



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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

Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Councilor David Atwater, Councilor Conrad F. Heede, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Rich Moravsik, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING - REVISED

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. She read the roll call of the meeting.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt and Councilor Zeppieri

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by State Senator Heather Somers.

IV. ADOPTION OF THIRTY-FIRST TOWN COUNCIL TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES

2017-0277

Adoption of Temporary Rules for the Thirty-First Town Council

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TEMPORARY RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE THIRTY-FIRST TOWN COUNCIL

RESOLVED, that the Rules and Procedures of the Thirtieth Town Council are temporarily adopted as the Rules and Procedures for the Thirty-First Town Council, elected November 7, 2017.

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

The motion carried unanimously

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

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher administered the Oath of Office to the Town Councilors-Elect.

V. ELECTION OF MAYOR

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher opened the floor for the nomination for the Chairperson of the Town Council and for the Mayor of the Town. Councilor Rich Moravsik nominated Councilor Patrice Granatosky to be the new Mayor and Chairperson of the Town Council, seconded by Councilors Lian Obrey, Rita Schmidt and Juliette Parker. Councilor Rita Schmidt moved to close the nominations, seconded by Councilor Rachael Franco. The motion to close the nominations carried unanimously. The motion to elect Councilor Patrice Granatosky as Mayor of the Town and Chairperson of the Town Council carried unanimously.

VI. PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO NEWLY ELECTED MAYOR

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher presented the gavel to Mayor Patrice Granatosky.

Mayor Granatosky thanked the audience for attending the meeting. She read a statement on behalf of the members of the Town Council thanking the voters for giving them the responsibility as Town Councilors. She stated that their priorities are to work together respectfully and value all of Groton; to pursue smart economic development, working with our business partners while balancing the needs of the community; to advocate for strong schools, assuring equal opportunity for all of our students; to support strong public safety and community policing; to develop our parks and recreation and safeguard our natural beauty; and to make informed public decisions

that will result in positive long-term plans. She thanked the public for the opportunity to serve our town. She stated that the Town Council thanked their predecessors for their time and energy devoted to Groton. She that this Town Council is here to do the best for Groton; to honor your trust, and to work cooperatively to bring Groton together.

VII. APPOINTMENT OF RULES COMMITTEE

2017-0278 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 Thirtieth Town Council Rules as temporarily adopted for the Thirty-First Town Council.

1. Councilor Conrad Heede
2. Councilor Juliette Parker
3. Councilor Joe Zeppieri

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

Mayor Granatosky asked for a motion to appoint the temporary Rules Committee. Councilor Moravsik made a motion to approve the appointment of Councilors Heede, Parker, and Zeppieri to serve on the Temporary Rules Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Obrey.

The motion carried unanimously

VIII. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

Mayor Granatosky announced that this day is Councilor Obrey's Birthday.

IX. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Aimie Gresham, 45 West Main Street, Mystic, stated that she was there as a follow-up from the previous Town Council regrading her request for an adoption a Noise Ordinance for downtown Mystic. She stated that the issue is a downtown Mystic restaurant plays loud music late into the night, particularly on Mondays and Saturdays. She submitted a record of the police calls from the Town Police. She stated that it covers six months with twenty-seven calls. She stated that the Police Officers suggested that she request an ordinance from the Town Council.

Heather Somers, 64 Ramsdell Street, congratulated the new Town Council, and as State Senator, she offered any assistance to the Council. She stated that the Legislature is trying to go back into session within the next seven days to fix a few problems that have developed since the adoption of the State Budget.

Genevieve Cerf, 60 Hillside Avenue, Noank, offered her congratulations to the new Town Council and commented on the election. She stated that she would like to see a change in the rules to include two Town Council meetings a month. She stated that one meeting limits the amount of opportunities for citizens to speak to the Town Council. She suggested that the Council adopt the old system with respect to meetings. She made positive comments regarding the Noank Community Public Garden.

Zell Stever, 81 Main Street, Groton, congratulated the Council and thank them for their willingness to serve the community. He stated that they have a difficult job ahead of them, one that will take a lot of patience. He stated that he hopes that they will collectively provide strong, sound, and thoughtful leadership for our community during the next two years. He stated that he hopes that the Council will provide positive leadership to our community and work to change the current negative and divisive political sscene we all experience in Washington, D.C. today. He requested that they work in a bipartisan manner. He thanked the members and wished them the best during the next two years. He stated that Groton is a great place.

State Representative Christine Conley congratulated the Town Council on the election and offered

assistance going forward. State Representative de la Cruz congratulated the Council. He stated that he remembers the feeling that they are experiencing and he remarked that when they take one of their first votes, remember that you are voting for forty-thousand people. He stated that the direction that this Town Council is going to take us in is going to be in the proper and right direction. He stated that he and Christine are always available to meet with the Town Council. He and Christine want to make sure that the Council always has that connection to Hartford to keep Groton moving forward.

X. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Town Manager Burt stated that a permit is required to have outdoor music and seating, and that Chapter One is in the process of obtaining a permit

Councilor Obrey responded to Mr. Stever, speaking only for herself, stated that harmony is something very important to the Town Council. She stated that they want to show the proper respect to the people of Groton. She stated they will listen and not judge. She stated that she hopes to have a room as full as this evening at every meeting.

XI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Administrative Items

2017-0282 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
 Robert Ashworth - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Kristin & Robert Fairbank - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Groton Senior Center's Club 55 - \$500.00- Social Services Discretionary
 Mystic Marriott - \$171.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Old Mystic Fire District - \$787.50 - Social Services Discretionary
 Kenneth and Amy Richards - \$125.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Albert & Janiss Rudolph - \$150.00 - Social Services Discretionary
 Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2017-0258 Town Council 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule

2017-0261 Committee of the Whole 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule

2017-0262 Personnel and Appointments Committee 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule

2017-0279 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Moravsik, seconded by Councilor Heede, 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 Parker commented on the note from ARC congratulating the members on their election.

Councilor Moravsik stated that he had received communication from Mrs. Marlene Estabrooks, 3 Allyn Street, Mystic. He stated that she had indicated that the Department of Transportation had put up arrow signs by her property, and that she felt that it is not necessary. He stated that she had asked the Town to look into the matter. He stated that he understands that the Town Manager is reviewing the circumstances.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the next Representative Town Meeting will be December 13, 2017 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m. She stated that this is the newly-elected members' first meeting. She stated that the items for business is adoption of temporary rules, the Ordinance for combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions, and to created a Planning Commission for veto only.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher stated that the Town Historian Jim Streeter will have a presentation detailing his newly released book titled Remembering Our Veterans- A Directory of Groton's Veteran and War Memorial on December 12, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Groton Public Library.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager John Burt welcomed the new Town Councilor and he stated his assurance of the great things that they will accomplish together. He announced that the Economic Development Department has a very robust new web site, www.exploremoregroton.com. He encouraged everyone to take a look at it. He announced that there will be a Santa Fly-Over at the Groton-New London Airport on December 9, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He announced that you can take a picture with Santa by donating a non-perishable food item, which will be given to the Groton Food Locker. He announced that Groton Human Services will be soliciting food donations for the December holiday food basket distribution. He stated that they expect to make up five-hundred baskets this season. He stated that food donation can be dropped off through December, Monday through Friday, at the Human Services office during office hours.

e. Department Heads

No report.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS**Suspension of Town Council Rule 7 b) to consider and act upon:**

Councilor Heede made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilor Partker and so voted unanimously.

2017-0258 Town Council 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule**RESOLUTION APPROVING 2018 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby rescinds Resolution #2017-0222, and approves the Town Council regular meeting schedule for 2018 as follows:

Tuesday, January 2, 2018 (special meeting)
 Tuesday, February 6, 2018
 Tuesday, March 6, 2018
 Tuesday, April 3, 2018
 Tuesday, May 1, 2018
 Tuesday, June 5, 2018
 Tuesday, July 3, 2018
 Tuesday, August 7, 2018
 Tuesday, September 4, 2018
 Tuesday, October 2, 2018
 Wednesday, November 7, 2018*
 Tuesday, December 4, 2018

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the first Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

*Moved to Wednesday, November 7, 2018 because of Election Day on November 6, 2018.

A motion was made by Councilor Heede, seconded by Councilor Zeppieri, that this matter be Adopted.

Mayor Granatosky stated that this motion is to accept the new meeting time for the yearly schedule of regular Town Council meetings.

The motion carried unanimously

Suspension of Town Council Rule 7 b) to consider and act upon:

Mayor Granatosky stated that this suspension of rule 7 (b is to accept the new time for the Committee of the Whole annual meeting schedule. Councilor Schmidt made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Councilor Zeppieri and so carried unanimously.

2017-0261 Committee of the Whole 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2018 TOWN COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby rescinds Resolution #2017-0223 and approves the Committee of the Whole regular meeting schedule for 2018 as follows:

Tuesday, January 9, 2018
 Tuesday, January 23, 2018
 Tuesday, February 13, 2018
 Tuesday, February 27, 2018
 Tuesday, March 13, 2018
 Tuesday, March 27, 2018
 Tuesday, April 10, 2018
 Tuesday, April 24, 2018
 Tuesday, May 8, 2018
 Tuesday, May 22, 2018
 Tuesday, June 12, 2018
 Tuesday, June 26, 2018
 Tuesday, July 10, 2018
 Tuesday, July 24, 2018
 Tuesday, August 14, 2018
 Tuesday, August 28, 2018
 Tuesday, September 11, 2018
 Tuesday, September 25, 2018
 Tuesday, October 9, 2018
 Tuesday, October 23, 2018
 Tuesday, November 13, 2018
 Tuesday, November 27, 2018
 Tuesday, December 11, 2018
 Wednesday, December 26, 2018*

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

*Moved to Wednesday, December 26, 2018 because of Christmas Day on December 25, 2018

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

The motion carried unanimously

Suspension of Town Council Rule 7 b) to consider and act upon:

Mayor Granatosky stated that they need to suspend the rules one more time to change the time for the Personnel and Appointments Committee regular meeting schedule. Councilor Parker made the motion, seconded by Councilor Franco, and the motion carried by a vote of eight in favor and 1 abstention. Councilor Zeppieri abstained from the vote.

2017-0262 Personnel and Appointments Committee 2018 Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2018 TOWN COUNCIL PERSONNEL AND APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby rescinds Resolution #2017-0224 and approves the Town Council Personnel and Appointments Committee regular meeting schedule for 2018 as follows:

- Tuesday, January 2, 2018 (special meeting)
- Tuesday, February 6, 2018
- Tuesday, March 6, 2018
- Tuesday, April 3, 2018
- Tuesday, May 1, 2018
- Tuesday, June 5, 2018
- Tuesday, July 3, 2018
- Tuesday, August 7, 2018
- Tuesday, September 4, 2018
- Tuesday, October 2, 2018
- Wednesday, November 7, 2018*
- Tuesday, December 4, 2018

All meetings begin at 5:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road, on the first Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

*Moved to Wednesday, November 7, 2018 because of Election Day on November 6, 2018

A motion was made by Councilor Atwater, seconded by Councilor Parker, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

Suspension of Town Council Rule 7 b) to consider and act upon:

2017-0279 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

RESOLUTION MAKING APPOINTMENTS TO MISCELLANEOUS AND AD HOC COMMITTEES

WHEREAS, the Town Council makes appointments to miscellaneous and ad hoc local and regional committees as well as appointing liaisons to other groups, and

WHEREAS, upon its election every two years the Town Council should reconsider these appointments, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following individuals are appointed or reaffirmed as appointees to the groups as noted:

- Boating Advisory Board Liaison - _____
- Cable Television Advisory Council - _____, _____, _____ (Terms Expire 7/1/19)
- Children First Groton - _____
- Eastern Regional Catchment Area Council - _____
- Eastern Tourism District - _____
- Economic Development Commission Liaison - _____
- Golf Advisory Board - _____ (ex-officio, non-voting)
- Long Island Sound Advisory Council - _____
- Mystic Cooperative Task Force - _____
- Pequot Woods Board of Trustees - _____
- School Readiness Council - _____

Southeast Area Transit - _____, _____ (Terms expire 12/1/19)
 Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments - _____
 Southeastern Connecticut Regional Resources Recovery Authority - _____, _____
 (Terms expire 4/16/18)
 Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Representative Advisory Board - _____,
 _____ (Terms expire 9/1/19)
 Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. - _____ (Term Expires 12/3/19)
 Town Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee - _____, _____,
 _____, _____
 Trails Coordinating Task Force - _____, _____, _____ (Task Force Expires
 1/1/19)

Not acted upon

Suspension of Town Council Rule 7 b) to consider and act upon:

2017-0283 Authorization for Town Manager to Fill Town Clerk Vacancies

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO FILL TOWN CLERK VACANCIES

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted Resolution 2017-0193, which establishes a hiring freeze for certain departments, and

WHEREAS, this resolution requires the Town Council to give consent to the Town Manger to authorize any change in employment, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council conveys authorization to the Town Manager, in accordance with Town Charter 6.2, to fill vacancies in the Town Clerk's Office.

Not acted upon

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Granatosky entertained a motion to adjourn, so moved by Councilor Heede, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, and so taken at 7:02 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher
Groton Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*