



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Town Council

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Watson and Councilor Antipas
Members Absent: Councilor Flax and Councilor Peruzzotti

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

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Mayor led the Salute to the Flag.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2015-0101 Proclamation Recognizing National Arbor Day

Read

Councilor Watson read this proclamation.

2015-0113 Proclamation Recognizing Soroptimist International

Read

Councilor Cerf read this proclamation.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Administrative Items

2015-0112 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Dana Parfitt - \$35.55 - Social Services Discretionary

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Various Donations - \$60.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

City of Groton - \$577.80 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2015-0111 Fiscal Impact of Refurbishment of WPCF Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of Fishtown Road Pump Station

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

2015-0086 Hyde Pond Dam Removal

This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

2015-0095 FYE 2015 Fourth Quarter Transfers

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 Moravsik, 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 read from a web featured article depicting options to relieve drug addictions for individuals that do not have health insurance. He suggested that any individuals that need help could call SCADD or the local police department.

Councilor Frink reported that he participated in the Pequot Woods site walk led by Bray Rafferty on April 25, 2015. He also had a communication from Neil Spillane regarding the possibility of returning the state-owned John Mason Monument to the Town of Groton.

Councilor Moravsik attended the SEAT meeting on April 15, 2015, the Town Council Public Safety Committee meeting on April 22, 2015, the Long Island Sound Advisory Committee meeting on April 27, 2015, the Chamber of Commerce meeting on April 30, 2015, and the Boating Advisory Committee meeting on April 30, 2015.

Councilor Watson attended the Arbor Day ceremony at the Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School on April 24, 2015 and the USS Groton Sail Steering Committee meeting on April 22, 2015.

Councilor Cerf attended the RTM Annual Meeting on April 29, 2015.

Councilor Antipas attend the opening ceremony for the Groton Little League Softball organization on April 25, 2015.

Mayor Schmidt attended Town Council Public Safety meeting, the USS Groton Sail Steering Committee meeting, the Arbor Day ceremony, the Soroptimist International convention, and the Board of Education meeting regarding the proposed new middle school. She reported not receiving any emails or phone calls to report.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that the RTM will continue with their FYE 2016 budget deliberations on May 7, 13, 14, 18, 2015. May 13, 2015 is a regular RTM meeting followed by the continuance of the Annual Meeting. All meetings are held at the Groton Senior Center starting at 7:00 p.m., except for the May 13th meeting. That meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that she attended the MASH, Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality, Annual Gala on May 1st at the River Room at Mystic Seaport. There were over 226 people in attendance. She attend the Groton Rotary Meeting on May 5th. She reported on the training session with Cott for the new Toby Trax and Marriage Marshall programs. She will report on the success of the programs at a later date.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger announced that the Noank School Community Garden will have a kick off ceremony on May 9th from 10 am - 3 pm.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz**

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

Mayor Schmidt reported that in addition to tonight's agenda items, the Committee of the Whole had an update on the WPCA and Fishtown Road pump station and on the disposition of the William Seely School property.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2015-0086 Hyde Pond Dam Removal

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CONNECTICUT FUND FOR THE ENVIRONMENT FOR REMOVAL OF HYDE POND DAM

WHEREAS, Hyde Pond is a 5.5 acre pond on Whitford Brook, which forms the border of Groton and Stonington in Old Mystic, and

WHEREAS, the dam at the southern end of the pond is in poor condition and is owned by the Town of Groton on the Groton side, and

WHEREAS, the Long Island Sound Study Habitat Restoration data base indicates that removal of the Hyde Pond Dam would restore 4.1 miles of fishable waters, and

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) has secured funds to remove the dam to restore historic fish passage in Whitford Brook, and

WHEREAS, CFE is asking the Town of Groton to enter into a memorandum of agreement to allow access to the Town open space abutting the pond in order to remove Hyde Pond Dam, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign a memorandum of agreement with the Connecticut Fund for the Environment to allow access to Town-owned open space to facilitate removal of Hyde Pond Dam.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0095 FYE 2015 Fourth Quarter Transfers

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2015 FOURTH QUARTER TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for supplemental appropriations to Adopted Budgets and transfers from the Contingency function during the year and

WHEREAS, the Town Charter also provides for the transfer of funds from one departmental function to another departmental function during the last three months of the fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, transfers and a supplemental appropriation are necessary and represent unforeseen or unexpected expenditures at the time the FYE 2015 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that transfers totaling \$288,630 be transferred from Contingency (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and transfers of \$10,000 or more are referred to the RTM for approval:

Human Services (#10511-5609) Evictions @ \$2,989;
for unreimbursed relocation costs of City residents

Legal Services (#10060-5290) @ \$175,000;
for costs associated labor negotiations and Pettini lawsuit

Regional Agencies (#10071-5230) @ \$1;
Agency billed more than budgeted amount

Finance (#10130 5109) @ \$15,600;
For accumulated leave payment due to employee retirement & resignation

Public Works Snow/Ice Control (#10356 various) \$95,040;
For additional costs associated with materials and supplies, overtime, allowances & increased utilities related to the extreme winter weather; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a supplemental appropriation of \$286,936 from the General Fund unassigned fund balance be made to the following function and referred to the RTM for approval:

Public Works Snow/Ice Control (#10356 various);
For additional costs associated with materials and supplies, overtime, allowances & increased utilities related to the extreme winter weather.

A motion was made by Councilor de la Cruz, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Cerfechoed her concern on the subject that Councilor de la Cruz shared earlier in the meeting. She would like to develop a program to encourage the public and youth to seek help with drug addiction. Councilor de la Cruz will call a meeting of the Community Relations Committee. Town Manager suggested that Ledge Light Health District and the Town Social Services department be included in this meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Moravsik and so taken 8:12 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*