



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 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

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m. by Mayor Flax.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Members Absent: Councilor Grim

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, and Town Clerk Office Assistant II Nathan Caron.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mr. Potter.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Potter of 154 Walker Hill Road spoke on the proposed sale of the William Seely School property to Kincora Development, LLC. Mr. Potter's comments were submitted for record.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2016-0059 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 2, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2016-0039 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Sharon Montalbano in Memory of Alice Lettrech - \$10.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Hugo Simonelli - \$250.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

SI Financial Group Foundation - \$1,000 - Library Renovations

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

- 2016-0032 **National League of Cities Membership**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0033 **Establishment of Shared Services Task Force with Board of Education**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0046 **Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0050 **Appointment of Juan Melendez, Jr. to Water Pollution Control Authority**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0051 **Appointment of Robert Frink to Housing Authority**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0052 **Reappointment of Susan Sutherland to Zoning Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0053 **Reappointment of Kenneth Steere to Harbor Management Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0054 **Reappointment of Allan Gaudet to Permanent School Building Committee**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0055 **Reappointment of Edward Martin to Shellfish Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0056 **Reappointment of Margil Steinfeld to Planning Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0057 **Reappointment of James Kamercia to Parks and Recreation Commission**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0058 **Public Hearing on Small Cities Community Development Block Grant 2016 Application**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0044 **Adoption of 2016 Personnel and Appointments Committee Regular Meeting Schedule**
This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2016-0060 **Resolution Authorizing Payment of Arbitration Award to Pettini Contracting Corp.**
This Matter was Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting 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 Morton stated that she attended the Southeastern Council of Governments meeting on February 11, 2016. She reported that the Council of Governments received a report from Electric Boat regarding hiring qualified tradespeople. She stated that Electric Boat has reached out to local high schools and colleges in an effort to promote the trades (carpentry, welding, and plumbing). Councilor Watson commented that Grasso Technical High School is considering discontinuing its carpentry program.

Councilor Peruzzotti stated that she attended the Town/City Council/Board of Education/RTM

Liaison Committee meeting on February 3, 2016.

Councilor Watson reported that he attended the Take Your Child to the Library event on February 6, 2016. He stated that he attended the Town/City Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on February 3, 2016. He announced that this committee meets the first Wednesday of every month.

Councilor Nault stated she attended the Representative Town Meeting Finance Sub-Committee meeting and the regular Representative Town Meeting on Wednesday, February 10, 2016. She stated that she attended the Sub Century Meeting on Friday, February 12, 2016. She announced that she will be attending a Learning Lunch meeting with the Mystic Chamber on February 17, 2016.

Councilor de la Cruz announced that he attended a vigil in New London on February 4, 2016 for drug addiction awareness. He stated that he attended the vigil to stand in solidarity with local communities dealing with drug related issues. He reported that he attended a round-table discussion regarding drug addiction with U.S. Senator Blumenthal and U.S. Representative Courtney at the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital on February 16, 2016. He announced that there will be a Community Speaks Out meeting at the Groton Public Library on February 17, 2016 from 6PM-8PM. Councilor de la Cruz reported the following accidental intoxication (drug related) death statistics for the State of Connecticut:

2012-357

2013-495

2014-568

2015-723

Mayor Flax stated that he met with the Economic Development Commission Chair and the Groton Long Point President on February, 3, 2016. He stated that he attended the Town/City Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on February 3, 2016 and the RTM Finance Committee meeting on February 4, 2016. He announced that he attended the Groton Public Library tour on February 6, 2016. He stated that he attended a FOI hearing in Hartford, Connecticut on February 9, 2016. He reported on receiving an inquiry from a citizen about a possible senior citizen check-up program through the police department. He reported on citizen inquiries regarding the Charter Revision Commission.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that the Representative Town Meeting approved the proposed sale of the William Seely School property at the February 10, 2016 meeting. She stated that the next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2016 at 7:30PM at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that February 16, 2016 was the first day of employment for Nathan Caron, an Office Assistant II in the Clerk's Office. She stated that she received the same correspondence (via e-mail) from Mr. Potter, and that they are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reviewed items from the weekly status report with the Town Council.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger announced that the One Book, One Region program this year will begin at the Groton Public Library this month. This year's author is Byron Stevenson. Mr. Stevenson wrote the book Just Mercy, and he will appear at Connecticut College on April 4, 2016. Groton Public Library is a primary supporter of the program.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance

No meeting, no report.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson

Councilor Watson stated that the Personnel Committee met on February 9th, 2016, and appointments and re-appointments were made. He stated that the Committee voted on the schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year.

d. Rules

Councilor Watson stated the Temporary Rules Procedure Committee met on February 4, 2016, and that he will submit minutes from the meeting. He stated that the Committee will have another meeting to discuss comparisons between the 29th and 27th Council rules at an upcoming meeting.

e. Public Safety

No meeting, no report.

f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

Mayor Flax stated that the Committee of the Whole met on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 and voted on all the items on the agenda for this February 16, 2016 meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS**2016-0032****National League of Cities Membership**

AUTHORIZATION TO SEND TWO TOWN COUNCILORS TO THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONGRESSIONAL CITY CONFERENCE

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) is sponsoring the Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 5 -9, 2016, and

WHEREAS, Councilors Harry Watson and Bonnie Nault has expressed an interest in attending the conference, and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for trip is approximately \$5,000.00 and the current balance in Town Council Professional Development (10010 5210) is \$2,338.00, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes two Town Councilors to attend the NLC Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. from March 5 - 9, 2016 with \$2,338.00 charged to Legislative Policy (1001) and the balance charged to Executive Management (1010).

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0033**Establishment of Shared Services Task Force with Board of Education**

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING A JOINT TOWN COUNCIL/BOARD OF EDUCATION SHARED SERVICES TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, at the January 19, 2016 joint meeting of the Town Council Committee of the Whole and Board of Education the groups discussed the establishment of a joint task force on shared services consisting of three members of the Town Council and three members of the Board of Education, and

WHEREAS, at the February 3, 2016 meeting of the Town Council/City Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee the idea of a joint task force on shared services between the Town and Board of Education was positively received, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council expresses support for the establishment of a Joint Task Force on Shared Services and looks forward to discussing the mission and timetable of the task force with the Board of Education so that the task force can be appointed.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0044 Adoption of 2016 Personnel and Appointments Committee Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2016 TOWN COUNCIL PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council Personnel and Appointments Committee regular meeting schedule for 2016 as follows:

Tuesday, March 1, 2016 (Special Meeting)
 Tuesday April 5, 2016
 Tuesday, May 3, 2016
 Tuesday, June 7, 2016
 Tuesday, July 5, 2016
 Tuesday, August 2, 2016
 Tuesday, September 6, 2016
 Tuesday, October 4, 2016
 Tuesday, November 1, 2016
 Tuesday, December 6, 2016

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the first Tuesday of each month.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0046 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

RESOLVED, that the following individual is appointed as noted:
 Cable Television Advisory Council - William Johnson, 295 South Road

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0050 Appointment of Juan Melendez, Jr. to Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION APPOINTING JUAN MELENDEZ, JR. TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Juan A. Melendez, Jr., 228 Heather Glen Lane, Mystic, is hereby appointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending 5/24/17.

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

Councilor de la Cruz spoke in favor of Mr. Melendez's appointment stating that it is encouraging to see your people get involved with our Boards and Commissions.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0051 Appointment of Robert Frink to Housing Authority

RESOLUTION APPOINTING ROBERT FRINK TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Robert Frink, 144 Seneca Drive, is hereby appointed to the Groton Housing Authority for a term ending 7/31/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0052 Reappointment of Susan Sutherland to Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING SUSAN SUTHERLAND TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Susan K. Sutherland, 32 Neptune Drive, is hereby reappointed to the Zoning Commission for a term ending 12/31/20.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0053 Reappointment of Kenneth Steere to Harbor Management Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KENNETH STEERE TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Kenneth Steere, 144 East Shore Avenue, Groton Long Point is hereby reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission for a term expiring 9/1/18.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0054 Reappointment of Allan Gaudet to Permanent School Building Committee

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ALLAN GAUDET TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Allan Gaudet, 160 Walker Hill Road, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/18.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0055 Reappointment of Edward Martin to Shellfish Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING EDWARD MARTIN TO THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Edward Martin, 17 Woodland Drive, is reappointed to the Shellfish Commission for a term expiring 12/31/20.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0056 Reappointment of Margil Steinfeld to Planning Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARGIL STEINFORD TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Margil L. Steinfeld, 32 Valley Road, is reappointed to the Planning Commission for a term ending 12/31/20.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0057 Reappointment of James Kamercia to Parks and Recreation Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JAMES KAMERCIA TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that James Kamercia, 41 Meech Avenue, is hereby reappointed as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term ending 12/31/20.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0058

Public Hearing on Small Cities Community Development Block Grant 2016 Application

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT 2016 APPLICATION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Town of Groton's Small Cities Community Development Block Grant 2016 Application on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0060

Resolution Authorizing Payment of Arbitration Award to Pettini Contracting Corp.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO PETTINI CONTRACTING CORPORATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARBITRATION AWARD RELATING TO THE MYSTIC STREETSCAPES AND UTILITY RELOCATION PROJECT

WHEREAS, Pettini Contracting Corporation ("PCC"), the contractor hired by the Town of Groton to perform the Mystic Streetscapes and Utility Relocation Project, commenced an arbitration proceeding with the American Arbitration Association ("AAA") against the Town claiming entitlement to additional monetary sums, and

WHEREAS, AAA rendered an Interim Award dated December 8, 2015, and Corrected Final Award dated February 2, 2016, and ultimately found that the Town shall pay to PCC the total sum of \$600,070.05, now therefore be it:

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes, subject to approval of the RTM, payment to PCC in the amount of \$600,070.05 from the Capital Reserve fund, and be it further

RESOLVED, this matter shall be referred to the RTM under Rule 6.5.3.

A motion was made by Councilor Barber, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting.

Councilor Antipas stated that in the future he suggests that the Town Council looks at arbitration clauses in all major contracts.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

The was no other business.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Watson and seconded by Councilor Nault. Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:09p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Nathan Caron, Office Assistant II