



# 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 Bruce Flax, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Diane Barber, Joe de la Cruz, Greg Grim, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson**

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Tuesday, January 5, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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*The meeting was called to order at 7:50 p.m. by Mayor Flax.*

#### I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.*

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Matthew J. Morton, Jr.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

*None.*

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Matthew J. Morton, Jr., 67 Mariners Lane, Mystic, presented information to the Town Council regarding Groton Town Police retirement benefit adjustments. He provided details in a written statement. He requested that the Town Council consider reviewing the current policy to include an increase for the retirees in this year's budget.*

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*Councilor de la Cruz made a request for the Town Manager to provide more information about the Town Police retirement program and any history of increases.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger offered to have the Director of Finance present information to the Committee of the Whole.*

*Council Nault asked if the new Police Union contracts include any increases. Town Manager Mark Oefinger responded that the new contracts do not include any increases for the retirees.*

*In response to Councilor Peruzzotti, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that he would provide estimated costs associated with any increases to the Town Council for consideration. He stated that any increase should be included with their FYE 2017 budget discussions.*

*Mayor Flax requested comparative information with respect to the retirees' original retirement packages.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

**2015-0299 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 15, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**b. Administrative Items**

**2015-0297 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Anonymous - \$17.50 - Library Miscellaneous

Anonymous - \$45.00 - Library Renovations

BPO Elks Lodge No. 2163 - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Cardinal Honda - \$56.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Eleanor Lambert - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Northern Lights - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Barbara Palm - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$7.43 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton Matching Funds - \$758.70 - Groton Utilities Assistance Program

Old Mystic Fire District - \$525.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Ralph and Diana Stanzione - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Linda Letz - \$200.00 - K-9 Training Donations

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**

**2015-0287 FOI Presentation by Tom Hennick on 12/15/15**

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

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Antipas reported that he, along with Mayor Flax, participated with the holiday basket distribution on December 18, 2015 at the Groton Human Services office. He reported receiving communication from Mr. Potter regarding the sale of the William Seely School property.*

*Councilor Morton reported that she received the same email from Mr. Potter that Councilor Antipas mentioned. She received a letter from Rosanne Kotowski requesting that she be considered for appointment to the Charter Revision Commission.*

*Councilor Barber reported that she received the same communications and wished everyone a happy new year.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti reported that she received the same communications.*

*Councilor de la Cruz attended a Community Speaks Out meeting on December 16, 2015 at the Groton Public Library. He announced the next meeting for Community Speaks Out will be on January 20, 2016 at the Groton Public Library. He attended the Bash at the Beach on January 2, 2016 at Ocean Beach in New London. He and his wife attended the Groton Town Police Roll Call meeting on January 5, 2016. He reported that in the last 3 months, 15 people have been placed in a drug rehabilitation program. He reported that there have been 8 deaths attributed to heroin overdose in the year 2015, and 17 people were saved from a heroin overdose by using NARCAN. He mentioned an article that was printed in The Day newspaper announcing a reduction in*

*Federal Education funding for Connecticut.*

*Councilor Nault reported that she will be attending the Connecticut Sub Century meeting on Friday, January 8, 2015.*

*Councilor Grim announced that he received the same communication that have been reported.*

*Councilor Watson stated that in addition to what has already been reported, he attended, on behalf of the Town Council, a tour of the new Mohegan Sun hotel that is under construction on December 17, 2015. He stated that the completion of the hotel is estimated to be in the fall of 2016.*

*Mayor Flax reported that he attended the Southeastern Council of Governments meeting on December 15, 2015, the Connecticut Sub Century meeting on December 15, 2015, the Groton Sub Sail meeting on December 16, 2015, and a meeting with the Town Manager, Mr. Potter, and a Walker Hill Road resident on December 23, 2015. On Christmas day, he and his wife and daughter served lunch at the Senior Center. His wife and daughter played the piano and sang songs for the attendees. He and his daughter helped to serve lunch at the New London Homeless Shelter on December 29, 2015.*

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the next RTM meeting will be held on January 13, 2016 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher wished a happy new year to the Town Councilors.*

**d. Town Manager**

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger reviewed items to be considered at future Town Council meetings. He reported on the success that the Town of Groton United Way Campaign had this year. He stated that Kim Wardlaw from the Human Resources Department organized this year's campaign. He announced that 107 Town of Groton employees contributed approximately \$19,200 to the campaign.*

*In response to Councilor Barber, Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that Access Health CT will provide the staff for the Affordable Care Act Enrollment Fair on January 7, 2016 at the Senior Center.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community Relations**

*No report.*

**b. Finance**

*No report.*

**c. Personnel & Appointments**

*No report.*

**d. Rules**

*No report.*

**e. Public Safety**

*No report.*

**f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax**

*No report.*

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

*There was no new business.*

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Grim requested a referral to discuss the Town Clerk's compensation.*

*Councilor de la Cruz requested a referral to discuss purchasing home drug tests for public use.*

*Mayor Flax requested that all Town Council agendas be posted near the entrance of the meeting room before a scheduled meeting.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti. Hearing no objections, Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*