Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council

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

Mayor Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Genevieve Cerf, Joe delaCruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Heather Bond Somers and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, December 3, 2013 | **7:30 PM** | **Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher.

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Cerf, Councilor delaCruz, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Somers and Councilor Watson
Members Absent: Councilor Peruzzotti

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 Kevin Trejo.

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

The Town Clerk administered the oath of office to newly-elected Town Councilors.

IV. ADOPTION OF TWENTY-NINTH COUNCIL TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES - See attached

2013-0288 Adoption of Temporary Rules and Procedures

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE TWENTY-NINTH TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED, that the Rules and Procedures of the Twenty-Eighth Town Council are temporarily adopted as the Rules and Procedures for the Twenty-Ninth Town Council, elected November 5, 2013.

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

The motion carried unanimously

V. ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Town Clerk called for nominations for Mayor.

Councilor Somers nominated Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Watson.

Councilor Somers remarked that Councilor Schmidt has served many years on the Town Council as well as being a former RTM Moderator. She has always been fair, open, and non-political. Councilor Somers stated that you could not ask for a better candidate.

Councilor Watson stated that Councilor Schmidt is a caring individual who is untiring and truly cares about Groton and its citizens.

There being no further nominations, the Town Clerk called for a vote.

VOTE to elect Rita Schmidt as Mayor passed unanimously.

VI. PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

Town Clerk Moukawsher presented newly-elected Mayor Schmidt with the gavel.

Mayor Schmidt stated that it is a privilege to be elected Mayor. She thanked Councilor Somers for the great job that she has done as Mayor over the last two years. Mayor Schmidt noted that each and every one of the newly-elected Councilors is active in the community, and with their combined expertise the Council can move forward as a team to build on past efforts and grow Groton's economy during these difficult economic times.

VII. APPOINTMENT OF RULES COMMITTEE

2013-0289 Appointment of Temporary Rules Committee by Mayor

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY RULES COMMITTEE BY THE MAYOR

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

1. Councilor Frink
2. Councilor Moravsik
3. Councilor Watson
4. Councilor Flax

This matter was Adopted.

VIII. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IX. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Beth Robinson, 25 Lemont Road, Boating Advisory Board member, presented Dean Antipas with a commemorative paddle for his participation as Town Council representative on the Boating Advisory Board.

Jane Dauphinais, 826 Groton Long Point Road, congratulated those who will be serving as Councilors. She remarked that she is grateful to past councilors for their careful deliberation on the budget. Ms. Dauphinais thanked Heather Somers for her service as Mayor, noting that she has been proactive, innovative and persistent.

X. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

XI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2013-0281 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 19, 2013 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2013-0279 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 - $23.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Good News Clown (Food Locker) - $50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Catherine Kolnaski - $100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Charles Rogers - $25.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Albert Rudolph - $75.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - $50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
City of Groton - $500.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert Boggs - $6.42 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Julia Campisi - $50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Edward Card - $20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Peter Dikan - $50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Daniel Eischen - $50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Stephan Finton - $25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Sharon Schnare - $50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Orin Start - $10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert Szegda - $25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Marsha Zimmermann - $5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

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

The motion carried unanimously

XII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors received a letter regarding dealings with Planning and Zoning.

Councilor Somers, along with former Councilor Antipas, attended a ceremony at which a check from the proceeds of the Pirate Invasion'was donated to the Terri Brodeur Breast Cancer Foundation. Over $2,000 was raised for this worthy cause.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk noted that the newly-elected RTM will be sworn in at its next regular RTM meeting on December 11, 2013, at the Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk congratulated Councilors and wished them success.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager distributed orientation binders to Councilors. He noted that a police ceremony will be held on December 6; the Holiday Lights Parade will be held on December 7; the next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on December 10; a School Facilities Initiative Task Force meeting will be held on December 12; a SubBase holiday gathering will be held on December 11; a Town Council/RTM joint budget meeting will be held on December 16; a Town Council meeting will be held on December 17; the Annual Holiday Distribution will be held on December 20; and a Committee of the Whole meeting will be held on December 23, 2013.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

2013-0287 Town Attorney Appointment

TOWN ATTORNEY APPOINTMENT

Councilor Watson requested a referral for the appointment of a Town Attorney.

2013-0286 **Town Council Goals**

TOWN COUNCIL GOALS

Councilor Frink requested a referral to establish Town Council goals.

XV. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Manager will set up an FOI training session with Tom Hennick from the FOI Commission.

The Rules Committee and the Committee of the Whole will discuss whether to utilize Group I and Group II subcommittees or whether to have future referrals discussed in the Committee of the Whole.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. was made by Councilor Somers, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant