



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, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Schmidt

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 Sidney Van Zandt.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2012-0131 Proclamation Recognizing Noank Community Market

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Peruzzotti.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Andrew Lavery, 210 Poquonnock Road, is running for State Representative in the 40th District. He stated that he will strive to bring fiscal sanity to Hartford.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0140 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 1, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2012-0127 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

The Sunup Foundation - \$10,000 - Library Miscellaneous
First United Methodist Church - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$8.32 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Frederic Franzius - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Sound Home Builders - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 City of Groton Matching Funds - \$929.12 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2012-0049 Purchase of Fusconi Property, Crystal Lake Road

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

2012-0110 Connecticut Dial-A-Ride Grant

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

2012-0133 Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) Request for Endorsement of Candlewood Ridge (Lambtown Road) Land Purchase

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

2012-0135 Summer Food Service Program (2012)

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

2012-0137 Public Hearing on Small Cities Community Block Grant 2012 Application

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

2012-0138 Public Information Meeting for Crystal Lake Road Operational and Safety Improvements Project

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

2012-0139 Appointment of Susan Sayer to Zoning Commission

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 Antipas, 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

Councilor Watson, Councilor Peruzzotti, and Mayor Somers attended the opening ceremony for the Noank Community Market.

Councilor Streeter noted that he will be giving a presentation entitled "Who was Robert E. Fitch?" on May 20, 2012.

Councilor Flax received an email regarding fire districts and attended an S.B. Butler chorus concert.

Councilor Watson attended a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Noank Rowing Club.

Mayor Somers announced that a joint Town Council/Board of Education meeting to discuss a school planning task force will be held on May 29, 2012, and a Town Council meeting to discuss the budget approach for next year will be held on June 16, 2012. She attended a SubFest welcome reception and received a communication regarding OpSail 2012.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM is continuing to meet for its annual budget sessions, which will conclude on or before May 25, 2012. The next regular RTM meeting will be held on June 13, 2012.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk announced the upcoming 'Get Tagged' campaign which will remind dog owners to register their dogs in the month of June. It was noted that this year's historical grant application request has been received by the State Library for a software upgrade for the computer program utilized for indexing Land Records.

2012-0146 Ordinance Changing and Redefining the Voting Districts**ORDINANCE CHANGING AND REDEFINING THE VOTING DISTRICTS**

A referral was requested for an ordinance to change and redefine voting districts.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager expressed his gratitude for the generous contribution to the Library Miscellaneous account of \$10,000 from The Sunup Foundation. He noted the need for a Groton Resource Recovery Authority (GRRRA) meeting to discuss fees. By consensus, the GRRRA will meet on May 22, 2012.

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 O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of May 8, 2012, which are on file at the Town Clerk's office.

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

Mayor Somers noted that the Committee of the Whole discussed reuse of the Noank School, the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) grant application, improvements to Crystal Lake Road, the summer food program, and the baseball field.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Flax noted that the rope on the banner hanging over the street in downtown Mystic breaks every few weeks. The Town Manager will contact the Mystic Chamber of Commerce.

The Town Manager stated that the Town is working with the contractor for the Mystic Streetscape to complete the project by June 30, 2012. However, an extension has been requested by the contractor.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2012-0049 Purchase of Fusconi Property, Crystal Lake Road**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF THE FUSCONI PROPERTY AT 5 CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD

WHEREAS, the Fusconi Dry Cleaners site at 5 Crystal Lake Road is located directly across the street from the main gate of the U.S. Submarine Base, and

WHEREAS, the Fusconi Dry Cleaners building and site have remained closed and vacant for over five years and are currently in a state of disrepair, and

WHEREAS, acquisition of the site is necessary to accommodate future traffic improvements in the vicinity of Crystal Lake Road and Military Highway; allow for the removal of a deteriorating building; undertake general clean-up of the site; and mitigate future encroachment near the SUBASE, and

WHEREAS, the State Bond Commission at its April 27, 2012 meeting approved \$455,000 in funding for the purchase of the property by the Town of Groton including demolition and administrative costs, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Council has previously authorized the preparation and signing of a purchase sales agreement to purchase the Fusconi property for \$367,900, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager is hereby authorized to acquire a parcel of land owned by Remo Fusconi Trust located at 5 Crystal Lake Road for the sum of \$367,900 pursuant to the provisions of the previously authorized purchase sales agreement, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is hereby authorized to accept a deed for said parcel upon approval of the Town Attorney.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Councilor Watson, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on July 11, 2012.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0133 Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) Request for Endorsement of Candlewood Ridge (Lambtown Road) Land Purchase

RESOLUTION ENDORSING GROTON OPEN SPACE ASSOCIATION'S APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY PROTECTION'S OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION GRANT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA) has requested the Groton Town Council's endorsement of an application for grant funds to purchase a parcel of land located on Lambtown Road and Route 184 referred to by GOSA as "Candlewood Ridge," now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council endorses GOSA's application to the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental and Energy Protection's Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program for the Candlewood Ridge parcel on Lambtown Road and Route 184.

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

Councilor O'Beirne disclosed that he is a member of the Groton Open Space Association (GOSA).

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0135 Summer Food Service Program (2012)

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS TO OPERATE A 2012 SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN IN GROTON

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provides funding through the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs, for a Summer Food Service Program for Children, and

WHEREAS, the Summer Food Service Program for Children promotes and provides good nutrition during the summer months when at-risk, low-income children are not receiving the benefits of the Federal School Breakfast/Lunch Program through their schools, and

WHEREAS, units of local government may act as sponsors for the Summer Food Service Program and the Town of Groton is capable of administering Groton's Summer Food Service Program for Children, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, is authorized to enter into an agreement with the Connecticut State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs for the purpose of establishing and operating a Groton based Summer Food Service Program for Children, overseen by the Parks and Recreation Department and Administrative Services Department, during the months of June, July and August 2012 and sign claims for reimbursement, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the absence or incapacity of the first designated individual (Town Manager Oefinger), the Town Finance Director, Salvatore M. Pandolfo, is designated to sign claims for reimbursement.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0137

Public Hearing on Small Cities Community Block Grant 2012 Application

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE SMALL CITIES COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT 2012 APPLICATION

RESOLVED, that the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Town of Groton's Small Cities Community Block Grant 2012 Application on Tuesday, June 5, 2012, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0138

Public Information Meeting for Crystal Lake Road Operational and Safety Improvements Project

RESOLUTION SETTING PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING DATE FOR CRYSTAL LAKE ROAD OPERATIONAL AND SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council directs staff to conduct a public information meeting on the Crystal Lake Road Operational and Safety Improvements Project on Thursday, May 24, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. in Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

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

Councilor O'Beirne and Mayor Somers strongly encouraged citizens to attend this informational meeting so that they can understand the safety concerns and the full scope of the project. The main gate to the SubBase is on Crystal Lake Road, and the Council of Governments (COG) supports this project.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0139 Appointment of Susan Sayer to Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING SUSAN SAYER AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Susan Sayer, 37 Bayview Avenue, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Zoning Commission, for a term expiring 9/30/13.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Watson announced that a Town Council/Board of Education/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting will be held on June 6, 2012.

2012-0153 CRIBZ Presentation on Attracting New Businesses

CRIBZ PRESENTATION ON ATTRACTING NEW BUSINESSES

A referral was requested to allow a group of citizens (CRIBZ) to make a presentation to share its ideas and research regarding encouraging new business in town.

2012-0154 Historic District Commission Regular Membership

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION REGULAR MEMBERSHIP

A referral was requested to discuss the permanent membership of the Historic District Commission.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. was made by Councilor Peruzzotti, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant