



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., John F. Scott, Paulann H. Sheets, James L. Streeter, and Elissa T. Wright.

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

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 Harry Watson.

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 Scott, Councilor Sheets, Councilor Streeter and Councilor Wright

Members Absent: Councilor O'Beirne, Jr.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Mr. Ray Munn.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2005-0294 Proclamation Recognizing Community Planning Day

Read

Councilor Kolnaski noted that Ms. Rhonnie Mosher, also known as the "Flag Lady", is moving and suggested that a thank you letter be sent to her for her work.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List

2005-0283 2006 Rates for Shennecossett Golf Course

2005-0282 Grant for Holiday DUI Enforcement

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Bond, 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 the ribbon-cutting at Mystic Area Shelter and Hospitality (MASH) on November 6. MASH provides transitional housing for homeless families.

She attended a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors on November 10, at which time there was a hearing on the proposed regulations for barber shops and various cosmetology salons. At this meeting there were also grants approved for substance abuse

prevention, indoor air quality, and the Regional Breast Cancer Task Force. The schedule of meetings for the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors was set for the period from January 1, 2006 through January 31, 2007. One of the members requested that Ledge Light Health District explore noise pollution.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the "Everything Old is New Again" variety show presented by Groton Senior Citizens and Cutler Middle School students on November 12.

Councilor Bartinik noted that his friend was involved in governmental action with his business in a neighboring town and, as a result, commended the professionalism of Groton's government compared to the other town.

Councilor Streeter attended a preview showing of the Tercentennial Celebration video last week.

Mayor Watson attended the Armed Forces Night at the Elks Club on November 4. He also attended the ribbon-cutting at MASH on November 6. The Mayor attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the Mashantucket Pequot Foxwoods new development project on November 15.

b. Representative Town Meeting

There will be a meeting of the new RTM on November 16 at which time a moderator and floor leaders will be elected.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Tarbox reported on the election and noted that there were two RTM recounts which resulted in no changes. She had the pleasure of swearing in Board of Education members on November 14. Beverly Washington was elected as Chairman and Chaz Zzulka as Secretary. The Town Clerk noted that this recent election turned out only 26.1 percent of the voters in the Town and expressed her desire to see more people take an interest in Town government.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger discussed potential meeting dates with the Council. The first meeting discussed was a joint meeting between the Permanent School Building Committee, Board of Education, and the Town Council so that the Town can present a project update on the school projects. The tentative date for this meeting is December 15 at 7 pm.

The Town Manager noted that the second meeting would include the Board of Education and the Town Council to discuss the Education Justice Lawsuit. The Town has been approached to participate in this effort, as the Board of Education has expressed interest.

He reminded the public that the Groton Tercentennial Social featuring the Taste of Groton will occur on November 19 and debut the Groton historical video. Tickets to this event may be purchased at the Town Manager's office or at the Parks and Recreation Department.

Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent noted that the Town established and declared a Railroad Quiet Zone which was to become effective on November 2. He contacted Amtrak due to the fact that it has not implemented this quiet zone. Amtrak's legal department responded that they are working to resolve this matter. The Assistant to the Town Manager also contacted the Federal Railroad Administration which is disturbed by Amtrak's lack of compliance.

Councilor Bond had received an inquiry as to whether the Mystic Yachting Center was handicapped accessible. The Town Manager will research the matter and respond personally to Councilor Bond.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Watson noted that there was a special Committee of the Whole meeting prior to this evening's Town Council meeting at which the Town Manager led an orientation for all councilors. A single resolution was passed adopting next year's schedule for the following regular meetings: Group I, Group II, Committee of the Whole, and Town Council.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS**2005-0288 Adoption of 2006 Town Council Regular Meeting Schedule**

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2006 TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Town Council meeting schedule for 2006 as follows:

Tuesday, January 3, 2006
 Tuesday, January 17, 2006
 Tuesday, February 7, 2006
 Tuesday, February 21, 2006
 Tuesday, March 7, 2006
 Tuesday, March 21, 2006
 Tuesday April 4, 2006
 Tuesday, April 18, 2006
 Tuesday, May 2, 2006
 Tuesday, May 16, 2006
 Tuesday, June 6, 2006
 Tuesday, June 20, 2006
 Wednesday, July 5, 2006
 Tuesday, July 18, 2006
 Tuesday, August 1, 2006
 Tuesday, August 15, 2006
 Tuesday, September 5, 2006
 Tuesday, September 19, 2006
 Tuesday, October 3, 2006
 Tuesday, October 17, 2006
 Wednesday, November 8, 2006
 Tuesday, November 21, 2006
 Tuesday, December 5, 2006
 Tuesday, December 19, 2006

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.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0287 Adoption of 2006 Committee of the Whole Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2006 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Committee of the Whole meeting schedule for 2006 as follows:

Tuesday, January 10, 2006
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
Tuesday, February 14, 2006
Tuesday, February 28, 2006
Tuesday, March 14, 2006
Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Tuesday, April 11, 2006
Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Tuesday, May 9, 2006
Tuesday, May 23, 2006
Tuesday, June 13, 2006
Tuesday, June 27, 2006
Tuesday, July 11, 2006
Tuesday, July 25, 2006
Tuesday, August 8, 2006
Tuesday, August 22, 2006
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Tuesday, September 26, 2006
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
Tuesday, October 24, 2006
Tuesday, November 14, 2006
Tuesday, November 28, 2006
Tuesday, December 12, 2006
Tuesday, December 26, 2006

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.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0286 Adoption of 2006 Group I Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2006 GROUP I COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group I Committees meeting schedule for 2006 as follows:

Tuesday, January 10, 2006
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
Tuesday, February 14, 2006
Tuesday, February 28, 2006
Tuesday, March 14, 2006
Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Tuesday, April 11, 2006
Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Tuesday, May 9, 2006
Tuesday, May 23, 2006
Tuesday, June 13, 2006
Tuesday, June 27, 2006
Tuesday, July 11, 2006
Tuesday, July 25, 2006
Tuesday, August 8, 2006
Tuesday, August 22, 2006

Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Tuesday, September 26, 2006
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
Tuesday, October 24, 2006
Tuesday, November 14, 2006
Tuesday, November 28, 2006
Tuesday, December 12, 2006
Tuesday, December 26, 2006

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.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

2005-0285

Adoption of 2006 Group II Regular Meeting Schedule

RESOLUTION APPROVING 2006 GROUP II COMMITTEES REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the Group II Committees meeting schedule for 2006 as follows:

Tuesday, January 10, 2006
Tuesday, January 24, 2006
Tuesday, February 14, 2006
Tuesday, February 28, 2006
Tuesday, March 14, 2006
Tuesday, March 28, 2006
Tuesday, April 11, 2006
Tuesday, April 25, 2006
Tuesday, May 9, 2006
Tuesday, May 23, 2006
Tuesday, June 13, 2006
Tuesday, June 27, 2006
Tuesday, July 11, 2006
Tuesday, July 25, 2006
Tuesday, August 8, 2006
Tuesday, August 22, 2006
Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Tuesday, September 26, 2006
Tuesday, October 10, 2006
Tuesday, October 24, 2006
Tuesday, November 14, 2006
Tuesday, November 28, 2006
Tuesday, December 12, 2006
Tuesday, December 26, 2006

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.

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

The motion carried unanimously.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Bond noted that during her campaign several veterans expressed their concern regarding property tax exemptions. She asked the Town Manager to clarify the income level eligibility requirements for veterans.

Responding to Councilor Bond, Mr. Oefinger noted that he will look into this matter and will include this data in the next Town Council Weekly Status Report.

Councilor Kolnaski and the Town Manager felt that some veterans may be unclear about the application process.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. was made by Councilor Bartinik, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

*Elga Concepcion
Office Assistant*