



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 Patrice Granatosky, Councilor David Atwater, Councilor Conrad F. Heede, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Granatosky called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri

Also present were Town Manager John Burt and Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

II. PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Granatosky recessed the Town Council meeting at 6:32 pm in order to conduct a Public Hearing.

Town Clerk Moukawsher read the call for the Public Hearing.

2018-0050 Lease of Town Hall Annex Office Space to Poquonnock Bridge Fire District

No citizens asked to speak at the Public Hearing.

Mayor Granatosky closed the Public Hearing at 6:33 pm.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Suspension of Town Council Rule 7)b) to consider and act on:

Councilor Moravsik made a motion to suspend Town Council Rule 7)b), seconded by Councilor Zeppieri. The motion carried unanimously.

2018-0073 Resolution Approving Amount of Bonds to be Issued in FYE 2018

RESOLUTION APPROVING AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO BE SOLD

WHEREAS, at referendum held November 6, 2012, the Town of Groton appropriated \$11,200,000 and authorized general purpose bonds in such amount for the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Project pursuant to Ordinance No. 277; and

WHEREAS, on April 16, 2014 the Town of Groton issued \$3,715,000 general purpose bonds for the Road Maintenance Program pursuant to Ordinance No. 277; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2017 the Town Council allocated additional available bond proceeds in the amount of \$791,779.25 to the project; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2017 and April 12, 2017, the Town Council and the Representative Town Meeting, respectively, extended the appropriation and borrowing authorization for such project; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 277 authorizes the Town Council to determine the amount of bonds to be sold; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$6,690,000 bonds be sold pursuant to said Ordinance.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Heede, that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Zeppieri stated that he will vote for this resolution, but he spoke against the concept of bonding to pay for paving roads. He stated that we are kicking the payment down the road at the expense of many thousands of dollars in interest fees for something that we routinely do. He stated that in the future, we should set up a designated fund for paving roads and fund this account annually. He stated that if we don't prepare for future paving projects, we will need another bond issued to pay for it.

Councilor Obrey stated that she prefers patching roads instead of paving. She stated that it is a mistake to continue this program. She stated that the interest rates have increased from what was originally bonded. She stated that the Town should not bond for this project.

Councilor Moravsik reviewed past practice stating that there had been a fund set aside for road paving projects. He stated that the funds were frequently used for other expenditures. He stated that as a result, over the years the roads deteriorated to the point that something had to be done. He stated that this was the reason the Town issued bonds. He agrees that we should not continue to bond for road paving projects. He stated that we should consider road paving as a Capital Improvement Project or an annual line item in the budget. He stated that these funds should be in a lock box so that the funds can't be used for other projects.

Town Manager Burt stated that he completely agrees that the Town should get away from bonding to pay for road paving. He stated that this resolution is for work that has been completed and the Council needs to approve it.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Obrey

Suspension of Town Council Rule 7)b) to consider and act on:

Councilor Parker made a motion to suspend Town Council Rule 7)b), seconded by Councilor Moravsik. The motion carried unanimously.

2018-0075 Resolution Zeroing Out Bond Authorization for Additions/Renovations to Senior Center

RESOLUTION ZEROING OUT THE BOND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE ADDITIONS/RENOVATIONS TO SENIOR CENTER

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton, Connecticut, appropriated the sum of \$11,770,000 and authorized the issue of bonds in the same amount by ordinance adopted by the Town Council at meetings held June 19, 2007 and October 16, 2012 and approved by the Representative Town Meetings on August 8, 2007 and November 1, 2012 and at a referendum held November 6, 2007, for Additions/Renovations to Senior Center; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance provided that the Town Council would determine the amount of such bonds to be issued; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the issuance of \$375,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2014, Lot B (Federally Taxable) and \$9,675,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2009, said authorization was reduced to \$2,470,000; and

WHEREAS, there will be no requirement for future borrowings on the project; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued shall be reduced to \$-0-.

A motion was made by Councilor Parker, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

No discussion.

The motion carried unanimously

Suspension of Town Council Rule 7)b) to consider and act on:

Councilor Franco moved to suspend Town Council Rule 7)b), seconded by Councilor Zeppieri. The motion carried unanimously.

2018-0087 Resolution Zeroing Out Bond Authorization for Thames Street Rehabilitation

RESOLUTION ZEROING OUT THE BOND AUTHORIZATION FOR THE THAMES STREET REHABILITATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton, Connecticut, appropriated the sum of \$6,375,505 and authorized the issue of bonds in the same amount by ordinance adopted by the Town Council at meetings held February 8, 2011 and February 2, 2016 and approved by the Representative Town Meeting on March 9, 2011 and March 9, 2016 and at a referendum held May 2, 2011, for Thames Street Rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance provided that the Town Council would determine the amount of such bonds to be issued; and

WHEREAS, in connection with the issuance of \$8,945,000 General Obligation Bonds, Issue of 2014, Lot A, said authorization was reduced to \$1,145,505; and

WHEREAS, there will be no requirement for future borrowings on the project; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the total amount of such bonds remaining authorized but unissued shall be reduced to \$-0-.

A motion was made by Councilor Franco, seconded by Councilor Parker, that this matter be Adopted.

No discussion.

The motion carried unanimously

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Heede made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Parker. Mayor Granatosky accepted the motion and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher
Groton Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*