



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 Harry A. Watson, Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Kathryn M. Brown-Tracy, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter

Tuesday, November 20, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING - REVISED

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Office Assistant Elga Concepcion.

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by RTM member Lisa Luck.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2007-0202 Proclamation Recognizing National Make a Difference Day

Read

2007-0228 Proclamation Honoring Barbara Bostwick

Read

2007-0239 Proclamation Recognizing 9-1-1 for Kids Week and Town of Groton 9-1-1 Heroes Day

Read

2007-0247 Proclamation Honoring the Rev. Dr. G. Kenneth Carpenter

Read

2007-0248 Proclamation Honoring the USS Paul Hamilton and the USS Twiggs

Read

2007-0263 Proclamation Recognizing Take a Veteran to School Day

Read

2007-0264 Proclamation Honoring John P. Casey

Read

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Don Wood, 298 Meridian Street, member of the Citizens Committee on Property Tax Relief, stated that he is opposed to a property tax relief proposal put before the Council recently due to the fact that it is based on an unconstitutional law. He reported that even though the State gives towns the authority to offer selective tax shelter on the basis of age, its own Constitution expressly forbids such action. Mr. Wood believes that tax relief should be extended to younger residents who are not as wealthy as some of the older property owners. He stated that he is the only employed Committee member; the other members are retired. He provided copies of his references from Articles 1 and 8 of State Statutes for the Council.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Responding to Mr. Wood's comments, Councilor Sheets stated that another member of the Citizens

Committee on Property Tax Relief, Genevieve Cerf, is actively employed.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0240 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of October 2, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0267 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of November 7, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2007-0245 Groton Education Foundation Grant

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

2007-0246 2008 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course

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

2007-0254 Adoption of 2008 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

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

2007-0255 Adoption of 2008 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

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

2007-0256 Adoption of 2008 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

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

2007-0257 Adoption of 2008 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

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

2007-0258 Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant

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

2007-0259 Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant

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

2007-0260 Appointment to Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Advisory Board

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

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2007-0235 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

J. D. McClathcy - \$500.00 - Arts Cafe-Mystic

Joellen Anderson - \$300.00 - Library Discretionary

Robinson Trust - \$2,000.00- Parks and Recreation Revolving

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

2007-0244 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Various Donations - \$509.11 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Groton Utilities - \$493.24 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program
Donald Barley, Jr. - \$5,020.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Inner Wisdom Chiropractic - \$140.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Pfizer United Way Campaign - \$69.54 - Library Discretionary
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Jean Simpson - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary
CSEA Chapter 416 - \$150.00 - Library Discretionary
George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Peter Deveau - \$50.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Pfizer Foundation Matching Gifts Program - \$300.00 - Library Discretionary
Groton Artwaves - \$3,000.00 - Arts Cafe-Mystic
Jean Simpson - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary
Nick Sahin - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marie Oko - \$45.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Multiple donations (see attached list) - \$382.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Multiple donations (see attached list) - \$2,227.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Marilyn Goodman - \$7.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Bonnie Pollard-Johnson - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Gale Oko - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Josephine Lau - \$1.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Patrice Granatosky - \$10.00 - Skate Park
Lou Smith - \$5.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Amy Sicard - \$20.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving
Various donations - \$624.55 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, 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**

Councilor O'Beirne received a call from a person opposed the Town granting any abatement or tax relief to the Hilton Garden Inn.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Finance Committee on October 31. She attended the Bill Memorial Library Open House on November 4. Councilor Kolnaski assisted at the Flu Clinic at the Senior Center on November 7. She attended meetings of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors and the School Design Committee on November 8. Councilor Kolnaski attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony at Johnson's True Value Hardware store on November 10.

Councilor Streeter attended the Bill Memorial Library open house. He attended memorial ceremonies for veterans. Councilor Streeter received a call regarding the lack of office space in the Probate Court at Town Hall.

Councilor Bond received a call about speeding traffic on Clift Street in Mystic. She received a letter from a citizen requesting hooks on the doors of public bathrooms so that there may be a more sanitary way for women to hang their purses.

Responding to Councilor Bond, the Town Manager will confirm the date of the next Traffic Authority meeting.

The Mayor distributed food baskets at Human Services on November 18. He attended the Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region meeting on November 15. Mayor Watson gave a presentation at a Boy Scout meeting in recognition of Citizenship Month on November 14. He attended the swearing-in ceremony of newly elected RTM members on November 14. The Mayor read the Proclamation for "Take a Vet to School Day" to Fitch Middle School students on November 8.

Councilor Sheets received a letter from a senior citizen who wants tax relief which would exempt seniors from paying that portion of the tax bill attributed to education. She received a call from a resident about possibly placing a pedestrian crosswalk sign on Main Street in Mystic.

Responding to Councilor Sheets' comments regarding the sign, the Town Manager mentioned the long history of trying to accomplish this, but will research this matter again with the State Department of Transportation.

Councilor Schmidt attended the Welcome Party for the Southeastern Connecticut Delegation on November 19.

Councilor Monteiro received a communication requesting an update on the Charter Revision Commission.

Responding to Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Chairman of the Charter Revision Commission, provided an overview and reiterated that they meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Councilor Brown-Tracy stated that she attended the swearing-in ceremony of RTM members on November 14.

b. Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk reported that the RTM was sworn in on November 14.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Tarbox noted two recent resignations from Boards, and read a list of vacancies on Boards and Commissions in the Town. Interested individuals may contact the Town Clerk's office at 441-6640 or stop by Town Hall for an application.

The Town Clerk reminded viewers that she will be teaching a workshop on parliamentary procedure on December 3 and stated that it will be open to the public.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger reviewed the formal budget calendars for next year which he had forwarded to Councilors. He discussed the budget process and the setting of a public hearing.

The Mayor and Town Manager confirmed that the Temporary Rules Committee will meet next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Oefinger reminded viewers that Town offices will be closed on November 22 and 23 in observance of Thanksgiving Day. He stated that there will be a Committee of Chairpersons meeting on November 29.

He provided an overview of the bond rating information which was forwarded to the Council and noted that the Town has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. This is one of

two awards which the Town has received on an annual basis.

He reported that Pfizer is contemplating the construction of a heat and power generating facility.

Responding to Councilor Kolnaski, the Town Manager confirmed the interest rate of 3.99 % which is lower than originally anticipated for the bonding of \$15,000,000 for the school project.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules

No meeting; no report.

g. Public Safety

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole

There was a Committee of the Whole meeting on November 13 and the items on tonight's agenda are a result of that meeting.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2007-0245 Groton Education Foundation Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A GROTON EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION GRANT

WHEREAS, the Groton Educational Foundation provides mini-grants to fund unique projects based on ideas from teachers and other educators in Groton, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Senior Center and the Claude Chester Elementary School have collaborated for several years to bring about intergenerational experiences for students and seniors, and

WHEREAS, the Senior Center has requested funding for an intergenerational program called 'Exploring Dance, to give the opportunity for seniors and students to interact, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to apply for a grant of \$450 from the Groton Educational Foundation.

A motion was made by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0246

2008 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course

RESOLUTION SETTING 2008 RATES FOR THE SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton's Shennecossett Golf Course operates as an enterprise fund, separate from the Town's general fund budget, and

WHEREAS, the Golf Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission have recommended a schedule of fees for calendar year 2008, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the municipal golf course rates for the year 2008 shall be the rates as attached to this resolution.

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., that this matter be Adopted.

Councilor Bond stated that she received a call from a non-resident who was not able to purchase an advance membership to the Shennecossett Golf Course for 2008. This individual was told by the Parks and Recreation Department that the rates need to be set by the Town Council before one could be issued.

Responding to Councilor Bond, the Town Manager will speak to Director of Parks and Recreation John Silsby regarding this matter.

The motion carried unanimously

A single vote was taken adopting next year's schedule for the following regular meetings: Group I, Group II, Committee of the Whole, and Town Council.

2007-0254

Adoption of 2008 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2008 GROUP I COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group I Committees meeting schedule for 2008 as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Tuesday, February 12, 2008
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Tuesday, May 13, 2008
Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Tuesday, July 8, 2008
Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Wednesday, November 12, 2008*
Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Tuesday, December 23, 2008

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 3, Town Hall Annex 134 Groton Long Point Road - the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

*NOTE: Tuesday, November 11, 2008 is Veterans Day.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0255

Adoption of 2008 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2008 GROUP II COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group II Committees meeting schedule for 2008 as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Tuesday, February 12, 2008
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Tuesday, May 13, 2008
Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Tuesday, July 8, 2008
Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Tuesday, August 12, 2008

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Wednesday, November 12, 2008*
Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Tuesday, December 23, 2008

All meetings begin at 6:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road - the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

*NOTE: Tuesday, November 11, 2008 is Veterans Day.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0256

Adoption of 2008 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2008 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole meeting schedule for 2008 as follows:

Tuesday, January 8, 2008
Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Tuesday, February 12, 2008
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

Tuesday, March 11, 2008
Tuesday, March 25, 2008

Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Tuesday, May 13, 2008
Tuesday, May 27, 2008

Tuesday, June 10, 2008
Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Tuesday, July 8, 2008
Tuesday, July 22, 2008

Tuesday, August 12, 2008
Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Tuesday, September 9, 2008
Tuesday, September 23, 2008

Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Tuesday, October 28, 2008

Wednesday, November 12, 2008*
Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
Tuesday, December 23, 2008

All meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road - the Second and Fourth Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

*NOTE: Tuesday, November 11, 2008 is Veterans Day.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0257

Adoption of 2008 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2008 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council meeting schedule for 2008 as follows:

Wednesday, January 2, 2008*
Tuesday, January 15, 2008

Tuesday, February 5, 2008
Tuesday, February 19, 2008

Tuesday, March 4, 2008
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

Tuesday April 1, 2008
Tuesday, April 15, 2008

Tuesday, May 6, 2008
Tuesday, May 20, 2008

Tuesday, June 3, 2008
Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Tuesday, July 1, 2008
Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Tuesday, August 5, 2008
Tuesday, August 19, 2008

Tuesday, September 2, 2008
Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Tuesday, October 7, 2008
Tuesday, October 21, 2008

Wednesday, November 5, 2008**
Tuesday, November 18, 2008

Tuesday, December 2, 2008

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in Community Room 1, Town Hall Annex, 134 Groton Long Point Road - the First and Third Tuesday of each month, except as noted.

*NOTE: Tuesday, January 1, 2008 is New Year's Day.

Tuesday, November 4, 2008 is Election Day.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0258

Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR A REGIONAL PERFORMANCE INCENTIVE PROGRAM GRANT

WHEREAS, Connecticut Public Act 07-239, Section 8, has created a Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant to fund proposals for the joint provision of services currently provided by separate municipalities, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG), of which the Town of Groton is a member, has decided that the best project for a joint regional effort would be a web-based regional geographic information system, similar to the system now employed by the Capitol Region Council of Governments, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Town Council endorses the application of SCCOG, pursuant to Section 8 of P.A. 07-239, for a grant from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management to establish a web-based regional geographical information system, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may execute all certifications and other documents that may be required for the Town of Groton's support of, and participation in, the SCCOG proposal.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0259

Year Round Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION 2007-2008 COMPREHENSIVE DUI ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AGAINST DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS AND INTOXICANTS (DUI)

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton annually uses State of Connecticut Department of Transportation grants to provide extra patrol shifts for driver safety and DUI enforcement during 49 enforcement dates including major holidays, and

WHEREAS, a 75% funding grant for the 2007-2008 Comprehensive DUI Enforcement Program, with the Town paying 25% of the costs, is within the budget and work program of the Groton Town Police, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager may apply for a 2007-2008 state DUI grant of up to \$63,200, with the Town to provide matching funds of up to \$15,800.

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

Mayor Watson noted that the matching funds of \$15,800 have already been allocated into the current budget.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0260

Appointment to Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Advisory Board

RESOLUTION APPOINTING HARRY WATSON AND MARY LOU SMITH TO THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT WATER AUTHORITY ADVISORY BOARD

RESOLVED, that Harry Watson, 175 Shennecossett Parkway, and Mary Lou Smith, 326 Judson Avenue, Mystic are hereby appointed to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority Advisory Board for a term expiring 9/1/09.

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 8 - Councilor Bond, Councilor Brown-Tracy, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Monteiro, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Abstain: 1 - Mayor Watson

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Streeter referred to an article in The Day regarding implementing police security at Fitch Senior High School.

Responding to Councilor Streeter, Mr. Oefinger will contact Superintendent of Schools Dr. James Mitchell to ascertain whether Town police officers or contractual officers will be used.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Monteiro and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Elga Conception, Office Assistant