



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 Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Patrice Granatosky, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Schmidt called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Granatosky, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Antipas

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

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Eagle Scout Felipe Rios, Jr.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

- Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation by Police Benevolent Association Post #3

Town of Groton Police Detective Robert Emery presented the Certificate of Appreciation of the Police Benevolent Association to Councilor Bruce Flax for his outstanding involvement with an event to help fund the Police Benevolent Association Scholarship Foundation.

2015-0249 Proclamation Recognizing Felipe Rios, Jr.

Read

The proclamation was presented by Councilors Frink and Moravsik and read by Councilor Frink.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Ron Yuhas, 91 South Road, presented information to the Town Council outlining certain Town owned properties that are located in the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District. He compared the estimated property values of these properties to the distribution of the PILOT funds, Payment in Lieu of Taxes. He expressed his desire to discuss the current methodology of the distribution of PILOT funds.

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, stated her support for the budget policy changes that Councilor Antipas has proposed. She stated her support of the letter that the RTM sent to the Town Council requesting that the Town Council activate a Charter Revision Commission. She explained that under normal circumstances she would offer support for the \$8,230,000 Bond Ordinance that is on the November 3rd ballot. She stated the Town currently has obligations which have created a 4.1% increase in taxes from the year before, and there are projected increases of 7.2% for 2017 and 11.4 % for 2018. She stated that she will not support the \$8,230,000 Bond Ordinance for the WPCA and encourages the Groton voters to vote no on the November 3rd, 2015 ballot question.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2015-0253 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 6, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2015-0248 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Charlene Dexter - \$50.00 - Library Renovations

Karen Steever - \$50.00 - Library Renovations

Anonymous - \$20.00 - Library Renovations

Anonymous - \$10.00 - Library Renovations

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2013-0299 Establishment of a Charter Revision Commission

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

2015-0240 Sale or Lease of Town Owned Excess Property

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

2015-0250 Economic and Community Development - Update

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

2015-0241 Letter of Agreement with Red Cross and Area Towns for Emergency Shelters

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

2015-0251 Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)

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 Moravsik, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Mayor Schmidt, Councilor de la Cruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Granatosky, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Opposed: 1 - Councilor Antipas

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor de la Cruz reported that he has been attending Town and City Police Department roll call meetings. He stated that the Groton Town and City Police Chiefs and Patrol Officers are very involved with helping the community overcome the problems associated with drug addiction. He stated that there would be another meeting open to the public at the Groton Public Library on October 28, 2015.

Councilor Frink reported that he attended the Board of Education/Town & City Councils/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on October 7, 2015. One item of discussion was a continuing problem of motorists not obeying stopped school buses with their red lights flashing. He stated that there had been 18 infractions in the last month. He reported several options that had been discussed.

Councilor Moravsik reported that he received a communication from Mr. Potter, a Walker Hill Road resident. He stated that Mr. Potter had a list of questions regarding the sale of the William Seely School property and that he forward the questions to the Town Manager. He stated that he

attended the Groton Fall Festival on October 10, 2015 and the Groton Long Point Annual Fall meeting.

Councilor Watson stated that he attended the Board of Education/Town & City Councils/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on October 7, 2015. He stated that they discussed celebratory programs for the 100 year anniversary of Submarine Service and the possibility of offering vacant schools as rental property for recreational uses. He reported that he attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner on October 15, 2015 and the CCM conference in Hartford. He stated that he attended the Groton Fall Festival on October 10, 2015.

Councilor Flax reported that he attended the Board of Education/Town & City Councils/RTM Liaison Committee meeting on October 7, 2015. He reported receiving the same email from Mr. Potter and an email regarding energy uses, which he forwarded to the Town Manager.

Councilor Peruzzotti reported that she received the same emails regarding the William Seely School property. She reported that she attended the Groton Fall Festival on October 10, 2015.

Councilor Granatosky reported that she had received the same emails regarding the William Seely School property. She received an email from a constituent asking whether the Town would consider signing up with the State's Health Care Plan and offer this plan to Town employees. She stated that this item will be considered with her requested referral on this subject. She forwarded an article to the Mayor regarding LED street lighting. She reported that she attended the Groton Fall Festival on October 10, 2015.

Councilor Antipas reported that he received the same emails that have been reported this evening and that he attended the Martin Luther King Scholarship Dinner on October 15, 2015.

Mayor Schmidt stated her regret for missing so many events this past week. She reported that she received an email from the Schools Initiative Task Force Chairman, Jon Heller, regarding appointments to the Task Force. She also received an email from Mr. Dahlgren regarding on street parking.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that the RTM will have their next meeting on November 18, 2015 at 7:30 pm at the Groton Senior Center. She stated that the Planning and Economic Development Department will be making a presentation outlining current and proposed projects.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported that absentee ballots for the November 3, 2015 Municipal Election are available at the Town Clerk's Office and that any registered voter may cast their ballot now, if they will not be available to vote during voting hours on election day. She also reported that the last day to register to vote by e-mail is October 20, 2015 and the last day to register in person is October 27, 2015.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger announced that there will be a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on October 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm at the Town Hall Annex to discuss possible uses of the William Seely School property. He highlighted items listed in the Town Manager's Weekly Status Report. He announced that the Town will hold the Annual Surplus Sale on October 30, 2015 at Fitch Middle School. He stated that viewing of the items will begin at 9:00 am and the sale will begin at 10:00 am. He reviewed a few items that will be on the agenda for the next regular Committee of the Whole meeting.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

e. Public Safety - Chairman Moravsik

No meeting, no report.

f. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

Mayor Schmidt reported that the Committee of the Whole met and discussed the items that are on the agenda.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2015-0241 Letter of Agreement with Red Cross and Area Towns for Emergency Shelters

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN A LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE RED CROSS AND AREA TOWNS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL SHELTER

WHEREAS, during a major storm, natural disaster, or manmade disaster it is sometimes necessary to request assistance from the Red Cross in staffing emergency shelters in the region, and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross does not have the resources to staff all of the emergency shelters that the towns may open during said emergencies resulting in an effort to regionalize shelters that provide full services such as animal control and food preparation, and

WHEREAS, the Red Cross is proposing a Letter of Agreement with area towns indicating that the Red Cross will provide assistance on a regional basis, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to sign a "Letter of Agreement among the Municipalities of Stonington, Groton, Groton City, Ledyard, North Stonington, and the Connecticut Chapter of the American Red Cross Regarding Establishment of a Multi-Jurisdictional Shelter."

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0251 Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LOTICIP) GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Transportation provides funding to urbanized area municipal governments through the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP), and

WHEREAS, the LOTICIP is intended primarily to address regional transportation priorities through capital improvement projects prioritized and endorsed by regional planning organizations, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) is currently accepting applications for the LOTICIP, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton's highest immediate priority project for this program is the

redesign and reconstruction of the intersections of Kings Highway, Bridge Street, and Route 1 to handle existing and anticipated future traffic patterns, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to submit an application to the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program for the Kings Highway/Bridge Street/Route 1 intersections redesign and reconstruction.

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

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

2015-0263 Appointment to the School Facilities Initiative Task Force

RESOLUTION APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE SCHOOL FACILITIES INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

RESOLVED, that the following individuals are appointed to the School Facilities Initiative Task Force:

Heather Somers, 67 Ramsdell Street, Groton as a citizen-at-large from the City of Groton; Mac Denno, 309 Pequot Avenue, Mystic as a citizen-at-large; and Mike Doyle, 15 Elm Street, Noank as citizen-at-large.

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

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to suspend the Town Council Rules in order to discuss appointing members to the School Facilities Initiative Task Force. The motion was seconded by Councilor Antipas. The vote passed 9-0-0 in favor of the motion.

Discussion:

In response to Councilor Flax as to whether any of the nominees had previously served on this Task Force, Mayor Schmidt explained that Heather Somers and Marc Denno had previously served and would like to be reappointed.

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that Mike Doyle has never served on this Task Force but that he has been very active in other school related projects.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Watson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilor Moravsik. Seeing no objections, Mayor Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher,
Clerk of the Council*