



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

Town Council Committee of the Whole

Mayor Harry A. Watson, Councilors Peter J. Bartinik, Jr., Heather Sherman Bond, Catherine Kolnaski, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, James L. Streeter, and Elissa T. Wright.

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

6:00 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

SPECIAL MEETING

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Wright
Members Absent: Councilor Bond and Councilor Streeter

Also present were Acting Town Manager Doug Ackerman, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnyan.

3. **Calendar and Communications**

Councilor Wright requested follow up on the Finance Committee discussion about identifying unfunded/partially funded mandates that affect Groton and the cost to Groton taxpayers.

Mayor Watson reported that he received a call last week inviting him to Washington D.C. to see a Tee Ball game on the White House lawn, where he was introduced by the President.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

2006-0192 Approval of Minutes (Committee of the Whole)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council Committee of the Whole of June 13, 2006 are hereby accepted and approved.

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, to adopt.

The motion carried unanimously

5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mayor Watson noted the 4th of July parade. Staff will forward the parade instructions to all Councilors.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

2006-0100 Thames Street Rehabilitation Study

Discussed

Mayor Dennis Popp provided a history of the project. The study was funded in 2003 through the City's highway budget. The firm of Milone & MacBroom was hired to complete a roadway inventory and condition documentation of Thames Street. Seven sections of roadway were examined; five were rated poor. Mayor Popp noted the varying concrete and asphalt depths. Curbing is in poor shape, except for the granite curbs that were installed as part of the streetscape project. Sidewalks are a "mixed bag" of widths and surfaces. Crosswalks are either painted or pavers and the handicapped ramps are all missing the required non-slip surfaces. The study also addresses the lack of parking. There are 18 storm drain outlets that lead to the river; the catch

basins do not have oil separators or adequate settling measures. Mayor Popp then noted the location of four retaining walls that were rated poor; there are three others that support the road that are failing. The study also addresses streetscape issues.

Milone & MacBroom's recommendations include repaving Thames Street; changing geometry where possible; installing granite or concrete curbing; constructing sidewalks on both sides of the street; replacing catch basins, consolidating storm drains, and creating a central entrapment area; and repairing retaining walls. Cost estimates range from \$4.9 to \$6.3 million, which does not include the design work. The next step is to hire a design firm, development a recommended design with firm cost estimates, and place the issue on a referendum ballot in 2007.

Mayor Popp noted the areas proposed for geometric modifications. The cost for a preliminary, conceptual design and the time frame to complete the design are unknown at this time. He has asked Milone & MacBroom for an estimate, as well as additional copies of the report and a presentation for the Council.

The consensus of the Council was to proceed with seeking design cost estimates, and Mayor Popp was asked to return to the Council once the cost estimate is available. The next joint meeting of the Town and City Councils is scheduled for August 8th.

2004-0048

Groton Code of Ethics**Discussed**

Councilor Wright asked that discussion of this item be deferred to a later date. She expressed surprise that the code of ethics she prepared based on the model code was not distributed. She noted that her packet of information was never given to new Councilors Scott and Streeter. Councilor Kolnaski would like to wait on this issue until the state takes action.

Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent stated the intent was to reintroduce the subject for discussion. Most of the draft document he distributed was taken from the legislation. Many ideas were included in the draft to start a discussion. Councilor Wright asked that the "kit" of information from CCM and the information she developed be given to the new Councilors and anyone else who needs it. Mayor Watson suggested a special meeting in the future to discuss this issue.

2006-0063

Bus Ordinance Amendment**Discussed**

Assistant to the Town Manager Vincent reported that Councilor Bond has asked Attorney Tim Bates to be the mediator. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20th. Assistant to the Town Manager Vincent noted that there is no time limit to act on an ordinance. Councilor O'Beirne suggested this is a bigger issue than just Abbott's and Pearl Street. He added that Attorney Carey is going to provide modified wording to preclude tour buses of any size. Councilor Wright asked if a referral would be necessary to start the process to add River Road to the bus ordinance, and Mayor Watson stated he would prefer to wait to see what happens with the amended ordinance. By consensus, the Committee postponed discussion of this item.

2006-0178

2006 Expanded DUI Enforcement Program Grant

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2006-0191

Eastern Connecticut Association of Realtors Grant - Tercentennial Legacy Playground

A motion was made by Councilor Wright, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

2006-0194 Emergency Management Performance Grant FY 2007

A motion was made by Councilor Bartinik, Jr., seconded by Councilor Scott, that this matter be Recommended for a Resolution.

The motion carried unanimously

7. Consideration of Committee Referral Items as per Town Council Referral List

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

The Town Council meeting scheduled for July 5th was canceled.

9. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Scott, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.