



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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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

Wednesday, November 4, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

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

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 Boy Scout Christian Cloutier.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2015-0261 Proclamation Recognizing Jeffrey J. Messina

Read

The proclamation was read by Councilor de la Cruz.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Boy Scout Christian Cloutier, 336 Briar Hill Road, announced that the Annual Boy Scout Food Drive to support the Food Locker will be conducted throughout the Town of Groton and Mystic. He encouraged the Town Council to speak to their friends and neighbors to participate in this event. He explained that bags had been delivered to homes during the previous weekend.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2015-0265 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 20, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2015-0260 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby accepts contributions to the Town as follows:
Mystic Photography Group - \$25.00 - Library Renovations
Anonymous - \$20.00 - Library Renovations

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2015-0252 Supportive Housing Program Grant

- This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0256 **Groton Education Foundation Grant - Library**
- This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0258 **Job Description for Foreman - Parks**
- This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0259 **Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) Memorandum of Understanding**
- This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2015-0262 **Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization Planning Grant**
- 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 unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilor Granatosky reported that she received an email from Mr. Butta requesting that the Town Council revisit the proposal that Groton Community Meals have access to the Fitch Middle School kitchen to cook and serve their weekly free meals. She stated that Mr. Butta offered to perform custodial duties in exchange for this allowance.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher reported on the Groton Municipal Election results. She announced that there would be a recount of close votes on November 5, 2015 at 9:00 am at the Town Hall Annex. She stated that the next meeting scheduled for the RTM is November 18, 2015, 7:30 pm, at the Groton Senior Center. She stated that this will be the last meeting of the 29th RTM.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher read an email from George Mathanool and a thank-you letter from Karen M. Santacroce. She thanked the Town Council for their last two years of service and conveyed her enjoyment with assisting them.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger reviewed items listed in the Town Manager's Weekly Status Report. He announced that on Wednesday November 11th all town offices will be closed. The Sub Vet's Flasher Memorial event will take place at 11 am on Veterans Day, Wednesday November 11th. The Annual Military Appreciation Breakfast will take place on Friday November 13th at 7:45 am at the Mystic Marriott. Social Services distribution of holiday baskets will take place on November 20th at 9:00am and volunteers are needed. He announced that there will be a Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce event on Thursday, December 3rd, at 5:30 pm at the Mystic Marriott honoring the U.S. Navy and Tony Manfredi of the Mystic Fire Department. He also reviewed possible items for the next 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**2015-0252 Supportive Housing Program Grant****RESOLUTION APPROVING TVCCA/HUD SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM GRANT**

WHEREAS, homelessness is being addressed on several fronts by numerous programs but remains an ongoing problem for Groton and neighboring communities, and

WHEREAS, homeless persons with disabilities and homeless families in which at least one member is disabled require extensive counseling, support and case management services, and

WHEREAS, the Supportive Housing Program, operated by TVCCA as the grantee of record with the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, provides funding to enable agencies and municipalities to provide counseling, support and case management services via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, Mark R. Oefinger, to enter into an agreement with Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. to accept grant funding in the amount of \$9,000 (or such an amount to be specified) to conduct a Supportive Housing Program in Groton via Groton Human Services for the period of February 1, 2016 through January 31, 2017 and to utilize said funding to supplant a portion of the salaries and related fringe benefits of selected Groton Human Services staff, who shall provide counseling, support and case management services to the specified Groton client population via participation in the Housing Collaborative Network.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0256 Groton Education Foundation Grant - Library**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO SEEK GRANT FUNDING FROM THE GROTON EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC. TO BENEFIT THE CHILDREN AND SENIOR COMMUNITY OF GROTON IN ASSOCIATION WITH GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY'S BOOK BUDDIES INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the children and seniors of Groton will benefit from a Book Buddies program which will include literacy-based enrichment activities between 5th grade students of Mary Morrisson Elementary School, ages 10-11, and residents of the local area nursing and assisted living facilities, Groton Regency and Fairview Odd Fellows Home, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Public Library, through its monthly Book Buddies program, will support literacy, intergenerational enrichment activities, and community collaboration, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Education Foundation, Inc. (GEF) has funds available to provide and enhance these literacy-based enrichment activities and library materials in support of educating youth, ages 10-11, supporting seniors of Groton, and strengthening community partnerships, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger or his designee to seek grant funding in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Groton Education Foundation, Inc. which will be utilized by the Groton Public Library to benefit the Book Buddies intergenerational programming for children and seniors in the Groton community.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0258

Job Description for Foreman - Parks

RESOLUTION APPROVING JOB DESCRIPTION FOR FOREMAN - PARKS

WHEREAS, the retirement of the Foreman Parks - Tree Warden provided an opportunity to evaluate the position, and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Department seeks to redefine, update, and retitle the job description for Foreman - Parks to increase management, budget, and hiring responsibilities, and

WHEREAS, the Tree Warden function can be served by other personnel within the Town organization, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the attached job description for Foreman - Parks with a revision date of October 2015.

A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0259

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) Memorandum of Understanding

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION FOR THE INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

WHEREAS, the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional initiative engaged in reactive, proactive, and forensic investigations and criminal prosecutions, and

WHEREAS, in order to formalize the Town's participation in the ICAC Task Force a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is required to outline the relationship between all participating agencies in order to ensure that each understands and agrees to guidelines concerning policy, supervision, planning, training and public relations, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection for participation in the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force.

A motion was made by Councilor Granatosky, seconded by Councilor Frink, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0262

Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization Planning Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION FOR A BROWNFIELD AREA-WIDE REVITALIZATION PLANNING GRANT

WHEREAS, pursuant to CGS Section 32-763 the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for developing a comprehensive plan for the remediation and redevelopment of multiple brownfields [called the Brownfield Area-Wide Revitalization (BAR) Planning Grant], and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Groton make an application to the state for \$200,000 in order to undertake the Poquonnock Bridge Village/Town Hall Gateway project and to execute an Assistance Agreement, now therefore be it

RESOLVED by the Groton Town Council:

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites (including the match obligations) for the state financial assistance imposed by CGS Section 32-763 and the Guidelines of the BAR Planning Program;
2. That the filing of an application for state financial assistance by the Town of Groton in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 is hereby approved and that Town Manager Mark R. Oefinger is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for state financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town of Groton.
3. That it agrees to fulfill the required 10% cash match of the BAR Planning Grant Program if the application is successful.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0269

Ordinance Establishing a Code of Ethics and an Ethics Commission

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PREPARATION OF AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CODE OF ETHICS AND AN ETHICS COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Section 3.5.3 of the Groton Town Charter states that "The Council shall establish a Code of Ethics by ordinance and an Ethics Commission consisting of at least five (5) members appointed by the Council," and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed a draft Code of Ethics developed by the Code of Ethics Task Force, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council considers it appropriate to move forward in the process of establishing a Code of Ethics and Ethics Commission with the first step being the creation of an ordinance reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Town staff and the Town Attorney are authorized to prepare a legislative ordinance establishing a Code of Ethics and an Ethics Commission to be introduced by the Town Council.

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

Mayor Schmidt made a motion to suspend the Town Council Rules in order to add a Resolution to prepare an Ordinance establishing a Code of Ethics and an Ethics Commission to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Flax. The vote passed 8-1-0 with Councilor Granatosky opposing the motion.

Councilor Antipas explained the details of motions to the audience.

Councilor Watson thanked Councilors Antipas and Flax for the many hours that they spent putting the Ethics Code together.

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:14 pm was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson and so taken.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*