



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 Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Rita M. Schmidt, John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, and James L. Streeter.

Tuesday, September 4, 2007

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:35 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 Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter

Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2007-0181 Proclamation Honoring the Fifth Infantry Division, United States Army

Read

Mayor Watson read the Proclamation.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Wendy Eckholm, 165 Benham Road, discussed the various fundraising events of the Groton Animal Foundation (GAF) this past summer and for the remainder of the year. She reviewed grants which GAF has applied for which will provide impounded animals with medical aid and local schools with educational materials.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2007-0207 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 21, 2007 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2006-0224 Potential Land Acquisition - Fort Rachel

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

2006-0278 Tourism District Issues

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

2006-0313 Tanglewood Park Fence

- 2007-0210** **USS Groton Sail Committee**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - No further action on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0209** **Burnett's Corner Property Reversion**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0194** **Potential Renaming of Midway Oval Park**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0196** **Agreement for Grant-Assisted Purchase of Hybrid Vehicles**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0204** **Groton Ambulance Accessory Structure**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0205** **Appointment of Richard Cady to the Zoning Commission**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.
- 2007-0206** **Appointment of Betty Prochaska to the Groton Housing Authority**
 This Matter was Deleted from Referral List - Action to be taken on the Consent Calendar.

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions

2007-0199 **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 - \$136.47 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Groton Utilities - \$28.50 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Marjorie Fondulas - \$25.00 - Social Services Discretionary

Jean Simpson - \$30.00 - Social Services Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Bond, seconded by Councilor Scott, 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 Kolnaski attended Citizenship Day Recognition Committee and Permanent School Building Committee meetings on August 22. She attended a meeting of the School Design Phase II Committee on August 23. Councilor Kolnaski attended the dedication ceremony of the new Parish Center at St. Mary Mother of the Redeemer Church on August 26. She attended a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors on August 27. Councilor Kolnaski attended the memorial wreath-laying ceremony at Fort Griswold on September 2.

Councilor Bond provided an update on the Flanders Road Utilities Extension Committee which has met for the past month. She communicated that this committee has identified the route which will provide the best cost benefit ratio to the Town. Councilor Bond stated that a final report should be submitted to the Council by the end of this year.

Councilor Schmidt received an email regarding property maintenance. She attended a meeting of the Connecticut Commission on Culture and noted the upcoming Culture and Tourism Partnership Grant Program.

Councilor Scott reminded citizens that there will be an insurance forum held on September 6 at the City Municipal Building.

Councilor Streeter received emails regarding the following: prescription drug purchases made outside the United States, traffic in Mystic, the recent arrival of a large cruise ship, the height of lawn and grassy areas, and Friday night concerts at Esker Point Beach.

Mayor Watson had lunch with two Ledge Light Health District interns on August 24.

b. Representative Town Meeting

No report.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox reminded citizens that Citizenship Day is scheduled for September 17 and hopes that all the Councilors will be able to attend.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Mark Oefinger stated that Parks and Recreation employee Eileen Cicchese has been awarded the 2007 Excellence in Inclusion Award by the National Recreation and Parks Association.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

Councilor Bond stated that there was a meeting on August 28 in which there was discussion regarding a possible abatement for the new Hilton Gardens Hotel and the formation of the USS Groton Sail Committee.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Schmidt

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

Councilor Scott read the minutes of the meeting held on August 28, which are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

Councilor Streeter stated that there was a meeting on August 28 at which time there was discussion regarding the Groton Ambulance Association's construction of a building on land owned by the Town.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There was a Committee of the Whole meeting prior to tonight's meeting. There was also a Special Committee of the Whole meeting on August 21, and the items on tonight's agenda are a result of those meetings.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2007-0210 USS Groton Sail Committee**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ACQUIRING THE SAIL OF THE USS GROTON

WHEREAS, the United States Navy has decommissioned the submarine USS Groton and the ship is currently being mothballed awaiting final disposition, and

WHEREAS, it would be desirable to have the sail structure and possibly its propeller brought back to Groton for permanent installation and display in an appropriate place, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, upon recommendations of the Town Manager, shall appoint a committee to study and make recommendations to the Town Council concerning the feasibility, cost, permitting requirements, and logistics of obtaining Groton's sail and propeller, and to make recommendation concerning one or more appropriate locations for their permanent display. Membership on the committee may include, but not be limited to, the Town Council, Groton Sub Base, Electric Boat, Nautilus Chapter of Subvets, Submarine Force Museum, and the Chamber of Commerce.

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

MOTION TO AMEND to include "Chamber of Commerce" in the "Resolved", was made by Councilor Streeter, seconded by Mayor Watson.

VOTE on Motion to Amend passed unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0209 Burnett's Corner Property Reversion

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LEGAL PROCESS FOR THE RECOVERY BY THE TOWN OF CERTAIN PROPERTY AT BURNETT'S CORNER

WHEREAS, in September, 1995, the Town of Groton transferred the Old Masonic Hall Building to the Burnett's Corner Preservation Society, with the expectation that the Society would "stabilize" the structure, and

WHEREAS, based on observations and numerous complaints about the condition of the structure, it appears that the Society has not adequately complied with its obligation, and

WHEREAS, the structure may also pose a danger of collapse and injury to persons, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council authorizes the Town Manager and the Town Attorney to begin the legal process, and report back to the Town Council any further action necessary, so that the property may revert to and vest absolutely in the Town of Groton, as provided in the quit claim deed dated September 22, 1995.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0194 Potential Renaming of Midway Oval Park

RESOLUTION RENAMING MIDWAY OVAL PARK

WHEREAS, Raheem Ali Carter was raised in the Fort Hill neighborhood where his family has

lived for more than fifty years, and

WHEREAS, Raheem, from his early youth, through his years at Fitch High School and in his career as a New London Policeman, devoted himself to the wellbeing of other young people and of his community, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Carter died in April, 2007, at the age of only 25 years, after a long and courageous battle with cancer, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council has received an appealing and persuasive request that Midway Oval Park be renamed for Raheem Ali Carter, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Parks and Recreation Commission has determined that the renaming request complies with their policy and has recommended that the renaming be approved, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the renaming of Midway Oval Park to the Raheem Ali Carter Memorial Park in honor of Mr. Carter.

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

Mayor Watson stated that it would be appropriate to have a ceremony when the park is renamed and that family members will be invited.

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0196

Agreement for Grant-Assisted Purchase of Hybrid Vehicles

RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN A GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF ALTERNATIVE FUEL (HYBRID) MOTOR VEHICLES

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton Department of Public Works has previously acquired, and now uses, hybrid motor vehicles, and

WHEREAS, the Town's experience with the economic performance of such vehicles has been favorable, and

WHEREAS, grants are available to cover the premium cost of hybrid vehicles that are scheduled to be listed in the FYE 2009 Town Manager's Proposed Budget, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager is authorized to sign the Program Confirmation Form and subsequent agreements and related documents with the State of Connecticut for a cash grant toward the purchase of four alternative fuel motor vehicles.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0204

Groton Ambulance Accessory Structure

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GROTON AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION TO ERECT A STRUCTURE ON LAND OWNED BY THE TOWN

WHEREAS, the Groton Ambulance Association occupies a Town-owned building on Town-owned land on Route 117, Newtown Road, and

WHEREAS, the Association urgently needs a building to serve as a garage facility for the near-term storage and protection of a new ambulance and for the long term storage of records and other materials and supplies, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Groton Ambulance Association may erect, entirely at its own expense, a

garage/storage structure, not to exceed 20 feet by 30 feet of ground area, near the northeast corner of the existing parking lot, such structure to be subject to the approval of the Town Manager with respect to design, construction, and aesthetics, in addition to all other local and state permitting requirements.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0205 Appointment of Richard Cady to the Zoning Commission

RESOLUTION APPOINTING RICHARD CADY AS AN ALTERNATE TO THE ZONING COMMISSION

RESOLVED, that Richard E. Cady, 35 Island View Avenue, Mystic, is hereby appointed as an Alternate to the Zoning Commission, for a term expiring 9/30/12.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2007-0206 Appointment of Betty Prochaska to the Groton Housing Authority

RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING BETTY PROCHASKA TO THE GROTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that Betty Prochaska, 107 Pamela Avenue, is reappointed to the Groton Housing Authority for a term ending 7/31/12.

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

The motion carried unanimously

Suspension of the Rules

A motion to suspend the rules to consider the Town Manager's evaluation was made by Mayor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

2007-0186 Town Manager Annual Evaluation

RESOLUTION ADOPTING TOWN MANAGER'S COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, the Town Council has reviewed the performance of the Town Manager and rates his performance as midway between exceeds expectations and outstanding, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Manager shall receive an annual increase in salary of \$4,000.00 effective July 1, 2007, which effectively increases his salary from \$123,000.00 to \$127,000.00.

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

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Bond, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*