



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes Town Council

Mayor Heather Bond Somers, Councilors Dean G. Antipas, Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Karen F. Morton, Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Rita M. Schmidt, James L. Streeter, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

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 Mayor Somers.

Members Present: Mayor Somers, Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Morton, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Watson

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 Rep. Kotowski.

There was a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, Mystic, an RTM member, is concerned about the budget and suggested "thinking outside the box." Ms. Kotowski outlined two forms of budgets -- priority based budgeting and zero based budgeting. She suggested setting a level of importance for every item in the budget, identifying needs versus wants, and having an honest discussion about how to control spending.

Genevieve Cerf, 17 Crescent Street, an RTM member, agrees with Ms. Kotowski. Ms. Cerf is concerned about the budget for the Fleet Fund, the police allowance for uniforms, and sick incentives. She would like the Town Manager's budget decreased by \$1 million because roads projects will now be bonded. Due to the decline in the number of permits issued, Ms. Cerf requested that the Council consider not filling vacancies caused by retirements in the Planning Department.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Morton agrees with Ms. Kotowski's suggestion regarding a priority based budget. She noted that priorities need to be identified because essential items may need to be trimmed in the near future.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2012-0339 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of December 4, 2012 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

Mayor Somers thanked all those who contributed for their generous donations.

2012-0327

Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Jason, Matteson and Amy Richardson - \$100.00 - Human Services Spicer Fund
Carol Case - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Frank and Linda Ello - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Eye Center - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Groton Rotary, Groton Lions and Liberty Bank - \$9,291.24 - Social Services Discretionary
Edward and Catherine Kolnaski - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic River Homes Congregate - \$55.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Mystic Rotary - \$1,076.18 - Social Services Discretionary
Gerald and Mary Pischerchia - \$500.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Amy and Matteson Richardson - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Charles Rogers - \$35.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Albert and Janiss Rudolph - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Barbara Servidio - \$300.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Suisman, Shapiro, Wool, Brennan, Gray and Greenberg, P.C. - \$120.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Howard and Suzane Tyron - \$250.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Lee Vincent - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Windham Fall Estates - \$15.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Major James Douglass Robertson (to be used for Groton History project) - \$2,000 - Library Miscellaneous
Mystic River Homes - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous
Christa Barber - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert and Phyllis Boggs - \$8.43 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Evelyn Bridges - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Josephine Bright - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ellen and Malcolm Cameron - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Henry and Patricia Durham - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Dwight and Barbara Dutton - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Margaret Francis - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Stephen and Patricia Gordon - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Robert and William Loweth - \$1,000.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Reverend Darnelle Magnus-Aryitey - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Matthew and Karen Morton - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Patricia Pearce - \$40.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Anne-Marie Quagliaroli - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Helen Quinn - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
John and Eleanor Ralls - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Virginia Richards - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Martin and Solveig Schames - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Jeanne Schneider - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Ernesto and Mary Soriano - \$300.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Emily Thomas - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Sadie Tremblay - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Joseph Wallace - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Anne Wimsey - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 City of Groton - \$452.92 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
 Sharon Hollay - \$500.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
 Trillium Garden Club - \$25.00 - Library Miscellaneous

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2011-0238 Road Reconstruction Bond Ordinance

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

2012-0281 Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee

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

2012-0321 Reallocation of CIP Funds to Fitch High School Roof Replacement

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

2012-0330 Road Reconstruction Bond - Year 1 Projects

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

2012-0331 RTM Reapportionment

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

2012-0333 Appointment of William Middleton to the Historic District Commission

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

2012-0334 Appointment of Lee Vincent to Community Development Advisory Committee

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

2012-0335 Reappointment of Daniel Campbell to Permanent School Building Committee

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

2012-0336 Reappointment of Kenneth Steere to Harbor Management Commission

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

2012-0337 Reappointment of James Mitchell to Board of Assessment Appeals

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

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATION REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

a. Town Councilors

Councilors attended a candlelight vigil at Fitch Senior High School in memory of those slain in Newtown, Connecticut.

Councilors received communications regarding a potential safety hazard on Judson Avenue, advertising on a truck at a Fitch football game, nitrogen at the Water Pollution Control Department, the budget, the sale of Thames Valley Communications, noise late in the evening in downtown Mystic, and whether the Town has filed a report with FEMA for recent storm damage.

Councilor Peruzzotti attended an OpSail meeting and was also contacted by a representative of Love.Gov.

Councilor Streeter attended a "Wreaths Across America" ceremony.

Councilor Watson and Councilor Flax attended the Board of Education/Town and City Council/RTM Liaison Committee meeting.

Councilor Watson walked the Copp property and attended the retirement party for S.B. Butler teacher Nancy Congdon.

Councilor Antipas, Councilor Flax, and Councilor Schmidt attended an Ethics Task Force meeting.

Councilor Flax attended the redistricting meeting.

Councilor Johnson attended the Plan of Conservation and Development meeting.

Mayor Somers attended a reception at the SubBase and a Chamber of Commerce event. She congratulated Town Manager Mark Oefinger on his reappointment as Chairman of SouthEastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer). The Mayor noted that local tattoo artist Steve Tefft is a finalist tonight on the national television show Ink Masters."

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The next meeting of the RTM will be held on January 9, 2013.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk met with recently appointed Justices of the Peace, who will begin their terms on January 7, 2013. It was noted that Groton Utilities matches \$.50 for every \$1 donated to the Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program.

d. Town Manager

By consensus, the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee and Town Council meetings scheduled for January 2, 2013, have been cancelled. The Town Manager stated that the Social Services holiday distribution will be held on December 21, 2012; Town offices will be closed December 24th, 25th, and January 1st; and a meeting with State legislators is scheduled for January 7, 2013.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Morton

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

Councilor Flax read the minutes of December 11, 2012, which are on file at the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Antipas

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Somers

Mayor Somers noted that the resolutions on tonight's agenda are a result of the Committee of the Whole meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2012-0281 Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE STRUCTURE AND DUTIES OF THE ENERGY, EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, the Town Council established the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee (EECC) on November 1, 2011 in response to a recommendation by the Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, at the direction of the Council, made initial appointments to the EECC in accordance with the November 1, 2011 resolution, and

WHEREAS, at the initial meeting of the EECC questions were raised regarding procedural issues relative to committee composition, and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of the Town Charter, Town Council Appointment Policy, and State Statutes relative to creation of permanent committees identified a need to better define the EECC, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council establishes the following structure and duties for the Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee:

Type: Advisory and permanent.

Geographic Responsibility: Town of Groton.

Powers and Duties: The Energy, Efficiency and Conservation Committee reviews, evaluates and recommends to the Town Council programs, policies, and strategies in the areas of energy, efficiency and conservation. The Committee establishes and maintains effective, collaborative communication with community stakeholders, agencies, and departments of Town government in order to identify best management practices and coordinate efforts in areas such as energy audits, energy efficiency retrofits, energy conservation programs, and renewable technologies that will benefit the Groton community. The Committee assembles data and information necessary to convey the implications of proposed programs, policies, and strategies as they relate to current and long range energy, efficiency and conservation efforts.

Appointing Authority: Town Council.

Term of Office: Four (4) years, staggered.*

Membership:

Number: Thirteen (13) members.

Requirements: Members do not have to be resident electors of the Town.

Meeting Schedule and Location: Monthly at the Town Hall Annex.

Staff: Self-staffed.

Records: Located in Planning and Development Services.

Agendas and minutes are also on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

*The Town Manager is a permanent member of the Committee. The remaining 12 members' terms will be four years, with staggered expiration dates, as follows:

- Town Council Representative 1/1/14
- RTM Representative 1/1/14
- Board of Education Representative 1/1/14
- UCONN-Avery Point Representative 1/1/15
- Task Force on Climate Change and Sustainable Community Representatives (2) 1/1/15
(Initially appointed from former task force; in the future, Citizens-at-Large.)
- Planning and Development Services Representative 1/1/15
- Public Works Representative 1/1/15
- Groton Utilities Representative 1/1/16
- General Dynamics Electric Boat Division Representative 1/1/16
- Pfizer Representative 1/1/16
- U.S. Submarine Base Representative 1/1/16

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the "Guidebook to Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Councils including the Authorized ABCs" shall be updated by the Town Clerk to reflect revisions made since the document's adoption on February 10, 2009 and that the revised document be presented to the Town Council for review and approval.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0321

Reallocation of CIP Funds to Fitch High School Roof Replacement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REALLOCATION OF \$235,000 WITHIN THE CAPITAL RESERVE FUND TO THE FITCH HIGH SCHOOL ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, \$600,000 was approved in the FYE 2013 capital improvement budget for a project to replace a portion of roof at Fitch High School, and

WHEREAS, the cost to replace the roof exceeds the allocation by approximately \$200,000, and

WHEREAS, \$270,000 was approved in the FYE 2013 capital improvement budget to replace the boilers at S. B. Butler Elementary School, of which \$110,000 was transferred to the Mary Morrison Asbestos Floor Tile Replacement project, and

WHEREAS, the project at S. B. Butler is complete with a surplus of \$35,000, and

WHEREAS, \$1,385,800 was approved in the FYE 2012 capital improvement budget for Middle School Modifications, and

WHEREAS, the project at the middle schools is nearing completion with an estimated surplus of \$200,000, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the reallocation of \$35,000 from the S. B. Butler Boiler Replacement project (#5G) and \$200,000 from the Middle School Modifications project to the Fitch High School Roof Replacement project (#5H).

A motion was made by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Flax, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting, due back on February 13, 2013.

It was noted that the Board of Education has applied for a waiver twice and was denied both times.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0331

RTM Reapportionment

RESOLUTION APPROVING COMPUTATION OF REPRESENTATIVE TOWN MEETING MEMBERSHIP

WHEREAS, Section 4.2.2 of the Town Charter requires the Town Clerk to determine within sixty days after each presidential election the representation by voting district proportional to the number of electors residing in such district, and

WHEREAS, at the November 6, 2012 election, the following districts and number of electors in each district were as follows, and therefore, by computation, the number of representatives for each district is as follows,

DISTRICT	NUMBER OF ELECTORS	NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES
1	3,176	6
2	2,162	4
3	2,845	6
4	1,265	2
5	1,867	4
6	2,741	5
7	3,604	7
8	3,082	6

Total: 20,742

Total: 40

Now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the above membership representation is hereby approved, effective for the Town of Groton's November 2013 municipal election.

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

The Town Clerk noted that District 1 absorbed portions of Districts 4 and 5 as part of the State Congressional redistricting earlier this year. A reapportionment is required within 60 days after a presidential election.

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0333

Appointment of William Middleton to the Historic District Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING WILLIAM MIDDLETON AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER TO THE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that William Middleton, 3 Fort Rachel Place, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an alternate member to the Historic District Commission for a term ending 12/31/15.

A motion was made by Councilor Schmidt, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Tabled.

Councilor Flax noted that the vote of the Personnel/Appointments/Rules Committee was not unanimous and that he was the dissenting vote. While he feels that Mr. Middleton is a fine citizen,

his viewpoints are similar to many of the recently appointed commissioners who are not as conservative as previous members of the Historic District Commission (HDC). Councilor Flax would like the commission to be balanced and not weighted one way or the other.

Councilor Peruzzotti noted that she was contacted by a member of the HDC regarding Mr. Middleton's appointment, and has a few more questions she would like to ask.

By consensus, the appointment of Mr. Middleton was tabled.

The motion carried unanimously

A motion to approve Resolutions 2012-0334 Appointment of Lee Vincent to Community Development Advisory Committee, 2012-0335 Reappointment of Daniel Campbell to Permanent School Building Committee, 2012-0336 Reappointment of Kenneth Steere to Harbor Management Commission, and 2012-0337 Reappointment of James Mitchell to Board of Assessment Appeals was made by Councilor Flax, seconded by Councilor Watson and so voted unanimously.

2012-0334 Appointment of Lee Vincent to Community Development Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION APPOINTING LEE VINCENT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Lee Vincent, 1 New London Road, Mystic, is hereby appointed to the Community Development Advisory Committee for a term ending 2/7/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0335 Reappointment of Daniel Campbell to Permanent School Building Committee

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING DANIEL CAMPBELL TO THE PERMANENT SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, that Daniel J. Campbell, 269 Judson Avenue, Mystic, is hereby reappointed to the Permanent School Building Committee for a term ending 9/29/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0336 Reappointment of Kenneth Steere to Harbor Management Commission

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING KENNETH STEERE TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Kenneth Steere, 144 East Shore Avenue, Groton Long Point is hereby reappointed to the Harbor Management Commission for a term expiring 9/1/15.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2012-0337 Reappointment of James Mitchell to Board of Assessment Appeals

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING JAMES MITCHELL TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS

RESOLVED, that James Mitchell, 711 Cow Hill Road, Mystic, is hereby reappointed as an alternate member of the Board of Assessment Appeals for a term ending 12/31/14.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

stated that there was an upgrade to achieve a nitrogen reduction, but the Town is paying a \$36,000 fine to the State per year for the current nitrogen levels. The Town Manager remarked that the \$36,000 is not a fine, but rather a cost for nitrogen credit. He will set up a meeting with Water Treatment personnel and Councilors for further explanation of this process.

In answer to Councilor Streeter, the Town Manager stated that the building at Burnett's Corners is still standing. The Town is waiting for State approval before it continues with the demolition.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:26 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Johnson and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant