



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, October 15, 2013

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Rep. Patrice Granatosky.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Patrice Granatosky, 30 North Prospect Street, as an RTM member and through the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), formally requested that the police study be released to the RTM at its November meeting. She believes that there should be discussions about potential efficiencies prior to the next budget cycle.

Ron Yuhas, 91 South Road, presented an FOI request for all communications within the Town Manager's Office and the IT Help Desk pertaining to the Poquonnock Bridge Fire Department, Poquonnock Bridge Fire District, and associated individuals from June 1, 2013, to October 15, 2013.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mayor Somers has already begun arranging a meeting at which the consultant who generated the police study will provide a presentation to the Town Council, RTM, subdivisions and citizens.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2013-0245 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 1, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2013-0239 Appointment of Carla Henschel to Trails Coordinating Task Force

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

2013-0240 Appointment of Denise Descheneaux to Trails Coordinating Task Force

- 2013-0241 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Reappointment of Mary Lou Smith to Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board
- 2013-0242 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Reappointment of Dean Antipas to Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board
- 2013-0243 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Reappointment of David Williams to Water Pollution Control Authority
- 2013-0244 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
Reappointment of Nancy Codeanne to Housing Authority
- 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 Flax, 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

Councilors received emails and communications regarding the referendum items that will be on the ballot in November, the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District, and an ordinance regarding chickens.

Councilors attended Groton's Fall Festival at Poquonnock Plains Park.

Councilor Flax attended a Trails Forum.

Councilor Flax and Councilor Watson reported on the Board of Education/Town Council/RTM/City Council Liaison Committee meeting.

Councilor Antipas attended the Annual Gala for the Mystic & Noank Library.

Councilor Schmidt noted that a Fitch High School Community Forum will be held on November 6, 2013, and a workshop on turnkey solutions that address municipal challenges will be held at Fairfield University on October 24, 2013.

Councilor Streeter noted that the Groton Rotary registered over 170 children as part of the Amber Alert program at Fall Festival. He announced that nearly \$18,000 has been raised so far for the Veterans Memorial Park and tiles will be available for purchase soon.

Mayor Somers, Councilor Streeter, Councilor Antipas, and Councilor Morton attended the Pirate Invasion in downtown Mystic. Councilor Morton noted that more police coverage was needed due to the volume of people attending the event.

Mayor Somers attended the Community Garden Forum at Mary Morrison Elementary School. She noted that the Noank Rowing Club will hold a spaghetti dinner on October 18, 2013; the annual fundraiser for Riverfront Children's Center will be held on October 19, 2013.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The RTM meeting scheduled for October 9, 2013, was cancelled. The next regular RTM meeting will be held on November 13, 2013, at which the Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS) will provide a presentation on economic development.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk stated that the explanatory text for the bonding referendum questions will be included in the Groton Times and Mystic Times on October 22, 2013. She noted that absentee ballots are available and information regarding the November 5th election is on the Town website.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager noted that the Chamber of Commerce Military Appreciation Breakfast originally scheduled for October 18, 2013, has been cancelled due to the federal shutdown. This event will be rescheduled. He stated that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Trust Fund 32nd Annual Dinner will be held on October 17, 2013; the ribbon-cutting for the New London Homeless Hospitality Center will be held on October 16, 2013; the Antiques and Collectibles Auction at Fariview will be held on November 2, 2013; and the William Crawford Distinguished Service Award dinner will be held on November 8, 2013. The Town Manager noted that he received an email from the Department of Transportation (DOT) stating that it has secured additional funding to close the gap on the budget shortfall for Southeastern Area Transit (SEAT) for the coming year.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt**

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Morton

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of October 1, 2013, which are on file at the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Mayor Somers stated that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting. She also noted that the Committee of the Whole discussed the PILOT program.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2013-0239 Appointment of Carla Henschel to Trails Coordinating Task Force**

APPOINTMENT OF CARLA HENSCHEL TO THE TRAILS COORDINATING TASK FORCE

RESOLVED, that Carla Henschel, 253 Pequot Avenue, Mystic, is hereby appointed to the Trails

Coordinating Task Force as an at-large member for a term expiring 1/1/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0240 Appointment of Denise Descheneaux to Trails Coordinating Task Force

APPOINTMENT OF DENISE DESCHENEUX TO THE TRAILS COORDINATING TASK FORCE

RESOLVED, that Denise Descheneux, 118 Thames Street, is hereby appointed to the Trails Coordinating Task Force as the Town Council representative for a term expiring 1/1/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0241 Reappointment of Mary Lou Smith to Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING MARY LOU SMITH TO THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT WATER AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Mary Lou Smith, 326 Judson Avenue, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Advisory Board for a term expiring 09/01/15.

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

Councilor Watson disclosed that he is a member of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority.

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0242 Reappointment of Dean Antipas to Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DEAN ANTIPAS TO THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT WATER AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Dean Antipas, 164 Payer Lane, Mystic is hereby reappointed to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Advisory Board for a term expiring 09/01/15.

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

Councilor Watson disclosed that he is a member of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Somers, Councilor Flax, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

Abstain: 1 - Councilor Antipas

2013-0243 Reappointment of David Williams to Water Pollution Control Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DAVID WILLIAMS TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that David G. Williams, 129 Elm Street, Noank is hereby reappointed to the Water Pollution Control Authority for a term ending 5/24/16.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2013-0244 Reappointment of Nancy Codeanne to Housing Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING NANCY CODEANNE TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Nancy S. Codeanne, 97 Front Street, Noank, is reappointed as a member of the Housing Authority for a term ending 07/31/18.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant