



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Bill Spicer.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Mayor Streeter noted the recent passing of two long-time Groton residents, Ben Rathbun and John Kelley. A moment of silence was held in honor of Mr. Rathbun and Mr. Kelley.

Councilor Johnson arrived at 6:02 p.m.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr. and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Sheets

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Bill Spicer, 49 Noble Avenue, read a prepared statement and suggested that mankind has not caused global warming, but could cool climate temperatures if necessary. The Climate Change Task Force has done a good job identifying issues for the Town to consider, however for a permanent task force, the Council should consider appointing a group of Town employees, along with representatives of Electric Boat, Pfizer and the Sub Base, and persons with maritime expertise. A permanent task force must be unbiased and non-activist.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0160 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of July 19, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2011-0159 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
 Diane Stewart - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Colleagues of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kaufhold in memory of Antonia Broaca - \$135.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Anne O'Brien in memory of Antonia Broaca - \$30.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Janet Theroux in memory of Antonia Broaca - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Groton Public Library Circle of Friends - \$540.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Janice, Dave, Drew and Angela Capolupo in memory of Antonia Broaca - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2011-0161 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
 Patricia M. Ludwig - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Joan Razzane in memory of Toni Broaca - \$50.00 - Library Miscellaneous
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Ledge Light Health District - \$2,875.00 - Maritime Academy Miscellaneous
 Various Donations - \$19.84 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Groton Utilities Matching Funds - \$3.70 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2008-0121 Condition of Chipperini Property on Library Street**

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

2009-0284 Judson Avenue Drainage

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

2010-0169 Utilization of Commercial Solid Waste Fund Balance

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

2010-0170 Local Vendor Bid Preference

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

2011-0012 Power Outages in Noank

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

2011-0152 Central Hall Building Project - Update

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

2011-0046 Reappointment of Michael Sarasin to Historic District Commission

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

2011-0054 Reappointment of Stephen Hudecek to Zoning Commission

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

2011-0133 Clean Water Fund Grant for Water Pollution Control Facility

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

2011-0164 Historic Documents Preservation Grant (2012)

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

2011-0166 Reauthorization of Application for Port Security Grant for a Marine Patrol Vessel

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

2010-0191 Bluff Point to Preston Trail - Update

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 Kolnaski, 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 Johnson attended the Mystic Oral School tour. He also toured the Judson Avenue drainage project area and the Gold Star Pawn Shop.

Councilor Watson also toured the Oral School.

Councilor Kolnaski contacted Bob Peruzzotti about starting up the Liaison Committee again and he will discuss the issue with the Board of Education.

Councilor Flax received two e-mails regarding the Noank School Reuse Task Force. The survey results are available on the Town's web site and the group will be meeting on September 1st.

Councilor O'Beirne also toured the Oral School.

Mayor Streeter received e-mails regarding the Mystic Education Center, a blight ordinance, construction at the airport, and Noank School. He received telephone calls regarding the Climate Change Task Force recommendations, sign ordinance enforcement on Long Hill Road, and release of a police incident report. The Mayor had two meetings with City Mayor Marian Galbraith and Bob Congdon of the Groton Long Point Association. The Mayor attended the National Night Out event at Poquonnock Plains Park, a tour of Pfizer, a ribbon cutting ceremony at Kohl's, a conference on campus enforcement at Avery Point, a ribbon cutting ceremony at La-Z-Boy Furniture, a submarine related art exhibit at the Sub Force Museum, a memorial gathering for Ben Rathbun, a joint police study meeting, and the Mystic Oral School tour. The Mayor also met with the caretaker/coordinator for exchange students from Japan, who presented the Mayor with gifts that were turned over to the Town Clerk.

Mayor Streeter noted that on September 3rd, the Friends of Fort Griswold will present a major event and Councilor Kolnaski will be presenting a proclamation. The Groton Animal Foundation is conducting a fundraiser on September 17th.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk stated that there was no RTM meeting in August. The next meeting will be on September 14th.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk received a communication from Jack Sebastian regarding salt marsh damage.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger noted that there will be a dedication ceremony for the Marine Magnet School tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. and a change of command ceremony for the Submarine Group II Commander on Friday.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax reported on the meeting held on August 9th.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

Mayor Streeter noted that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2011-0054 Reappointment of Stephen Hudecek to Zoning Commission**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING STEPHEN HUDECEK TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Stephen Hudecek, 33 Leeward Lane, Noank, is reappointed to the Zoning Commission for a term expiring 12/31/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0046 Reappointment of Michael Sarasin to Historic District Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MICHAEL SARASIN TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Michael A. Sarasin, 27 Gravel Street, Mystic, is reappointed to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2010-0191 Bluff Point to Preston Trail - Update

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BLUFF POINT TO PRESTON TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Bluff Point to Preston Trail Committee, now the Tri-Town Trail Committee, was established in 2008 to plan a hiking and biking trail between Bluff Point in Groton and the Town of Preston, and

WHEREAS, grants are available through the Recreational Trails Program to support regional trail development, and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Town Trail Committee has requested that the Town of Groton apply for a grant in an amount up to \$200,000 to establish a section of trail from Bluff Point to the Mystic Marriott on Route 117, and

WHEREAS, a similar request is being made to the Town of Ledyard where grant funds would be used for trail design, and

WHEREAS, the Tri-Town Trail Committee has indicated that it will be responsible for obtaining the 20% match required by the grant (up to \$40,000), and

WHEREAS, the grant award is not expected until Spring 2012 which will allow time for the Town to review details of the proposal, assure provision of the 20% match, incorporate the project into the Capital Improvement Plan and decide whether or not to ultimately pursue the grant, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to submit a grant application to the State of Connecticut under the Recreational Trails Program in an amount up to \$200,000 for a section of the Bluff Point to Preston Trail.

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

Councilor O'Beirne expressed concern that until an agreement is reached with Groton Utilities, people will be spinning their wheels and spending a lot of money on something that will not ultimately be a 'real' trail.

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0164 Historic Documents Preservation Grant (2012)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER A CONTRACT FOR AN HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton will benefit by the continuance of the Historic Document Preservation Program which will be enabled and enhanced by grant funding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Mark R. Oefinger, Town Manager of the Town of Groton, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract with the Connecticut State Library for an Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2011-0166 Reauthorization of Application for Port Security Grant for a Marine Patrol Vessel

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF A PORT SECURITY GRANT FOR A MARINE PATROL VESSEL

WHEREAS, the Port Security Grant Program provides funds to public safety and law enforcement entities to acquire necessary equipment to enhance port security and address associated homeland security issues, and

WHEREAS, the grant would fund training in equipment use as well as practical exercises to further develop and improve upon the recognized standard skills, methods and techniques in the prevention, detection, response and recovery from terroristic attacks, activities or incidents to the

Port of New London and its surrounding waters, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Town Police plan to use the grant to purchase a marine patrol, mission-specific, equipped and designed vessel along with related training of personnel in the use of said vessel to enhance the public safety for recreational, commercial, and military vessels, as well as swimmers and other citizens using the navigable waters within the jurisdictional water boundaries of the Town of Groton, and

WHEREAS, in April 2010 the Town Council authorized a grant application in the amount of \$353,384 and in July 2011 the Town of Groton received notice of a funding award in the amount of \$400,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager or his designated agent may accept the 2010 Port Security Grant of \$400,000.

A motion was made by Councilor Johnson, seconded by Councilor Monteiro, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Flax, to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Nicki Bresnyan, Executive Assistant