



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

Tuesday, July 21, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Schmidt.

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

Members Absent: Councilor Antipas

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher, and Office Assistant Carol Buckingham.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Steven Panikoff.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Steven Panikoff, 174 South Shore Avenue, Groton, stated that he is on the Board of Directors for the Groton Long Point Association. He presented a letter to the Town Council commenting on his pleasure with the efforts made by the Public Works Department while repaving West Shore Avenue. He stated that residents have had positive comments regarding the project.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Cerf commented about how great it is to merge services. She asked for data regarding the cost for roads in GLP. Councilor Mroavsik provided her with details to the costs of the roads.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2015-0180 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meetings of June 9, 2015, June 16, 2015, and June 23, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2015-0173 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Shamrock Associates - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Keith and Joyce Hedrick - \$70.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park

Lian Obrey & Joan Konicki - \$40.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park

Mark Oefinger - \$40.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park

Glenn & Maureen Gerrish - \$40.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park
 Nancy Barnhart - \$40.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park
 Marcia Gipstein - \$50.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park
 Miscellaneous Donations - \$1,980.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park
 Meineke Car Care Center - \$250.00 - Veterans' Memorial Park
 James & Kelly Jengo - \$100.00 - Animal Shelter Miscellaneous
 B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 2163 - \$1,000.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Ruth Beasley - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Caroline Cochran - \$20.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Mary Farfara - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Mildred Ebbin - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Thomas Santos - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Robert Ashworth & Linda Johansen - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Donald & Linda Gunn - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Edward & Mary Lord Foundation - \$10,000 - Library Miscellaneous
 Wayne & Carole Brown - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Theresa Courchaine - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Alpha Delta Kappa-Zeta Chapter - \$300.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$7.23 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Fred & Gail Yeo - \$175.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Trillium Garden Club - \$400.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$525.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Mr. & Mrs. John Keane - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Christine Brown - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Paul Thomas - \$300.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Gay Myers - \$250.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Arthur & Marie Shaw - \$250.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Robert Hanson - \$750.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Betty Tyloska - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Kayla Eusebio - \$13.50 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2015-0162 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Application (2015)

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

2015-0167 Noise Ordinance

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

2015-0182 U.S. Small Business Administration Startup in a Day Competition

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

2015-0183 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

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

2015-0185 Emergency Communications MOU with Navy

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 Peruzzotti attended the 4th of July Parade.

Councilor Cerf attended the Town Council Finance Committee meeting on July 21, 2015. She also toured the Copp Property and Trails led by Parks and Recreation Director Mark Berry. She expounded on the virtues of Central Bark, the dog park located on part of the Copp Property.

Councilor Watson attended the Public Safety Committee meeting on July 15, 2015. He reported that he received an email from Natalie Billing and Patrice Granatosky with information regarding the upcoming SEAT Public Hearings.

Councilor Moravsik attended the U.S.S. Groton Steering meeting on July 8, 2015, the U.S.S. Groton Site Selection Committee meeting on July 13, 2015, the Town Council Public Safety Committee meeting on July 15, 2015, and the Groton Business Association meeting on July 16, 2015. He read the schedule for the SEAT Public Hearings that will be held on July 27, 2015 in New London and on July 28, 2015 in Groton and Norwich.

Councilor Frink attended the Copp Property Tour on July 1, 2015, the Groton 4th of July Parade, the Economic Development Commission meeting on July 9, 2015, the School Facilities Initiative Task Force meeting on July 9, 2015, the Town Council Public Safety Committee meeting on July 15, 2015 and the Zoning Audit and Market Analysis meeting on July 20, 2015.

Councilor de la Cruz attended the 4th of July Parade, and he announced that there will be a presentation given by Police Chief Campanello from Gloucester, Massachusetts at Fitch Senior High School on July 23, 2015. The subject will center on the heroin and opiate drug addiction problems plaguing the nation and a new technique to help addicts. He encouraged everyone in the community with an interest to attend this presentation.

Mayor Schmidt reported that she attended the NR-1 Exhibit ribbon cutting at the Nautilus Museum and the annual meeting of the Mental Health Board of S.E. CT in Norwich on June 24, 2015. She also attended the Chamber Breakfast in Norwich on June 26, 2015, the Amtrak meeting in New London held by Senator Blumenthal on July 2, 2015, the Sub Vets Annual Meeting and Election of Officers on July 6, 2015, and on July 8, 2015, the Economic Development Commission meeting at the Groton Airport, the Schools Facilities Initiative Task Force meeting, and the COG meeting in Norwich. She attended the Public Safety Committee meeting on July 15, 2015 and the CURE ground breaking on the Pfizer Campus on July 20, 2015 where Governor Malloy spoke. She reported that she received letters from Brett and Mary Roberts regarding an incident that occurred in Groton Long Point, and a letter from Joan Scott, Eileen Sandt, Mary Voderman, Eva Blodzett and Millie Ebbin regarding the cost of Senior Center activities.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk reported that the RTM met on July 8, 2015 for their regular meeting. She reported that Antonio Burley was elected to fill the vacancy left by Dee Harrell's resignation for the 1st District.

She reported that upon the recommendation of the RTM Public Works Committee, the RTM took no vote on the Ordinance to Amend Sections 3 and 4 of Ordinance # 239. The RTM has 45 days from the adoption of the Ordinance to veto. That date is July 31, 2015.

She reported that she received an opinion from the Town Attorney as to the viability of a potential Power of Initiative for an Ordinance to set limits on annual budget increases and initiate a town-wide referendum to approve the increases.

She announced that the next regular RTM meeting is scheduled for August 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m.

at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk reported she received notice of Betsy Gibson's resignation as a Justice of the Peace. Ms. Gibson has moved out of the Town.

She reported that there will be a presentation by Gloucester's Chief of Police on their efforts to help those addicted to opiates. The Volunteer Angel Program presentation is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2015 at Fitch High School.

She announced that Party Endorsements by major parties for Municipal Office must be made between July 21 and July 28, 2015 and certification must be received in the Town Clerk's Office by 4:00 pm on July 29th.

She reported that 1689 dog licenses have been issued as of June 1, 2015. She stated that the Town issued a total 2090 dog licenses last year.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger announced the appointment of the new Economic Development Manager Paige Bronk. He reported that Groton has again been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), and he announced the invitation to attend the Community Speaks Out & Shine a Light On Heroin presentation by the Gloucester Police Department.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

Chairman Frink reported that the Committee met on July 21, 2015. He will file his report at the next meeting.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Public Safety - Chairman Moravsik

Councilor Moravsik gave a brief overview of his ongoing investigation with the Town's Ambulance service. His report is on file with the Town Clerk office.

f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

Mayor Schmidt reported that the Committee of the Whole met and approved all of the resolutions that are on tonight's agenda.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2015-0182 U.S. Small Business Administration Startup in a Day Competition

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION TO THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FOR THE "START UP IN A DAY - SMALL BUSINESS MODEL" COMPETITION

WHEREAS, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is conducting a "Startup in a Day Competition - Start Small Model" to spur the development, implementation, and improvement of online tools that will let entrepreneurs learn about the business startup process, including how to register and apply for all required local licenses and permits in one day or less, and

WHEREAS, the SBA will award no more than 25 prizes of up to \$50,000 each to cities that are selected as winners, and

WHEREAS, the subject of the competition is not just the development of online tools to streamline the business startup process, but also the implementation and improvement of such tools, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign and submit the Town of Groton's entry/proposal for the U.S. Small Business Administration's "Start Up in a Day-Small Business Model" competition.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0183 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

RESOLVED, that the following individual is appointed as noted:
School Facilities Initiative Task Force - Andrea Ackerman (Board of Education)

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0185 Emergency Communications MOU with Navy

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE UNITED STATES NAVY PROVIDING FORMAL GUIDANCE FOR THE RECEIPT AND TRANSFER OF 9-1-1 TELEPHONE CALLS ORIGINATING FROM SUBMARINE BASE NEW LONDON

WHEREAS, the U.S. Navy is establishing a Regional Communications Center in Norfolk, Virginia that will handle emergency communications for all U.S. Navy installations on the Atlantic coast of the United States, and

WHEREAS, once the new Navy Regional Communications Center becomes operational, the communications center at Submarine Base New London will be closed, and

WHEREAS, the United States Navy has requested a Memorandum of Understanding from the Town of Groton and the State of Connecticut formalizing the process transferring 9-1-1 telephone calls originating from the Submarine Base New London located in Groton, Connecticut, delivering said 9-1-1 calls to the U.S. Navy Regional Communications Center in Norfolk once it becomes operational, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Emergency Communications Center has been designated as the back-up receiving point for any 9-1-1 calls originating from the Submarine Base that cannot be automatically delivered to the Navy's Communications Center in Norfolk due to a system failure, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Emergency Communications Center will, after receiving said 9-1-1 calls, notify Submarine Base New London security or fire services as appropriate in the case of a system failure of the Navy's 9-1-1 system, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Memorandum of Understanding formalizes responsibilities of the U.S. Navy, Town of Groton and State of Connecticut for the protection of persons and property within Submarine Base New London, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager of the Town of Groton, is hereby authorized to sign said Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Town of Groton.

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

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so taken at 8:07 pm.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*