



# 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 Bruce Flax, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Diane Barber, Joe de la Cruz, Greg Grim, Karen F. Morton, Bonnie Nault, Deb Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson*

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Tuesday, September 20, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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*Mayor Flax called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.*

#### I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Nault and Councilor Peruzzotti

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

#### II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The Salute to the Flag was led by Mayor Flax.*

#### III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

*There were no recognitions, awards or memorials to announce.*

#### IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*None.*

#### V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

*None.*

#### VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

##### a. Approval of Minutes

##### 2016-0232 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 6, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

##### b. Administrative Items

##### 2016-0229 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

CSEA Retirees Council Chapter 416 - \$200.00 - Library Miscellaneous

John & Hazel Fuhrmeister - \$100.00 - Library Miscellaneous

Joseph & Arlene Atwood - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Victor Dufault - \$500.00 - Library Renovations

William & Doris Jean Cruise - \$200.00 - Library Renovations

**This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

##### c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

##### 2016-0022 Town Clerk Compensation

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

**2016-0223 Brownfield Remediation and Development Presentation**

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

**2016-0228 Thomas Road Project - Update**

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

**2016-0224 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program - Additional Roads for Calendar Year 2016 - City of Groton**

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. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**

*Councilor Nault arrived at 7:34 p.m.*

Members Present: Mayor Flax, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Barber, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Grim, Councilor Morton, Councilor Nault and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor Morton reported that she attended the Open House for the Connecticut United for Research Excellence, CURE, facility located at 93 Shennecossett Road in Groton.*

*Councilor de la Cruz stated that he attended the Veteran's Vessels fundraiser on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the Groton Long Point Casino. He announced that the first annual Christopher Johns' Memorial Sober Softball Tournament will be held on October 1, 2016 at Washington Park in the City of Groton from 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. He stated that they have scheduled an alternative date of October 2, 2016 in case of inclement weather. He announced that the next Community Speaks Out meeting will be held on September 28, 2016 at the Groton Public Library from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.*

*Councilor Watson read highlights from his report for the September 7, 2016 Board of Education/Town & City Council/RTM Liaison Committee meeting. He stated that the Board of Education Finance Committee is working on a time line for the FYE 2018 budget; Mr. Kilpatrick and Dr. Graner are working on a five-year Capital Improvement Plan; Claude Chester School asbestos abatement was completed this past summer; a Town Council resolution to form a joint Board of Education and Town Council Efficiency Committee; a new person hired for a 20-hour a week Public Relations Coordinator was hired using grant money to pay for the position; New London has four positions of this sort; discussion of the process of the upcoming School Referendum; the Town Council passed a resolution to donate \$5000 to CT Next through a partnership between the City of Groton and the City of New London.*

*Mayor Flax announced that he attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for Rise, the new downtown Mystic restaurant, on September 8, 2016. He stated that he attended the September 14, 2016 RTM meeting where Representative Jackie Massett made a request that at least one Town Councilor attend each RTM Budget Session in order to explain the Town Council's actions with respect to the budget. He announced that he will be meeting with RTM Moderator Scott Newsome on Friday, September 23, 2016. He stated that he attended the CURE event on September 20, 2016. He reported that he received a phone call regarding the status of the Charter Revision Commission. He made a request that the Town Manager invite the Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission to give an update of their status to the Town Council. He reported that he had a discussion with someone regarding the Tilcon property. He requested that the Town Council either*

write a letter to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or invite someone from the DEEP office to attend a meeting in order to discuss the status of the GOSA grant application for the Tilcon property. He stated that the Town Council had not supported this grant application. He would like to have the opportunity to explain the Town Council's rationale for not supporting GOSA's application for this grant and to question the DEEP as to why the grant application is going forward without the Town Council's approval.

Councilor Antipas reported that the Cable Television Advisory Council of Southeastern Connecticut met on September 8, 2016 and he was elected Chairman of this committee. He reminded cable television subscribers to send any inquiries to the CTACSC and that their web address is listed at the bottom of their cable invoice.

Councilor Watson requested that all Town Council minutes and history pertaining to the Tilcon property be forwarded to Town Councilors for review.

Councilor Nault announced that she attended the CURE Open House on September 9, 2016 and the opening for the new physical therapy business that opened in Mystic.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger announced that the Chamber of Commerce is hosting an economic development training session at the Town Hall Annex on September 21, 2016 at 12:00 p.m.

**b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting**

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the RTM last met on September 14, 2016 where they approved the Resolution authorizing the allocation of \$120,000 of Capital Reserve Fund Balance to the Crystal Lake Road Reconstruction Project that was supported unanimously with 29 members present. She reported that they also supported to try on a trial basis an electronic voting system to tally RTM votes. This matter was approved by a vote of 25 in favor, 3 opposed and 1 abstention. She stated that their next meeting, if they have business, is scheduled for October 12, 2016 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

**c. Clerk of the Council**

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the Explanatory Text for the Referendum question that will be on the November 8, 2016 State Election ballot is available online at the Town website. She reported that Overseas and 45-day ballots have been mailed out. She stated that regular absentee ballots will be available on October 7, 2016. To receive a ballot if you are unable to vote at the polls, apply at the Town Clerk's office either in person or by mail. She announced that the shellfish beds are currently closed due to the excessive rainfall that Groton recently received. She stated that the Chairman of the Shellfish Commission reported that Ledge Light Health District issued the closure. She stated that samples of the water and shellfish meat have been sent to the state for testing. She stated that for updated shellfish information and which bed are open, the phone number to call is 860-441-6793.

**d. Town Manager**

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reviewed items in the weekly status report, upcoming events and items to be on the Committee of the Whole agenda.

Mayor Flax requested that an item be added to the Committee of the Whole agenda in order to discuss the Amtrak Train initiative for a new rail line.

In response to Councilor Morton, the Town Manager and Councilor Watson suggested that Councilor Morton contact the Town Manager's office in order to arrange to attend the CCM Conference.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger responded to Councilor Nault's request for a list of Town-owned properties. He stated that he would furnish a list as soon as it is complete.

**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**

*Mayor Flax reported that the Committee of the Whole met and reviewed the items on the agenda.*

**IX. NEW BUSINESS****2016-0224 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program - Additional Roads for Calendar Year 2016 - City of Groton**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL ROADS IN THE CITY OF GROTON'S YEAR 4 ROAD MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in November 2012 Groton voters approved a five-year road maintenance and rehabilitation program for calendar years 2013 through 2017 that provides funding for the Town, City, and Groton Long Point to maintain and rehabilitate the community's road system, and

WHEREAS, the program requires each entity to file a report with the Town Council by December 30th of each year that identifies the roads completed in the calendar year, compares estimated costs to actual costs, and identifies the roads to be addressed in the upcoming year, and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has asked to use \$8,600 of their calendar year 2016 authorized funding for initial engineering associated with a Local Transportation Capital Improvement Grant (LOTICIP) application for Poquonnock Road in the City, and

WHEREAS, the City has indicated their intent to request additional funding in the future from the Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program (estimated to be \$125,000 to \$150,000) for full engineering for the project, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council expresses its support for the project and authorizes the use of \$8,600 from Year 4 Road Maintenance and Rehabilitation Program funding for the City of Groton for the Poquonnock Road project.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

*Councilor Antipas made a reference to the referral that he made in the past. He mentioned one to be the proposed use of the SCRRRA building. He stated that the other referral is to discuss Town services. He suggested reviewing one or two departments at a time in order to get through all of the services currently being provided. He suggested that the RTM be including in these discussions. Mayor Flax suggested adding this item to the next Committee of the Whole agenda for discussion.*

*Mayor Flax referred to the new agenda outline not having the item Other Business. He stated that as long as members of the Town Council understand that they have the opportunity to bring new items to discuss under the current item New Business, he does not see the need to change the agenda outline.*

*Mayor Flax made the request to add a referral to the Committee of the Whole in order to discuss the Amtrak rail overhaul plan.*

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor de la Cruz.  
Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher  
Groton Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Town Council*