



# 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 19, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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*Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:44 pm.*

#### 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

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by 40th District State Representative John Scott.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

*None.*

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

*John Scott, 674 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, 40th District State Representative, requested that the Town Council review the policy overseeing the display table in hallway at the Town Hall. He was not allowed to display his constituent flyer. He stated that the Town Clerk explained that this type of publication has always been prohibited.*

*Gretchen Chipperini, 87 Phoenix Drive, quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Rarely do we find men who willingly engage in hard, solid thinking. There is an almost universal quest for easy answers and half-baked solutions. Nothing pains some people more than having to think. She shared her opinions regarding the demographics and economic development opportunities for the Town of Groton. She suggested that a document be developed to assist developers with marketing commercial property in Groton. She suggested that the Town Council get actively involved with the process of any zone changes needed for developing the William Seely School property. She requested that a meeting be set up with the Town Council to discuss the sale of the school property in conjunction with the abutting property that she owns.*

*Thomas Potter, 154 Walker Hill Road, spoke on behalf of the majority of the 150 property owners from the Walker Hill neighborhood. He read a prepared statement regarding the sale of the William Seely School property. He quoted a December 19, 2013 memorandum from Town Attorney Michael P. Carey that suggested procedures for the sale of Town-owned property. He stated the assurances given to the Noank Elementary School neighborhood residents during property disposal deliberations. He requested that the William Seely School neighborhood receive the same opportunity.*

*Mr. Potter's statement is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.*

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

*None.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Administrative Items

**2016-0016 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 - \$5.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Jerome Dempsey - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Norman and Mary Kluepfel - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Barbara Servidio - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
 Nancy d'Estang - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Katherine Brighty - \$1,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Lorraine Laumeyer - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Pfizer Foundation - \$1,000.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Anonymous - \$20.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Groton Utilities - \$56,118.46 - Library Renovations  
 Richard Jordan - \$20.00 - Library Renovations  
 Donald McClellan - \$100.00 - Library Renovations  
 Yankee Gas - \$5,611.85 - Library Renovations  
 Amy Matteson - \$150.00 - Library Renovations  
 Jody Katz - \$10.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Joseph and Arlene Atwood - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Josephine Bright - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Mystic Womens' Club - \$1,075.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 James and Ann Sailors - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Marilyn and John Turkowski - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
 Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous  
 Anonymous - \$5.00 - Library Miscellaneous

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

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

- 2013-0203 Sales Tax on Commercial Solid Waste Collection - Update**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2014-0137 City Highway Budget**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2014-0202 City Highway Budget Committee - Update**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2014-0313 Review of Town Services**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2015-0040 FYE 2016 Budget - Finance Committee Discussion**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2015-0052 Poquonnock Bridge Fire District Issues**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2015-0132 State Funding for Education**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2015-0133 Federal Funding for IDEA**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2015-0134 Civilian School Children Residing in Navy Housing**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**
- 2015-0135 State Mandates for Education**  
**This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.**

- 2015-0161 Town Fire Marshal and Town Fire Inspector Position(s)**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0199 Emergency Medical Services for R-1 and Ambulance Service**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0216 Creation of Town Poet Laureate Position**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0288 Town Attorney Appointment**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0300 Solar Panel Farm on Flanders Road Landfill**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0301 Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0302 Economic Development Commission Annual Report Presentation**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0013 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0019 Agreement to Reinstate and Extend 1995 AHEPA Tax Abatement Agreement**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0020 Agreement with Ledyard to Detain Ledyard Arrestees at Groton Police Department**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0024 Appointment of Other Attorneys as Recommended by the Town Attorney**  
This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.
- 2016-0026 Various Revised Job Descriptions**  
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0027 School Facilities Initiative Task Force Modification and Appointment of Lenny Winkler**  
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 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. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor de la Cruz reported that the next Community Speaks Out meeting will be held at the Groton Public Library at 6:00 pm. He reported that the Community Speaks Out will hold a forum for students at Fitch High School on February 26, 2016 and a public forum on March 2, 2016.*

*Councilor Nault reported that she will attend the next Sub Century meeting on January 21, 2016 at 11:00 am at the U.S.S. Nautilus Museum.*

*Councilor Watson reported that he spoke as a citizen at the Connecticut Technical High School System Board meeting on January 19, 2016 in support of the Carpentry Program at Grasso Technical High School. He explained that this program is to be discontinued.*

*Mayor Flax announced that tonight the Town Council is standing D STRONG in support of*

*Dorian Murray's quest to become famous. He reported that he attended the regular RTM meeting on January 13, 2016, the Town Council Committee of the Whole Special Meeting on January 14, 2016 and the Nautilus Dock meeting with the Town Manager on January 19, 2016.*

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

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the next RTM meeting will be held on February 10, 2016 at 7:30 pm at the Groton Senior Center. She stated that the RTM will be voting on the referral from the Town Council to approve the sale of the William Seely School property.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that all correspondences to the Town Council are on file in the Town Clerk's Office and are available to the public.*

**d. Town Manager**

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that the Town Auditor was not available to attend tonight's meeting and that he has invited her to attend the February 2, 2016 Special COW meeting at 6:00 pm. He reviewed items that may be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.*

**VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Community Relations**

*No meeting, no report.*

**b. Finance**

*No meeting, no report.*

**c. Personnel & Appointments**

*No meeting, no report.*

**d. Rules**

*No meeting, no report.*

**e. Public Safety**

*No meeting, no report.*

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

*Mayor Flax reported that the Committee of the Whole met on January 12, 2016. He stated that the Planning Department presented a report on Economic Development. They discussed all the items that are on tonight's agenda.*

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**2015-0288 Town Attorney Appointment**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE TOWN ATTORNEY**

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the needs of the Town for legal advice, the nature of the litigation currently underway, and the cost and quality of the legal services now being provided, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to Town Charter Section 8.2.1, Eileen Duggan of the firm of Suisman, Shapiro, Wool, Brennan, Gray & Greenberg, P.C. is hereby appointed Town Attorney, to exercise all powers and duties of that office until her successor shall be appointed and qualified, and that the following attorneys from Suisman Shapiro may assist Attorney Duggan carrying out her duties:

Matthew Auger  
Raymond Baribeault  
James Berryman  
Michael Blanchard  
Eric Callahan

Michael Carey  
 Jack Collins  
 Jeanette Dostie  
 Bryan Fiengo  
 Ryan Jaziri  
 Robert Keville  
 Kristi Kelly  
 Roger Scully

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

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 8 - Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson  
 Opposed: 1 - Councilor Barber

**2016-0024**

**Appointment of Other Attorneys as Recommended by the Town Attorney**

RESOLUTION APPOINTING OTHER ATTORNEYS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN ATTORNEY

WHEREAS, the Town Charter, at 8.2.2, provides that the Town Attorney may, with the approval of the Town Council, appoint attorneys to perform specialized services or otherwise to assist the Town Attorney, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney is empowered by the Charter to recommend the terms of employment of such attorneys, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that pursuant to the recommendation of Town Attorney Duggan, the following attorneys may be appointed and continue to serve in the assignments indicated, under terms prescribed by the Town Attorney, until such time as their replacements may be approved by the Town Council:

Board of Education Attorneys (from Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.)

Floyd Dugas  
 Megan Buxton  
 Carolyn Mazanec Dugas  
 Rebecca Goldberg  
 Michelle Laubin  
 Marsha Moses  
 Chris Sullivan

Bond Counsel (from Day Pitney, LLP)

Judith Blank  
 Doug Gillette  
 Namita Shah  
 Richard Wasserman  
 Glenn Rybacki  
 Emily Kagan  
 Kristin Burgess

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0300**

**Solar Panel Farm on Flanders Road Landfill**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN OPTION TO LEASE AGREEMENT WITH GEOSYNTEC TO INSTALL SOLAR PANELS ON THE FLANDERS ROAD LANDFILL IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN'S ENERGY POLICY

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department has been working to install a solar panel array on the closed Municipal Solid Waste Landfill on Flanders Road since 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) recently announced a Low and Zero Emissions Renewable Energy Credit Program for siting renewable energy sources such as solar panels on brownfields, and

WHEREAS, the continuance of Federal tax credits for installing solar arrays is dubious and the cancellation of them could make such a project not possible financially, therefore making timing of the project critical, and

WHEREAS, the Town was approached by Geosyntec with the outline of a plan to install a solar array on the closed landfill requiring only an Option to Lease to further develop the project and determine its viability, and

WHEREAS, this effort fully supports the Town's Energy Policy and the Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge and has the potential to meet much of the Town's electrical energy needs, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to enter into an Option to Lease Agreement with Geosyntec to install solar panels on the Flanders Road landfill.

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

*In response to Councilor Grim, Town Manager Oefinger explained that he will gather information from towns in Northeast Connecticut that have experience with this type of project. This information will give the Town Council a better understanding of what to expect in the way of revenues and energy savings.*

*Councilor de la Cruz stated that he understood that the proposal would include information regarding the viability of the project and that the Town Council will have time to evaluate the information and make a decision. He stated that Geosyntec is asking for a two year lease.*

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger explained that the Town would receive funds from the lease agreement. He did not believe that there would be a reduction in the cost for electricity in Town buildings.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0301**

**Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge**

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TOWN OF GROTON'S MUNICIPAL ENERGY POLICY FOR REDUCING ENERGY USE AND DEVELOPING ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES BY MAKING THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES MUNICIPAL PLEDGE

WHEREAS, the Clean Energy Communities Program seeks to have Connecticut towns and communities pledge to develop programs to reduce energy use and develop programs to increase support for clean, renewable energy sources in municipal facilities, and

WHEREAS, the program is funded by the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund and the Connecticut Green Bank, and there is no cost to the Town, and

WHEREAS, the Communities Pledge sets forth goals for both energy efficiency and the purchase of energy from clean, renewable energy sources for municipal facilities in full support of the Town's Municipal Energy Policy, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager, to sign the Connecticut Clean Energy Communities Municipal Pledge on behalf of the Town of Groton and supports pursuing the goals of the pledge.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0013**

**Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments**

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the Town Council makes appointments to miscellaneous and ad hoc local and regional committees as well as appointing liaisons to other groups, and

WHEREAS, upon its election every two years the Town Council should reconsider these appointments, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following individuals are appointed or reaffirmed as appointees to the groups as noted:

Boating Advisory Board Liaison - Councilor Dean Antipas  
 Cable Television Advisory Council - James Loughlin and Dean Antipas (One Vacancy - Terms Expire 7/1/17)  
 Children First Groton - Kevin Trejo  
 Eastern Regional Catchment Area Council - David Hume  
 Eastern Tourism District - Nancie Keenan  
 Economic Development Commission Liaison - Councilors Bonnie Nault and Diane Barber  
 Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee - Rita Schmidt (Term Expires 1/1/18)  
 Golf Advisory Board - Councilor Bonnie Nault (ex-officio, non-voting)  
 Long Island Sound Advisory Council - Councilor Dean Antipas  
 Mystic Cooperative Task Force - Mayor Bruce Flax  
 Pequot Woods Board of Trustees - Councilor Harry Watson  
 School Facilities Initiative Task Force - Mayor Bruce Flax (ex-officio), Councilor Joe de la Cruz, and Jane Dauphinais (representing the Town Council)  
 School Readiness Council - Mayor Bruce Flax  
 Southeast Area Transit - Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger and Rich Moravsik (Terms Expire 12/1/19)  
 Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments - Mayor Bruce Flax and Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger (Alternate)  
 Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority - Councilor Deb Peruzzotti and Gary Schneider (Terms Expire 4/16/18)  
 Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board - Councilor Dean Antipas and Mary Lou Smith (Terms Expire 9/1/17)  
 Sub Century Committee - Councilor Bonnie Nault (representing the Town Council)  
 Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. - Councilor Harry Watson (Term Expires 12/1/17)  
 Town Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee - Councilors Harry Watson, Greg Grim, Karen Morton, and Deb Peruzzotti  
 Trails Coordinating Task Force - Denise Descheneaux, Carla Henschel, and Bernard French (Terms Expire 1/1/19)

**A motion was made by Councilor Barber, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.**

*Councilor Antipas made a motion to amend the resolution in order to add the Sub Century Committee to the list of miscellaneous and ad hoc committees and to appoint Councilor Bonnie*

*Nault to the committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Watson.*

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0019**

**Agreement to Reinstate and Extend 1995 AHEPA Tax Abatement Agreement**

RESOLUTION TO REINSTATE AND RENEW THE 1995 AHEPA-250 III INC. TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, on September 29, 1995 the Town and AHEPA 250-III, Inc. executed a document entitled "Tax Abatement Agreement Between the Town of Groton and AHEPA 250-III, Inc." in accordance with Town of Groton Ordinance Section 14.5-4, and

WHEREAS, the five-year agreement was renewable for four more terms of five years each, and

WHEREAS, AHEPA 250-III, Inc. inadvertently failed to extend the agreement prior to July 30, 2015, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to reinstate and renew the tax abatement agreement with AHEPA-250 III Inc., which shall terminate on July 30, 2020.

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted as Amended.**

*Councilor Nault made a motion to amend the resolution by editing the third paragraph to remove the word inadvertently. The motion was seconded by Councilor Watson, \.*

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Votes:** In Favor: 8 - Mayor Flax, Councilor Barber, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson  
Abstain: 1 - Councilor Antipas

**2016-0020**

**Agreement with Ledyard to Detain Ledyard Arrestees at Groton Police Department**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF LEDYARD TO DETAIN LEDYARD ARRESTEES AT THE GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the Town of Ledyard is constructing a new police department facility and will require the use of the lockup facilities to detain persons arrested by the Ledyard Police Department, and

WHEREAS, Ledyard has requested that the Town of Groton allow it to use the detention facilities in the Groton Police Department during the time that their police department facility is under construction (estimated to be February through September, 2016), and

WHEREAS, Groton is willing to provide such facilities and related services to Ledyard, subject to the terms and conditions of a draft agreement reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign an "Agreement Between the Towns of Groton and Ledyard, Connecticut for the Detention at the Town of Groton Police Department of Persons Arrested by and in the Custody of the Town of Ledyard Police Department."

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2016-0026**

**Various Revised Job Descriptions**

RESOLUTION APPROVING VARIOUS REVISED JOB DESCRIPTIONS

WHEREAS, in an effort to increase efficiency and control costs, various Town departments are proposing structural changes that require updated job descriptions, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed modifications to the job descriptions for Human Resources Assistant; Telecommunicators II, III and IV; Budget Analyst and Coordinator; Skilled Building Technician; Civil Engineer; Deputy Chief of Police; and Economic Development Specialist, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the job descriptions noted above as proposed by the Human Resources Department.

**A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Adopted.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

2016-0027

**School Facilities Initiative Task Force Modification and Appointment of Lenny Winkler**

**MODIFICATION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES INITIATIVE TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP AND APPOINTMENT OF LENNY WINKLER**

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the School Facilities Initiative Task Force designated for a "School Administrator," and

WHEREAS, John Heller, Task Force Chairman, has requested that Lenny Winkler be appointed to the Task Force as a Citizen at Large, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the "School Administrator" position on the School Facilities Initiative Task Force is redesignated as a "Citizen at Large" position and Lenny Winkler, 51 Pamela Avenue, is hereby appointed.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**X. OTHER BUSINESS**

*Councilor Antipas requested a referral to explore establishing a Citizens Academy. The purpose of this program is to engage and educate the citizens of Groton about how the main components of the Town of Groton operate.*

*Council Nault expressed interest in the proposal and suggested that the Town Council be the first students.*

*Councilor Nault announced that the Groton Business Association will be meeting at the Mystic Art Center on January 21, 2016 at 7:30 am and the Eastern CT Chamber of Commerce has a breakfast meeting on January 22, 2016 at the Groton Inn and Suites at 7:45 am. Seth Goodall, New England Administrator for the U.S. Small Business Administration, will be the speaker.*

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Watson and seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti. Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*