will be distributed to Councilors and the auditor will be at a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on January 18, 2011. Mr. Oefinger noted that Town staff donated over 200 gifts for the recent holiday distribution. He expressed his appreciation to the Town Attorney's office for a donation of \$2,000 to the Human Services Energy Assistance Program and also to the Groton Regional Theatre for its donations of \$500 to the Parks and Recreation Inclusion Program, \$500 to Groton Special Olympics, and \$4,000 to the Groton Senior Center. A special presentation at the Nautilus Museum to formally announce additional projects will be on December 23, 2010.

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

Councilor Flax read the minutes of December 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 December 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. He noted that a special Committee of the Whole meeting was held this evening to discuss the Town Manager's evaluation. He stated that Mr. Oefinger exceeds expectations, but due the economic climate, will forego any salary increase this year.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2010-0253 Scheduling a Public Hearing on River Road Repairs

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ALTERATIONS ON RIVER ROAD, A DESIGNATED SCENIC ROAD

WHEREAS, on September 5, 1989, the Town Council designated a portion of River Road as a Scenic Road according to Town ordinances, Sec. 13.5-121 to 13.5-124, and

WHEREAS, a portion of River Road designated as scenic road was significantly damaged by flooding in March 2010, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Department of Public Works is finalizing plans for permanent repairs to River Road including paving, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on River Road Repairs on Tuesday, January 18, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex Community Room 1.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0254 Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation Grant - Arts Cafe Mystic

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A BODENWEIN GRANT FOR THE ARTS CAFÉ-MYSTIC

WHEREAS, for sixteen years the Arts Café-Mystic has been a popular program that features live performances by writers and musicians, supports the local writing community, and gives scholarships to student writers at local high schools, and

WHEREAS, the Arts Café-Mystic has received grants from the Bodenwein Public Benevolent Foundation for many years, allowing the Town of Groton's Department of Parks and Recreation to administer the Arts Café performances, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, may apply for a Bodenwein Foundation grant of \$5,000 for the grant period covering calendar year 2011.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0255 Agreement Between Town of Groton, Board of Education and Bristol Collegiate Baseball Club, Inc.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF GROTON, BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND BRISTOL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL CLUB, INC. TO USE THE FITCH SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL FIELD

WHEREAS, the Board of Education was approached by the New England Collegiate Baseball League with a proposal for one of its teams to use the Fitch High School baseball field, and

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

WHEREAS, an agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the relocation, field use, and financing of improvements has been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to sign the agreement between the Town of Groton, Groton Board of Education, and Bristol Collegiate

Baseball Club, Inc. to relocate the home field of Bristol Collegiate to Fitch High School.

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

The motion carried unanimously

A motion to approve Resolutions 2010-0258 Reappointment of David Russell to the Permanent School Building Committee, 2010-0259 Reappointment of Robert Austin-LaFrance to the Permanent School Building Committee, and 2010-0261 Reappointment of Lorraine Santangelo to the Jabez Smith House Committee was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

2010-0258 Reappointment of David Russell to the Permanent School Building Committee

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DAVID E. RUSSELL TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that David E. Russell, 73 Ronald Road, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/13.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0259 Reappointment of Robert Austin-LaFrance to the Permanent School Building Committee

REAPPOINTMENT OF ROBERT J. AUSTIN-LAFRANCE TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, 207 Plant Street, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term expiring 9/29/13.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0261 Reappointment of Lorraine Santangelo to the Jabez Smith House Committee

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING LORRAINE SANTANGELO TO THE JABEZ SMITH HOUSE COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Town Manager chooses to reappoint Lorraine Santangelo to the Jabez Smith House Committee, and

WHEREAS, appointments to the Jabez Smith House Committee by the Town Manager require the formal consent of the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Lorraine Santangelo, 331 Tyler Avenue is reappointed to the Jabez Smith House Committee for a term expiring 09/07/14.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0260 FYE 2012 Budget Guidelines for City of Groton and Groton Long Point

RESOLUTION PROVIDING FYE 2012 BUDGET GUIDELINES TO THE CITY OF GROTON AND GROTON LONG POINT

WHEREAS, the Town Council has met with representatives of Groton Long Point and the City of Groton to begin discussions about their FYE 2012 Highway Budget requests, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City, Dennis Popp, indicated during the meeting with the Town Council that he was looking for guidelines from the Council prior to submitting a FYE 2012 budget proposal, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed with the Town Manager the budget requests that the Town Manager is making to Town department heads and feels they are appropriate requests for the City of Groton and Groton Long Point, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to send letters to Groton Long Point and the City of Groton requesting submission of budget requests reflecting level service, a zero dollar increase, a 5% decrease, and a 10% decrease, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Groton and Groton Long Point are requested to submit operating and CIP budgets in the same format used by the Town of Groton.

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

Councilor Flax noted that the Council can get a clearer picture of proposed budgets if the same format is utilized by the Town, the City, and Groton Long Point.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Streeter wished everyone a safe holiday season.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:04 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant