



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

Tuesday, August 18, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

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

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

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Sean Estep, Senior Patrol Leader for the Groton Boy Scouts, Troop 13.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2015-0202 Proclamation Celebrating Mary Motowidlak Connolly

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor Granatosky.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Steven Garmon, 96 Corey Road, recommend the removal of 12 stops signs and the 25 mph speed limit restrictions throughout his neighborhood. He stated that there needs to be a plan in place to halt the traffic that uses Corey Road as a detour when there is an accident on Interstate 95, exit 88 north. He reported vehicles traveling 45 miles an hour and running through stop signs. He stated that it took him 5 minutes to get out of his driveway last week because of the diverted highway traffic. He also would like someone to remind high school students who drive to school to obey the traffic laws.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor de la Cruz stated that Mr. Garmon is one of his neighbors. Councilor Antipas stated his understanding of the problem and he asked the Town Manager for his comments. The Town Manager noted that this subject is under consideration with the Traffic Authority. He stated that rerouting traffic during a accident situation is very difficult with limited manpower. He stated that there has been a lot of discussion throughout the region with no direct solution. He added that using warning signs could be helpful if they are timely. He further stated that the people using Corey Road to bypass Route 1 are familiar with the area and blocking the throughway may heighten the problem.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2015-0209 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 4, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

This matter was Adopted.

b. Administrative Items**2015-0192 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
 Various Donations - \$7.35 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$95.45 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Ronald Davis - \$100.00 - Library Renovations
 Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$175.00 - Library Renovations

This matter was Adopted.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2014-0164 Police Chief Recruitment**

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action.

2015-0031 Commercial Solid Waste Program

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action.

2012-0050 Potential Disposition of William Seely School Property

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0191 Referendum Date, Form of the Question, and Explanatory Text for the Refurbishment of the Water Pollution Control Facility Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of the Fishtown Road Pump Station Bond Ordinance

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0196 Reappointment of Robert Occhialini to Shellfish Commission

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0197 Reappointment of John Casey to Housing Authority

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0198 Appointment of William Gaynor as a Regular Member to Harbor Management Commission

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0203 Letter in Support of L&M Hospital's Affiliation with Yale

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0204 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0205 Referral of Aquarion Water Tower Easement to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0206 Referral of Sale of William Seely School Property to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

2015-0207 Scheduling of Public Hearing on the Sale of William Seely School Property

This matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Watson, The motion carried.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilor de la Cruz attended a meeting on August 18, 2015 at the Veterans Affairs Center in Cromwell where Senator Blumenthal discussed the prescription drug and heroin addiction epidemic with a consortium of local communities. He announced the event, United Against Addiction, that will take place in Washington, D.C. on October 4, 2015. Mayor Schmidt mentioned an article from the paper regarding the consideration of decriminalizing drug use. If adopted, courts will consider drug use and addiction a medical issue.

Councilor Frink attended the Economic Development Commission meeting on August 4, 2015 and the Mystic Rotary meeting on August 17, 2015 where Congressman Joe Courtney announced that a new Admiral and staff are being assigned to the Groton Sub Base. He received a citizen's request to name a Town Poet Laureate. He requested a referral to explore this idea. He received a letter from Jacob Kolwalsky in support of the Aluminum Falcons using space at Fitch Middle School for team practices.

Councilor Moravsik attended the U.S.S. Groton Sail Steering Committee meeting on August 12, 2015, the 78th WWII celebration at Fort Griswold on August 14, 2015, and the Mystic Rotary meeting on August 17, 2015.

Councilor Watson attended the U.S.S. Groton Sail Steering Committee meeting on August 12, 2015.

Councilor Flax stated that he received the same e-mails that were reported by Councilor Frink.

Councilor Peruzzotti asked the Town Manager for information on a request that the Town Council had received from a gentleman requesting the removal of a curb that is located in front of his home. She reported multiple e-mails from various community groups stating their interest in using space at Fitch Middle School.

Councilor Granatosky received an e-mail from Mr. McKennie regarding a noise complaint. The Town Manager explained that the Town does not have a Noise Ordinance and that Mr. McKennie has a neighbor problem. He listed services that the Town could use to assist Mr. McKennie with this problem.

Councilor Antipas attended the final game of the Schooners Collegiate Baseball Team. He received a request for an update on any progress with the Mardie Lane project. The Town Manager stated that he will get an update from the Town Attorney. He thanked the Town Council for his appointment as the Town Council Board of Education Liaison. He announced that he will be attending teacher contract negotiations. He asked for a referral to the Committee of the Whole to discuss this matter.

Mayor Schmidt attended a meeting on August 5, 2015 to discuss plans to celebrate the 100th birthday of the Submarine Base in October and events that are planned for the coming year. She met with the Harvest Group on August 10, 2015 regarding the U.S.S. Groton Sail. On August 13, 2015 she attended a tourism meeting at the Prudence Crandall House, and later that day she met with Mystic River Ambulance staff. On August 14, 2015 she attended a meeting held by Congressman Joe Courtney regarding the availability of municipal grants. She attended the Mystic Co-Op Task Force meeting on August 17, 2015. She received the same e-mails and letters as the other Councilors. She reported receiving a letter from the Department of Transportation that listed some paving projects. She also received a request from the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) for a proclamation honoring Constitution Week. She stated that Constitution Week will begin on September 17, 2015. She announced that Patrice Granatosky has been appointed to the Town Council Finance Committee.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the RTM met on August 12th where they passed the

Ordinance for Refurbishment of the Water Pollution Control Facility Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of Fishtown Road Pump Station with 24 in favor, 4 opposed. Rep Ambroise, Burley, Cini, and Kotowski opposed the motion. They tabled a motion to use the Power of Initiative to invoke the Town Council convene a Charter Revision Commission. The Moderator referred the issue to the RTM Rules and Procedures Committee with the instruction to send the meeting notice to all RTM members and Town Councilors. She reported that the RTM members in the 2nd District elected Lian Obrey to fill the vacancy left by Patrice Granatosky's resignation. She reported that the RTM members in the 7th District elected Bobbi Jo Cini to fill the vacancy left by Karen Hatcher's resignation. The next RTM meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2015, 7:30 pm at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the Town Clerk's office is preparing to accept e-recordings for Land Records. They are also getting ready for the upcoming Municipal Election. She reported that she participated in a demonstration by Satellite Biz of their credit card Point of Sale program. She reported that the Finance Director will be reviewing this and other credit card business options for the Town. She stated that Municipal Code is preparing the next codification of the Town Ordinances. She stated that all of the Town Ordinances are available online at municode.com or through the Town website.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that August 20, 2015 is the next School Facilities Initiative Task Force meeting. The analysis of the town-wide survey will be discussed. He encourage citizens to attend. He reviewed items from the Town Manager's weekly status report. He discussed potential items for the next Committee of the Whole meeting. He stated that he is working to put together meetings with the Board of Education members and with the State Legislators.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz

Chairman de la Cruz stated that he is planning a round table style forum with Senator Blumenthal. He stated that he will keep the Town Council informed of any dates that the Senator has available.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

Chairman Frink suggested that the Committee of the Whole meet with or without the Board of Education to discuss the 2017 budget.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

Chairman Flax reported that the Personnel and Appointments Committee met and endorsed the reappointments for Robert Occhialini to the Shellfish Commission, John Casey to the Housing Authority, and to appoint William Gaynor as a regular member to the Harbor Management Commission.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Public Safety - Chairman Moravsik

No meeting, no report.

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 the agenda.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2012-0050 Potential Disposition of William Seely School Property

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A PURCHASE AND SALE AGREEMENT WITH KINCORA DEVELOPMENT, LLC FOR THE WILLIAM SEELY

SCHOOL PROPERTY, WALKER HILL ROAD

WHEREAS, Kincora Development, LLC of Waltham, Massachusetts has expressed an interest in purchasing the Town owned William Seely School property on Walker Hill Road, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered Kincora Development's acquisition of the property on numerous occasions, and

WHEREAS, the Town Attorney has worked with Kincora Development's counsel to prepare a Purchase and Sale Agreement that has been reviewed by the Town Council, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger to sign a Purchase and Sale Agreement with Kincora Development, LLC for the William Seely School property, Walker Hill Road.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0206 Referral of Sale of William Seely School Property to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

RESOLUTION REFERRING THE SALE OF THE WILLIAM SEELY SCHOOL PROPERTY TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24

RESOLVED, tht the Town Council refers the sale of the William Seely School property to the Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24.

A motion was made by Councilor Granatosky, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, that this matter be Referred to the Planning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0207 Scheduling of Public Hearing on the Sale of William Seely School Property

RESOLUTION SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SALE OF THE WILLIAM SEELY SCHOOL PROPERTY

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council will hold a public hearing pursuant to CGS Sec. 7-163e on the proposed sale of the William Seely School property on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall Annex, Community Room 1.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0191 Referendum Date, Form of the Question, and Explanatory Text for the Refurbishment of the Water Pollution Control Facility Effluent Pump Station and Rehabilitation of the Fishtown Road Pump Station Bond Ordinance

RESOLUTION SETTING REFERENDUM DATE AND FORM OF THE QUESTION AND AUTHORIZING EXPLANATORY TEXT FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY EFFLUENT PUMP STATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE FISHTOWN ROAD PUMP STATION BOND ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Representative Town Meeting of the Town of Groton have approved an "ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$8,230,000 FOR THE DESIGN AND REFURBISHMENT OF THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY EFFLUENT PUMP STATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE FISHTOWN ROAD PUMP STATION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION", now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the ordinance be submitted for approval or rejection at a referendum to be held

Tuesday, November 3, 2015. Voters approving the ordinance will vote "Yes" and those opposing the ordinance will vote "No", and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the question to be printed on the ballots shall be worded as follows:

"SHALL THE ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$8,230,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT FOR DESIGN AND REFURBISHMENT TO THE WPCF EFFLUENT PUMP STATION AND REHABILITATION OF THE FISHTOWN ROAD PUMP STATION BE APPROVED?", and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to issue any and all warnings, publish all such notices, and file all such statements and reports concerning said referendum as provided by law, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to prepare a concise explanatory text regarding said Ordinance, such text and explanatory material to be subject to the approval of the Town Attorney and to be prepared and distributed in accordance with Section 9-369b of the Connecticut General Statutes.

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried unanimously

2015-0196 Reappointment of Robert Occhialini to Shellfish Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING ROBERT OCCHIALINI AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER OF THE SHELLFISH COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Robert R. Occhialini, 49 Prospect Hill Road, is reappointed as an alternate member of the Shellfish Commission for a term ending 12/31/19.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried unanimously

2015-0197 Reappointment of John Casey to Housing Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JOHN CASEY TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that John P. Casey, 65 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Groton Housing Authority for a term ending 7/31/20.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried unanimously

2015-0198 Appointment of William Gaynor as a Regular Member to Harbor Management Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM GAYNOR AS A REGULAR MEMBER (FROM AN ALTERNATE MEMBER) TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that William G. Gaynor, 377 Tyler Avenue, is appointed as a regular member (from an alternate member) to the Harbor Management Commission, for a term ending 9/1/16.

A motion was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Adopted. The motion carried unanimously

2015-0203 Letter in Support of L&M Hospital's Affiliation with Yale

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SEND A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED AFFILIATION BETWEEN L&M HEALTHCARE, INC. AND YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH SYSTEM

WHEREAS, Mayor Schmidt has proposed submitting a letter to the State Office of Health Care Access in support of the proposed affiliation between L&M Healthcare, Inc. and Yale New Haven

Health System, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a draft of the letter, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council supports submission of the letter from Mayor Schmidt in support of the proposed affiliation between L&M Healthcare, Inc. and Yale New Haven Health System.

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

Councilor Frink stated that he will vote no because he disagrees with the Town Council approving or endorsing mergers and affiliations.

Councilor Antipas concurred with Councilor Frink's statement.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 5 - Mayor Schmidt, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Opposed: 4 - Councilor Frink, Councilor Granatosky, Councilor Moravsik and Councilor Antipas

2015-0204 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

RESOLVED, that the following individual is appointed as noted:

Eastern Regional Mental Health Board Catchment Area Council - David Hume, 157 Deerfield Ridge Drive, Mystic

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0205 Referral of Aquarion Water Tower Easement to Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24

REFERRAL TO PLANNING COMMISSION UNDER CGS SECTION 8-24 OF A PROPOSAL TO GRANT AN EASEMENT OVER A PORTION OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTY TO AQUARION WATER COMPANY FOR A WATER TOWER

RESOLVED, that the Town Council refers to the Planning Commission, pursuant to CGS Section 8-24, the granting of an easement over a portion of Town owned property at Northeast Academy to Aquarion Water Company for construction of a water tower.

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz, that this matter be Referred to the Planning Commission.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Peruzzotti requested a referral to discuss the Rules of the 29th Town Council regarding various items. She stated her disappointment with members who are discussing subcommittee items at public meetings. She stated that all items must be approved by the Town Council before sharing the information with the public. She stated that Councilors should be aware that this behavior gives the public the impression that a specific item has been approved by the whole Town Council, when in fact it is only in committee.

Councilor Watson suggested that the purpose and function of the Town Council subcommittees should be discussed at that meeting.

Councilor Moravsik added that members need to put their request for referrals in writing to the Mayor for consideration, as per the Town Council rules.

Councilor Flax requested that until the Committee of the Whole has the opportunity to discuss this referral, that all Councilors refrain from representing the Town Council at any outside meeting.

Mayor Schmidt stated that this has been the preferred practice and that Councilors should refrain from making comments that have not been approved by the Town Council.

In answer to Councilor Flax's question, the Mayor stated that all of the Town Council Public Safety Committee referrals have been made properly, in writing and she forwarded them to the Town Manager.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger explained that the Town legislative program has some sort of glitch that has prevented a full referral list to be generated.

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher described the technical difficulties with the Town's legislative data base. She stated that the all information and history is preserved in the data base and she suggested that the referral list could be supplemented manually.

Councilor Watson reminded Councilors that they are ex-officio members of all the subcommittees.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that the meeting be adjourned. Since there was no objection, Mayor Schmidt declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*