



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 Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

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 Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Streeter

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 Rep. Kotowski.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2012-0309 Proclamation Recognizing the Fortieth Anniversary of Noank Group Homes & Support Services
Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Watson.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, an RTM member, is concerned that \$50,000 was used to pay for parking in connection with the Mystic Streetscape project in June 2012 with encumbered funds. This item was not budgeted and was not a previous legal commitment. She stated that the language of the encumbrance policy is contradictory and confusing. Ms. Kotowski encouraged Councilors to adopt a clear policy regarding encumbrances.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2013-0017 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 18, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2012-0341 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Margaret and Frank Adams - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Austin and Carol Alvarez - \$120.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Anonymous -\$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Cardinal Honda - \$404.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Russ Musante - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic Lions Club - \$1,250 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic River Homes Inc-Residents Council - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Northern Lights - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Par Four - \$600.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Palm - \$1,000 - Social Services Discretionary
Red Hats - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Saint David's Episcopal Church - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Susan Decorte-McMillan - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pfizer - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 2163 - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Wanda Croxton - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Board of Education Employees - \$88.53 - Social Services Discretionary
J. Dempsey Associates - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Peter Justin - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Edward and Catherine Kolnaski - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic and Noank Library - \$3.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Old Mystic Fire District - \$362.50 - Social Services Discretionary
Pequot Health Center - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Progeny Systems - \$85.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Gladys Rogers - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
City of Groton Matching Funds - \$1,599.81 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Mary Dickson - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Peter and Ana Dikan - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Neal or Iris Dow - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Lee Hinerfeld - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Elizabeth Hogan - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Kay Janney - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Arthur Jerbert - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Lawrence and Beverly Lacerte - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anna Marie Landry - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Raymond and Jane Macionus - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Donald Mosher - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Saranne Murray - \$150.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Herta Payson - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Louis Price - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Denise and Matthew Shafner - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Suisman Shapiro - \$1,000.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Richard Turner - \$250.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Wendell Windisch - \$75.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Mayor Somers thanked everyone for their generous contributions.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

- 2012-0001 Unaffiliated and Other Appointments (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0002 Republican Town Committee Appointments (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0003 Democratic Town Committee Appointments (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0004 Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0005 Joint Meeting with Board of Education (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0006 Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0007 Meeting with State Legislators (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0011 Groton Long Point Request for a Supplemental Appropriation**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0051 Joint Meeting with Stonington Board of Selectmen (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0101 Labor Negotiations (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0167 Pending Litigation (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0239 Revised Position Descriptions (2012 Standing Referral)**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0238 School Facilities Initiative Task Force**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0342 FYE 2012 CAFR**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2012-0343 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2013-0013 Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2013-0016 Pre-Budget Public Hearing**
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 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 a packet of information regarding encumbrances, met with a State Legislator,

and participated in the Groton Human Services Holiday Distribution.

Councilor Flax and Councilor Watson attended the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting.

Councilor Antipas attended a Historic District Commission meeting.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended a fireman's luncheon.

Councilor Watson noted that Shennecossett Golf Course is open and that it was highlighted recently in the Hartford Current. Councilor Watson attended a Shellfish Commission meeting and a meeting regarding playing fields.

Mayor Somers and Town Manager Oefinger attended a breakfast at which Electric Boat gave a presentation of its future outlook which is positive for both growth and hiring.

Mayor Somers received emails regarding the budget and Phase II of Mystic Streetscape. She had meetings with the Superintendent of Schools and with a representative of the Mystic Schooners.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next meeting of the RTM will be held on February 13, 2013.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk read a list of vacancies that exist on Town boards and commissions. Ms. Moukawsher noted that she is serving on the Town Clerks' Association Legislative Committee, and will provide the Council with a list of changes they plan to propose to the State. The Town Clerk noted that shellfish permits are available at the Town Clerk's Office and the Police Station.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager noted that all Town offices will be closed on January 21, 2013, for Martin Luther King Day. He stated that the National League of Cities Conference in Washington DC will be held March 9-13, 2013. The Town Manager stated that 460 households benefited from the Groton Human Services Holiday Distribution; this included 663 adults and 612 children.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Morton

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

The Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee met prior to tonight's meeting. Minutes will be presented at the next Town Council meeting.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

The resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting. Mayor Somers stated that the Committee of the Whole also met with the Board of Education and a State Legislator.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

In response to Councilor Peruzzotti, the Town Manager will provide a list of what has been spent out of the budget so far and a projected budget estimate for the current fiscal year. He is unsure whether the amount already spent will actually be useful information, as some budgeted expenditures are spent early in the budget cycle, while others are not spent until near the end of a budget cycle.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2012-0238 School Facilities Initiative Task Force

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SCHOOL FACILITIES INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Board of Education recognize the need to address elementary and middle school redistricting and provide recommendations for the design of a school system that reflects the system's long-term vision, and takes into consideration educational programs, budgets, facilities, and demographic changes, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has authorized the Town Manager to enter in an agreement with Milone & MacBroom to assist a School Facilities Initiative Task Force and facilitate the development of a long-range facility plan for the schools, and

WHEREAS, the time schedule to perform this assignment is estimated by Milone & MacBroom to be seven months, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby establishes the School Facilities Initiative Task Force, consisting of the following representatives appointed by the Mayor:

Town Council (2) - James Streeter, Deb Peruzzotti
 RTM (1) - Jean Claude Ambroise
 Board of Education (2) - Rita Volkmann, Kim Shepardson Watson
 Permanent School Building Committee (1) - Enrico DeMatto
 Planning Commission (1) - Hal Zod
 School Administrator (1) - Karen Bryer
 School Teachers (2) - Tricia Semancik, Robert Beaulieu Jr.
 Citizens-at-Large (9) - Kevin Fital, Holly Bresnahan, Jon Heller, Craig Koehler, Wes Greenleaf, Melissa Roode, Kevin Trejo, Dan O'Donnell, Marc Denno
 Ex-Officio Members - Heather Somers (Mayor), Kirsten Hoyt (Board of Education Chair)
 Staff - Mark R. Oefinger (Town Manager), Gary Schneider (Director of Public Works), Michael Murphy (Director of Planning and Development), John Ramos (Interim Superintendent of Schools), Bill Robarge (Director of Buildings and Grounds)

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the School Facilities Initiative Task Force shall issue a report of its findings to the Town Council upon completion of the long-range facility plan.

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

The Mayor noted that these meeting will be open to the public.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0342

FYE 2012 CAFR

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FYE 2012 AUDIT REPORT

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the annual audit of the Town of Groton's finances, covering the fiscal year from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, and

WHEREAS, the Council has discussed the audit findings with the manager of the audit team from the firm of Blum Shapiro, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts and files the FYE 2012 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Auditor's Reports and Management Letter.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0343

Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

ADOPTION OF TOWN OF GROTON HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of flooding, thunderstorms, high wind, winter storms, wildfires, earthquakes, and dam failure, resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, of whom the Town of Groton is a member, has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its Hazard Mitigation Plan Update under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the Town of Groton; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions/projects that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the Town of Groton, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the Town of Groton eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards; now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Groton that:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Town of Groton;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the Town Council by October 1 of each calendar year.

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

Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0013

Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant

RESOLUTION ENDORSING PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR A REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE GRANT

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s, as amended by Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 establishes the Regional Performance Incentive Program to fund projects or studies designed to provide cost saving services to municipalities on a regional basis, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), of which the Town of Groton is a member, has identified two potential projects to benefit the 20 SCCOG municipalities, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council endorses the Regional Performance Incentive Program referenced in Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) and the proposals, submitted by the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), as follows:

- Comprehensive Plan and Model for Shared Services, Staff, and Equipment by SCCOG Municipalities
- Fire and Other Emergency Services Equipment Analysis and Plan for the Southeastern Connecticut Region

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0016

Pre-Budget Public Hearing

RESOLUTION SETTING FYE 2014 PRE-BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to provide a formal opportunity for Citizen input on the FYE 2014 Budget prior to the Town Manager submitting the proposed budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a pre-budget public hearing on the FYE 2014 Town Budget on Tuesday, February 5, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Antipas and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant