



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

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Tuesday, December 1, 2015

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

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#### REGULAR MEETING

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#### I. ROLL CALL

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

*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 State Representative John Scott.*

#### III. ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE TO TOWN COUNCILORS - Town Clerk

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected Town Councilors.*

#### IV. ADOPTION OF THIRTIETH TOWN COUNCIL TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES

2015-0280

##### Adoption of Temporary Rules for the Thirtieth Town Council

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE THIRTIETH TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED, that the Rules and Procedures of the Twenty-Ninth Town Council are temporarily adopted as the Rules and Procedures for the Thirtieth Town Council, elected November 3, 2015.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

#### V. ELECTION OF MAYOR

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher entertained nominations from the floor for the election of Mayor to the Town Council. The Town Clerk explained that the Mayor of the Council also serves as Chair of the Committee of the Whole. Councilor Deb Peruzzotti nominated Councilor Bruce Flax. The nomination was seconded by Councilor Diane Barber. Hearing no other nominations, Councilor Harry Watson moved to close the nominations. The vote to close the nominations carried unanimously as did the election of Mayor Bruce Flax.*

#### VI. PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher presented the gavel to Mayor Bruce Flax. Mayor Flax accepted the gavel and thanked his fellow Councilors for their support. He predicted that the Thirtieth Town Council will work well together. He invited the public to come to the Town Council meetings and to share their thoughts with the Town Council.*

#### VII. APPOINTMENT OF RULES COMMITTEE

*Mayor Flax announced his appointments to the Temporary Rules Committee as Councilors Watson, Grim, and Antipas.*

2015-0281

##### Appointment of Temporary Rules Committee

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES COMMITTEE BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor hereby appoints the following members to the Temporary Rules Committee to review the Twenty-Ninth Town Council Rules as temporarily adopted for the Thirtieth Town Council:

1. Councilor Watson
2. Councilor Grim
3. Councilor Antipas

**VIII. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS**

*None.*

**IX. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*None.*

**X. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

*None.*

**XI. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**a. Administrative Items**

**2015-0279 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS**

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

Anonymous - \$1.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Robert and Linda Ashworth - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Marilyn Baird - \$200.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Jessica and Kevin Fay - \$40.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Mystic River Homes Congregate - \$75.00 - Social Services Discretionary  
Henry and Pamela Olexy - \$100.00 - Social Service Discretionary  
Adele Barclay - \$50.00 - Social Service Discretionary  
Paul and Elizabeth Duarte - \$100.00 - Social Service Discretionary  
Ronna Pollard - \$50.00 - Social Service Discretionary  
Connecticut Elks Association - \$875.00 - Social Service Discretionary  
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$7.40 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Adrienne and Bill Loweth - \$1,500.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Barbara Weeman - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program  
Mr. and Mrs. William Gibbs - \$50.00 - Library Renovations

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

**b. Deletions from Referral List**

**2015-0255 Adoption of 2016 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule**

**2015-0254 Adoption of 2016 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule**

**Passed The Consent Calendar**

**A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti, to adopt the Consent Calendar, including all the preceding items marked as having been adopted on the Consent Calendar.**

**The motion carried unanimously**

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

**a. Town Councilors**

*Councilor de la Cruz attended the School Initiative Task Force meeting on November 12, 2015. He reported that our State Representatives also attended this meeting. He encouraged residents to attend these meetings and to consider writing letters to the State Legislature in support of allocating additional Education funding for Groton. He congratulated the new Mayor and all the Councilors on their election.*

*Councilor Nault offered her congratulations to the new Mayor and to the new Town Councilors. She stated her enthusiasm to serve as a Town Councilor.*

*Councilor Grim congratulated all the new Town Councilors and stated his excitement in serving the Town and working with the new Town Councilors.*

*Councilor Watson congratulated the new Town Councilors. He reported that he received an email from Mr. Johnson regarding street lighting in Noank and another email from Jennifer Simm regarding rules in our Parks and Recreation Department governing volleyball. He thanked all the businesses that pledged sponsorships to the GBA Groton Basketball Teams. He reported that he and Councilor de la Cruz received an email from Grasso Technical School regarding the elimination of their Carpentry Program. He announced that there will be a meeting at Grasso Technical School on December 15th, 2015 to discuss this issue. He announced that on December 4th, 2015 there will be a Century Sub Celebration meeting. He submitted five referral requests to the Mayor, and he recited a quote by Henry Ford, Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress and working together is success.*

*Councilor Antipas offered his congratulations to the new Mayor and Town Councilors. He reported that he received the same email from Mr. Johnson regarding the street lighting in Noank. He reported that he participated in the November 20, 2015 Human Services Holiday baskets distribution. He encouraged his fellow Councilors to take part in the December 18, 2015 distribution of baskets.*

*Councilor Morton included her congratulations to the new Town Council. She stated her optimism in working with the new Council.*

*Councilor Barber offered her congratulations to the new Town Council and she stated her excitement in working with the Council in the months ahead.*

*Councilor Peruzzotti stated her excitement to be working with such a great group of people. She also congratulated the new Mayor.*

*Mayor Flax welcomed the new members. He explained that he plans to share public appearances and other Mayoral duties with the entire Town Council.*

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

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher announced that the next RTM meeting will be held on December 9th, 2015 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 pm. She stated that this is the first meeting of the Thirtieth RTM.*

**c. Clerk of the Council**

*Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher congratulated the new Town Council and offered assistance to all Councilors.*

**d. Town Manager**

*Town Manager Mark Oefinger congratulated the new Town Council. He reviewed items that had been distributed including actions to be discussed at the next Committee of the Whole meeting. He discussed subject options for a few meetings that the Town Council may schedule in the coming weeks.*

**XIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**2015-0254 Adoption of 2016 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule**

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2016 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council regular meeting

schedule for 2016 as follows:

Tuesday, January 5, 2016  
Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
Tuesday, February 2, 2016  
Tuesday, February 16, 2016  
Tuesday, March 1, 2016  
Tuesday, March 15, 2016  
Tuesday April 5, 2016  
Tuesday, April 19, 2016  
Tuesday, May 3, 2016  
Tuesday, May 17, 2016  
Tuesday, June 7, 2016  
Tuesday, June 21, 2016  
Tuesday, July 5, 2016  
Tuesday, July 19, 2016  
Tuesday, August 2, 2016  
Tuesday, August 16, 2016  
Tuesday, September 6, 2016  
Tuesday, September 20, 2016  
Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
Tuesday, October 18, 2016  
Tuesday, November 1, 2016  
Tuesday, November 15, 2016  
Tuesday, December 6, 2016  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**2015-0255**

**Adoption of 2016 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING 2016 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole regular meeting schedule for 2016 as follows:

Tuesday, January 12, 2016  
Tuesday, January 26, 2016  
Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
Tuesday, March 8, 2016  
Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
Tuesday, April 12, 2016  
Tuesday, April 26, 2016  
Tuesday, May 10, 2016  
Tuesday, May 24, 2016  
Tuesday, June 14, 2016  
Tuesday, June 28, 2016  
Tuesday, July 12, 2016  
Tuesday, July 26, 2016  
Tuesday, August 9, 2016  
Tuesday, August 23, 2016

Tuesday, September 13, 2016  
Tuesday, September 27, 2016  
Tuesday, October 11, 2016  
Tuesday, October 25, 2016  
Wednesday, November 9, 2016\*  
Tuesday, November 22, 2016  
Tuesday, December 13, 2016  
Tuesday, December 27, 2016

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, except as noted.

\*Moved to Wednesday because of Election Day on November 8, 2016.

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

**The motion carried unanimously**

**XIV. OTHER BUSINESS**

**- Discussion Regarding Town Council Orientation**

*Mayor Flax stated that there will be an orientation meeting for the benefit of all Town Councilors at the Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for December 8, 2015.*

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Councilor Nault and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukwasher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the Council*