



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Bruce S. Flax, Councilor Dean G. Antipas, Councilor Diane Barber, Councilor Greg Grim, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Karen F. Morton, Councilor Bonnie Nault, Councilor Deb Peruzzotti, and Councilor Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read the roll call of the meeting.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor Morton and Councilor Moravsik

Members Absent: Councilor Grim, Councilor Nault, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Mayor Flax announced that there was no quorum of Council members and that no business would be transacted. He stated that he would allow citizens to address the Town Council and reports to be given by staff members.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Ron Yuhas.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2017-0203 Proclamation Recognizing Constitution Week 2017

Councilor Barber read this proclamation for the record.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ron Yuhas, 91 South Road, addressed the Town Council as the President of the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District. He asked if the Town would still fund their half of the PILOT money that is given each year to the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District if the State does not fund this account. He stated his understanding that the Town Council will no longer require each fire district to come before them in order to receive funds. He suggested that each fire district submit their budgets to the Town Council in order to explain the cost involved in providing fire protection.

Franz Edson, 85 Riverside Drive, Waterford, stated that he is President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and that they will be hosting the Fly In at the Groton/New London Airport on October 6th and 7th. He stated that there are only four Fly In events a year in the country. He stated that this event is not an air show, but that it is designed for aircraft owners and pilots. He stated that there will be a number of seminars, training sessions, 70 to 80 aircraft vendors, and many manufacturers. He stated that he expects 600 aircraft, 1,000 to 1,500 cars and over 6,000 visitors. He stated that many activities and events in and around Groton are advertised on the AOPA website. He stated that it is the hope that pilots will return to Groton to enjoy these attractions. He stated that the event is free and open to the public. He stated that the event will need 300 volunteers and that anyone interested in volunteering can contact the organization through their website, aopa.org. He stated that the Groton Fall Festival is scheduled for the same weekend.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Antipas stated that he remembers the Town Council using the PILOT funds as an occasion to bring the fire districts to a meeting in order to discuss issues. He stated that this

process is no longer needed and that the Council will always be glad to meet with the fire districts.

Councilor Barber stated that she understood Mr. Yuhas and his reason for concern.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2017-0204 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 1, 2017 are hereby accepted and approved.

b. Administrative Items

2017-0196 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Kaydence Foreman - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Leigh Sammons - \$95.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Michelle Baker - \$10.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Patrice Granatosky - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Ellen Russo - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Jeanette Dostie - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Michelle Coope - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Jay Levin - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Suisman, Shapiro - \$45.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Richard Foreman - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Theodore & Annette Ainslie - \$75.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Anonymous - \$83.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Raymond & Virginia Bousquet - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Richard Davies - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Eaves - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Darwin & Elizabeth Geronimo - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Diane & Denis Haines - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Hickey Family - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Peggy Johnson - \$100.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Cynthia Miffit - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 James Miller - \$24.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lisa MoneyPenny - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Armand & Nancy Morin - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Barbara & Linwood Navarro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Demetrios Orphanides - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Patricia Pearce - \$30.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Eleanor Ralls - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Adam Reckelhoff - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Stebbins Real Estate - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Mary Vela - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Victoria Williams - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Alicia & Jill Bauer - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Robert & Phyllis Boggs - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Everest Brustolon - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Julia Campisi - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Felipe & Irene Castro - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Franklin & Diane Davis - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Mary Dowd - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Michael & Marilyn Francis - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Charles & Rosemary Hall - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Ronald & Margaret Stoven - \$200.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Emily Thomas - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance
 Fred & Gail Yeo - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Marsha Zimmermann - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0178 Groton Heights School/Bill Memorial Library Land Swap
2017-0172 Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission
2017-0173 Participation in Joint Action Lawsuit Against Pharmaceutical Companies
2017-0190 Police Department - Update
2017-0192 Enterprise Information Management System - Update
2017-0193 Hiring Freeze
2017-0198 Reappointment of Donald Levenson to Historic District Commission
2017-0201 Senior Center Consignment Shop Operations Agreement

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Morton stated that she had attended the TIF Advisory Committee meeting. She stated that they are finalizing the draft finance policy for the tax incentive program. She stated that the next project that they will be working on is the Master Plan.

Mayor Flax reported that he, along with Town Manager John Burt, Board of Education Chair Kim Shepardson Watson, Superintendent Michael Graner, and City Mayor Keith Hedrick, met with Governor Dan Malloy in Hartford. They discussed the devastating impact of the proposed \$17.5 million cut to the Education Cost Share Grant and the effects it will have on the education of the children of Groton. The message from the Governor was for citizens to urge their state legislators to pass a budget that restores fair funding to all school districts. Mayor Flax stated that the meeting lasted half an hour and that he supplied the Governor with facts and figures that addressed the discrepancies with the State's formula.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the RTM did not have a quorum at the last meeting. The meeting was used for informational purposes. She stated that the next meeting will be held on September 13, 2017 at 7:30 pm at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that she received a letter from Mr. Ed Johnson concerning the traffic problem in Noank.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager John Burt reported that he received an invitation to the ribbon-cutting ceremony from Groton Utilities for the new solar farms. He stated that the ceremony will be held at one of the farm sites in Polaris Park. He stated that the other solar farm sites are at Trident Park and Nautilus Park. He stated that he and the Mayor were invited by Superintendent Rear Admiral Rendon to a reception and the viewing of the Corps of Cadets Regimental Revue at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on Friday, September 8, 2017. He reported that he received the draft of the new retirement program. He made a request that the Town Council change their rules in order to include a place on the agenda to have department heads give reports.

- Office of Planning and Development Services Update

Director of Planning and Development Jon Reiner addressed the Town Council with an update on economic development and planning projects. He distributed a marketing packet, which is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

b. Rules - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

No report.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2017-0172

Adoption of Ordinance to Designate the Planning Commission the Planning and Zoning Commission and to Abolish the Zoning Commission

ADOPTION OF ON AN ORDINANCE TO DESIGNATE THE PLANNING COMMISSION AS THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR THE TOWN OF GROTON AND TO ABOLISH THE ZONING COMMISSION

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN OF GROTON THAT:

1. Although the Planning and Zoning Commissions have provided the townspeople of the Town of Groton consistently exemplary service, changing economic and other conditions, including the increasing uncertainty of the State of Connecticut's ability to provide revenues to the municipalities, have caused the Town Council to reconsider the utility of having two separate commissions. Information obtained by the Town Council strongly indicates that it would be in the Town's best interest to create a combined Planning and Zoning Commission in order to, among other things, unify and expedite the processes of obtaining zoning approvals and thus encourage economic development.
2. Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 8-4a, the Planning Commission is hereby designated as the Planning and Zoning Commission for the Town of Groton, and said Planning and Zoning Commission shall have all powers granted to planning commissions, zoning commissions, and planning and zoning commissions by the laws of the State of Connecticut, including without limitation the powers granted planning and zoning commissions by Chapters 124 and 126 of the Connecticut General Statutes.
3. The Planning and Zoning Commission shall consist of seven regular members and three alternates, all of whom shall serve five-year terms, and each of whom shall be a resident elector of the Town and appointed by a majority vote of the Town Council. The present terms of office of the five regular and three alternate members of the Planning Commission, including any currently vacant seats, shall continue until their current expiration date. Thereafter, the Town Council shall appoint regular and alternate members for terms of five-years. The terms of the two additional seats for regular members created hereby shall terminate on December 31, 2021, and shall thereafter be filled for five year terms. No regular or alternate member of the Planning and Zoning commission may concurrently be a regular or alternate member of the Town of Groton Zoning Board of Appeals.
4. Alternate members shall have all the powers and duties conferred on alternate members of a planning and zoning commission by the General Statutes. Alternates shall be designated to act according to a regular rotation process so as to assure to the extent practicable equal participation by each in the affairs of the Planning and Zoning Commission.

5. The Town Council shall by majority vote fill all vacancies of the regular and alternate members of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the unexpired portion of any term.
6. The Zoning Commission is abolished and shall cease to exist.
7. This Ordinance shall be effective 45 days after enactment by the Council unless vetoed by the RTM.

2017-0193**Hiring Freeze**

RESOLUTION REQUIRING JUSTIFICATION FOR FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

WHEREAS, the Town Council and Representative Town Meeting adopted the FYE 2018 budget by May 25, 2017 as required by the Town Charter; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has yet to adopt the FY 2018 - FY 2019 biennium budget for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the various revenues that the Town of Groton will receive from the State of Connecticut are unknown as is the potential impact on the Town's budget; and

WHEREAS, delaying the filling of vacant positions in the Town will help decrease the potential shortfall between expenses and revenues in the FYE 2018 budget; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective immediately, all vacant positions are frozen and may not be filled until reviewed by Human Resources for evaluation of pressing need, and without the express written authorization of the Town Manager and consent of the Town Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall not apply to positions falling under enterprise funds including the Shennecossett Golf Course and the Wastewater Treatment Plant; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the hiring justification requirement shall continue in full force and effect until the end of FY 2017/2018 or a subsequent resolution reversing this resolution is adopted by the Town Council.

2017-0198**Reappointment of Donald Levenson to Historic District Commission**

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DONALD LEVENSON TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Donald Levenson, 223 Ensign Drive, Mystic, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/21.

2017-0201**Senior Center Consignment Shop Operations Agreement**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SENIOR CENTER CONSIGNMENT SHOP OPERATIONS AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the goal of the Groton Senior Center is to encourage independent living for older adults in our community, and

WHEREAS, the Local Creations Consignment Shop at the center has afforded seniors in the community a way to earn money from their crafts, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department has selected the ARC of New London County to manage the shop, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Groton Senior Center division of the Parks and Recreation Department to enter into an agreement with the ARC of New London County for the

management of the operations of the Center's Local Creations Consignment Shop.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:31 pm.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher
Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*