



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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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

Tuesday, October 4, 2016

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

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 Scott Aument and Rosanne Kotowski.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2016-0233 Lions Clubs International

Read

Councilor Peruzzotti read the proclamation.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, stated that she will not support the school project on the November 8, 2016 ballot. She stated several reasons to support her position including that the project is too expensive for the taxpayers, the reimbursement rates are not certain, whether the Town will receive the diversity grant, the question on ownership of the Merritt property and the lack of supporting documents to prove that new building improve the quality of education. She stated that Groton must fund projects that we can afford, not on what we wish we could afford. She stated that she would support funding smaller projects. She suggested alternative ideas to address any racial imbalances. She urged voter to vote no for the November 8, 2016 ballot question.

Scott Aument, 127 Rogers Road, presented his comments regarding his opposition of the school projects and read a statement urging citizens to vote against the referendum on the November 8, 2016 ballot. His statement is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Antipas stated that the do nothing option of the Task Force was valued at \$50 million. He stated that if the referendum is not passed, there will be a series of requests for capital improvement projects to replace roofs and replace boilers and other assorted projects. He asked Mr. Aument what value would he place on the projected cost of \$50 million to complete the necessary repairs to the schools. Aument stated that he lacked the proper information to suggest any detailed options, but that he was suspicious of the quotes that the Task Force and the architect presented.

Councilor Nault commented on the editorial in The Day newspaper and their position against the referendum. She stated that their comments were based on the multiple layers of government that are overlapping in our town. She stated that if the Town, City and Groton Long Point could

consolidate some services, savings could be found to be used toward schools.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2016-0240 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 20, 2016 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2016-0237 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

John Taylor - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Mystic Photography Group - \$ 50.00 - Library Renovations

Companion Animal Hospital - \$1,000 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Catherine Hoffman - \$15.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Susan Decorte-Mcmillian - \$250.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2016-0235 Preliminary Results of Operations - FYE 2016

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

2016-0231 Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut Grant

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

2016-0236 FYE 2017 Contingency Transfer for United Steelworkers Wages

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

2016-0241 Office of Planning and Development Services Job Descriptions

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)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Antipas reported that he attended the Change of Command at the Groton Navy Base and toured the U.S.S. Missouri on September 21, 2016. He reported that on September 29, 2016, he and Councilor Nault attended a meeting at UConn Storrs regarding the closure of the von Schlippe Art Gallery that is located at UConn Avery Point. He stated that the large Groton contingency spoke in favor of keeping the gallery open.

Councilor Morton reported that she attended the band competition at Fitch High School on September 24, 2016. She reported the the Fitch Marching Band and Color Guard had excellent performances.

Councilor Nault reported on the UConn Storrs meeting and that City Mayor Marion Galbraith

made some great points in her statement supporting the gallery.

Mayor Flax reported that he attended the Southeast Connecticut Council of Governments on September 21, 2016. He reported that he met with the RTM Moderator Scott Newsome on September 23, 2016. He stated that they are planning on have a joint meeting with the Town Council and the RTM to discuss the budget. He reported that he attended the Lion Clubs International Bus Stop on September 25, 2015. He reported that he attended a USS Sail Foundation Board meeting on September 26, 2016. He mentioned that he received an invitation to the October 29th Commissioning for the U.S.S. Missouri.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the next RTM meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2016 but that they do not have anything on their agenda. She stated that a referral might be sent to the RTM as a result of Town Council action this evening.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that absentee ballots for the November 8, 2016 election will be available Friday, October 7, 2016. She urged anyone that will be unavailable to vote on November 8th in person, to apply for an absentee ballot at the Town Clerk's office.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reminded members that October 8th the annual Groton Fall Festival. It will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Poquonnok Plains Park. He highlighted items from the Weekly Status Report which is available through the Town Manager's office.

Mayor Flax announced that this was the portion of the meeting where Councilor could bring items of interest or referral requests forward.

Councilor Nault stated that the Groton Business Association Special meeting will be held on October 18, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at Outer Lights Brewery. The Groton Planning Department is hosting a FOIA workshop on October 19, 2016.

Mayor Flax announced that the City and Town are meeting with the Police Chiefs on October 4, 2016 regarding the Police.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Watson

b. Rules - Chairman Antipas

c. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Flax

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2016-0231 Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY TO THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF EASTERN CONNECTICUT WOMEN AND GIRLS FUND FOR GRANT TO CONTINUE GROTON'S CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, funding is available via the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut's Women and Girls Fund for initiatives aimed at promoting healthy relationships and reducing domestic violence, and

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services' Child Abuse Prevention Initiative is focused on building strong families and eliminating violence against children, and

WHEREAS, funding from the Women and Girls Fund will enable the continuation of Groton's Child Abuse Prevention Initiative, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager or his designee to apply to the Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut's Women and Girls Fund for grant funds in the amount of \$2500, which will be utilized by Groton Human Services to continue its Child Abuse Prevention Initiative in FYE 17.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0236

FYE 2017 Contingency Transfer for United Steelworkers Wages

RESOLUTION FOR FYE 2017 GENERAL CONTINGENCY TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for General Contingency transfers during the year, and

WHEREAS, during FYE 2017 budget deliberations, only the labor agreements for the CILU-Telecommunicators employees had been settled and those wage increases were included in a department's FYE 2017 Budget,

WHEREAS, during FYE 2017 budget deliberations, labor agreements/pay plans were not known and were not included in a department's budget for the remaining employee groups; CILU-Clerical, United Steelworkers-Parks/Public Works, Police and Non-Union, and

WHEREAS, wage increases for one of those groups (United Steelworkers-Parks/Public Works) are now known and should be incorporated into a department's FYE 2017 budget through a General Contingency transfer,

WHEREAS, during budget deliberations funds were included in the General Contingency in anticipation of wage adjustments occurring during the fiscal year for a total Contingency appropriation of \$425,000, and

WHEREAS, before this transfer is applied, the General Contingency has a balance of \$413,000 and

RESOLVED, that \$48,190 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency function (#1074) to the following General Fund departments/functions and referred to the RTM for approval:

Public Works #1035 \$41,575
Parks & Recreation #1064 \$6,615

A motion was made by Councilor Grim, seconded by Councilor Nault, that this matter be Adopted as Amended and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

2016-0241

Office of Planning and Development Services Job Descriptions

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGES TO JOB DESCRIPTIONS IN THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS) is changing three job descriptions to better meet the needs of the Town and the department, and

WHEREAS, the job description changes as proposed will not create any new full-time positions during the current fiscal year, and

WHEREAS, the job descriptions being changed are as follows: Assistant Building/Zoning Official, Code Enforcement Officer/Planner I, and Executive Assistant OPDS, and

WHEREAS, these proposed changes will better serve the goals and mission of the Department of Planning and Development Services, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the three above referenced job descriptions as attached to the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilor Nault, seconded by Councilor Morton, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

X. ADJOURNMENT

*Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti.
Mayor Flax adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.*