



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 Rita M. Schmidt, Councilors Dean Antipas, Genevieve Cerf, Joe de la Cruz, Bruce S. Flax, Bob Frink, Rich Moravsik, Deborah L. Peruzzotti and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

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 Schmidt.

Members Present: Mayor Schmidt, Councilor Flax, Councilor Frink, Councilor Moravsik, Councilor Peruzzotti, Councilor Watson and Councilor Antipas

Members Absent: Councilor Cerf and Councilor de la Cruz

Also present were the Town Manager, Mark Oefinger, and the Town Clerk, Betsy Moukawsher.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilor Flax.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

None.

Recess for Public Hearing on:

The Mayor called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:31 p.m.

2014-0257 **FYE 2016 Budget Discussion**

Rosanne Kotowski, 24 Ann Avenue, addressed the Town Council and shared her opinions on spending cuts to Personnel and Town Operations for the FYE2016 budget.

Mayor Schmidt closed the hearing at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Schmidt called a recess for the Public Hearing at 7:39 p.m.

2015-0034 **Small Cities Development Block Grant - 2015 Application**

Town Planner-Community Development, Susan Cullen, explained in detail the purpose of the Community Block Grant and how the grant has been used in the past. She gave an update on the 2014 Block Grant. The 2014 grant was used to update and renovate units at the Pequot Village public housing complex. The 2015 grant will be used to further the renovations at the same public housing complex.

Mayor Schmidt closed the Public Hearing at 7:45 p.m.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

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VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2015-0044 **Approval of Minutes (Town Council)**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of February 17, 2015 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items**2015-0043 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

City of Groton - \$137.33 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Anni and Donald Burbank - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Mary Pierce Burke - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Marsha Cedrone - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Edwin and Marilyn Chase - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

James Drakos - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Patricia Egan - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Martine Flory - \$5.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

James Harmon - \$20.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Raymond and Jane Macionus - \$25.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Mystic Woman's Club - \$1,050.59 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Richard and Melinda Richardson - \$50.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Anthony Spano - \$10.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

Daniel Tyler - \$15.00 - Groton Utilities Energy Assistance Program

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

c. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2014-0342 FYE 2014 CAFR**

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

2014-0343 Sisisky Property, Flanders Road

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

2015-0041 2015 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course and Approving Revised Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities

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

The motion carried unanimously

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)**a. Town Councilors**

Councilor Frink attended the Groton Business Association meeting on February 19th, where the new Planning Director gave a presentation. He attended the School Initiative Task Force meeting on February 26th. He stated that the Town website has all the meeting minutes and agendas for the Task Force.

Councilor Moravsik attended the SECOG meeting on the February 26th where local State Representatives discussed the State budget.

Councilor Flax attended the Golf Advisory Board Meeting and he received an email from Scott Aument (on file at the Town Clerk's Office).

Councilor Antipas received emails from citizens regarding the Town budget.

Mayor Schmidt attended the Mystic Task Force meeting, the Culture and Tourism Board Meeting, and the SECOG Legislative Breakfast meeting, where local State Senators and State Legislators discussed unfunded mandates. On Friday, February 27th, she participated in the Read Across America project and read to the fifth grade at the Catherine Kolnaski School. She also received calls regarding snow removal. She announced that the Groton Elks will be honoring First Responders at a reception on March 7th at the Elks Lodge in Groton.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk reported that the March 11, 2015 regular RTM meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting will be held on April 8, 2015 at the Groton Senior Center at 7:30 p.m.

c. Clerk of the Council

The Town Clerk reported on the election of officers for the Planning Commission. Jim Sherrard was elected to serve as Chairman and Jeff Pritchard was elected to serve as Vice Chair/Secretary. The Golf Advisory Board elected Bob Sedotti to serve as Chairman, Margaret Hirsch as Vice-Chair, and Brian McCallen as Secretary. She received a resignation notice from Steve Garmon for the Cable Television Advisory Council and a notice that Karen Hatcher was appointed to the Economic Development Commission. She also attended the Groton Rotary weekly meeting, where representatives from the March of Dimes gave a presentation.

d. Town Manager

The Town Manager proposed agenda items for the next COW meeting to include the BOE Groton School Administration Contract, Small Cities Block Grant, Design Agreement for Crystal Lake Road, and an update on the Legislative Policy Initiatives to Increase Revenue. He proposed a special meeting for Thursday, March 19th at 6:00 p.m. for a presentation from Client First. Client First is the company hired to guide the Town with technology upgrades. He would like to have FYE 2016 budget on the agenda, the City Highway Budget Committee report and the Town Clerk's Historic Document Grant proposal.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community Relations - Chairman de la Cruz

No meeting, no report.

b. Finance - Chairman Frink

Councilor Frink reported that the committee met on February 17th. He stated that they primarily discussed the Board of Education budget. The committee developed a list of questions that he planned to present to the Town Council under New Business at this meeting. He also announced that the minutes are available on the Town website.

c. Personnel & Appointments - Chairman Flax

Chairman Flax reported that the Committee met on March 3rd and that he will give his report at the next Town Council meeting.

d. Rules - Chairman Frink

No meeting, no report.

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e. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Schmidt

Mayor Schmidt reported on the Committee of the Whole meeting that was held on February 24th. In addition to the items that are on the agenda tonight, she reported that the committee met with members of the Board of Directors from the Poquonnock Bridge Fire District. The committee also discussed possible mooring fees for the Mystic River. This item was referred to the Harbor

Commission. She reported on meeting in executive session to discuss the Groton City Highway Budget Committee Meeting.

2015-0060 Town Council Rules of Procedure Change

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THE 29TH TOWN COUNCIL RULES

RESOLVED, the Groton Town Council hereby approves the creation of the permanent Town Council Public Safety Committee (2015).

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

The Councilors discussed the motivation for the new committee. The Mayor appointed Councilors Anitpas, de la Cruz, Moravsik, and Watson to serve on the committee. Councilor Moravsik will serve as Chairman on the committee.

The motion carried unanimously

IX. NEW BUSINESS

2014-0342 FYE 2014 CAFR

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE FYE 2014 AUDIT REPORT

WHEREAS, the Town Council has considered the annual audit of the Town of Groton's finances, covering the fiscal year from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, and

WHEREAS, the Council has discussed the audit findings with the manager of the audit team from the firm of Blum Shapiro, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton accepts and files the FYE 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), the Auditor's Reports and Management Letter.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2014-0343 Sisisky Property, Flanders Road

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TWO PARCELS OWNED BY THE ESTATE OF SAMUEL M. SISISKY AND MARILYN E. SHAFF ON FLANDERS ROAD

WHEREAS, the Estate of Samuel M. Sisisky and Marilyn E. Shaff, Trustee of the Declaration of Trust of Marilyn E. Shaff, have offered to give two vacant parcels on Flanders Road to the Town of Groton, and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Sisisky parcels was referred to the Planning Commission under CGS Section 8-24, and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission recommended that the Town acquire the parcels, which are adjacent to the Town's transfer station and former landfill, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the Sisisky parcels (PIN 260906389111 and PIN 260910378309) on Flanders Road.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Councilor Frink, seconded by Councilor Moravsik, that this matter be Adopted and Referred to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion was amended to include the referral to the RTM by Councilor Antipas, seconded by Councilor Moravsik. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously

2015-0041 2015 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course and Approving Revised Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities

RESOLUTION SETTING 2015 RATES FOR THE SHENNECOSSETT GOLF COURSE AND APPROVING REVISED REGULATIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

WHEREAS, the Golf Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission have endorsed a number of changes to the fees for the Shennecossett Golf Course for 2015, and

WHEREAS, additional recommendations include modifications to the Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities reflecting the changes, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the municipal golf course rates for 2015 shall be the rates as attached to this resolution, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the revised Regulations for Parks and Recreation Facilities as noted above and endorsed by the Parks and Recreation Commission at their February 2015 meeting.

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

The motion carried unanimously

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Frink read questions relating to the FYE 2016 Board of Education Budget that were developed by the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee would like to forward these questions to the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools for further clarification. The Town Council fully supports this measure.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Councilor Watson and seconded by Councilor Peruzzotti and so taken.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*