



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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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, September 19, 2006

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

Mayor Watson called the meeting to order at 7:45 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 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 Lian Obrey and Bud Fay.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2006-0209 Proclamation Recognizing the Connecticut AIDS Bike Tour

Read

Mayor Watson read the Proclamation which he presented to the bicyclists who were part of the Connecticut AIDS Bike Tour on September 16.

IV. CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Norbert "Bud" Fay, 181 Lestertown Road, representing the Groton Business Association (GBA), suggested that viewers visit the following web site which includes the Groton Fall Festival: <http://www.grotonbiz.com>. There has been a tremendous amount of support for this event which will take place on October 7. Mr. Fay reviewed the sources of revenue, which include vendor fees and in-kind donations.

Lian Obrey, 141 Shennecossett Parkway, representing the GBA, reviewed the participants, vendors and events of the Groton Fall Festival. She reminded viewers that the holiday parade is scheduled for December 2. Ms. Obrey thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for its assistance with the coordination of the event. Transportation will be provided via shuttle bus at various locations. Donations for the troops will also be collected at the festival.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2006-0241 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of September 5, 2006 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Deletions from the Town Council Referral List**2006-0132 Library Social Service Position**

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

2006-0217 Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut Women and Girls Fund Grant

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

2006-0232 Repeal of Ambro Amendment

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

2006-0234 Police Station Reroofing

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

c. Special Trust Fund Contributions**2006-0238 Special Trust Fund Contributions**

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

Southeastern CT Association for the Retarded, Inc. - \$754.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Hilda Davis - \$50.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Leticia Filip - \$100.00 - Parks and Recreation Revolving

Various Donations - \$1,116.69 - 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 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**

Several Councilors attended Citizenship Day on September 18 and thanked the committee and volunteers for their efforts. Councilors also received an email from the Colonel Ledyard/Groton Heights PTO Secretary regarding playscapes.

Councilor Wright attended the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding workshop on September 13. She hopes to attend more of these workshops which will analyze the social and economic costs of failures in education.

Responding to the email regarding the funding for the playground at Claude Chester Elementary School, Councilor Bartinik suggested that she contact the Town Manager and/or the Superintendent of schools.

Councilor Streeter did a walk-through of the Groton Ambulance facility.

Councilor Kolnaski attended the Permanent School Building Committee meeting on September 7 and attended a meeting of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors on September 14. She attended the groundbreaking ceremony at St. Mary's Church on September 16.

Councilor Scott reminded citizens that there will be an insurance forum held on September 21 at the Groton Motor Inn.

Responding to Councilor Sheets' comments regarding the PTO officer's email, Mayor Watson

stated that historically PTOs in Groton have raised money to install playscapes, but this is happening more infrequently.

Responding to Mayor Watson's comments regarding the installation of playscapes, Town Manager Oefinger stated that according to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) booklet, the playscapes at Colonel Ledyard/Groton Heights Elementary School are not being replaced. He forwarded the email to Dr. James Mitchell.

Mayor Watson received a call from the Groton Postmaster regarding the removal of the drive-up drop box. He attended the Memphis Submarine Recognition ceremony on September 15. The Mayor attended the Connecticut AIDS Bike Tour and the ground-breaking ceremony at St. Mary's Church on September 16. He attended the grand opening of KOTO's Japanese Steak House on September 10. Mayor Watson gave opening remarks at the National Inclusion Recreation Convention on September 8. He played golf in the Groton Senior Center Open on September 7.

b. Representative Town Meeting

The RTM met last week at which time they approved appropriations for the 2006 Revaluation and for the Water Pollution Control Facility. They will be addressing the Noank Hatchery proposal at next month's meeting.

c. Clerk of the Council

Town Clerk Tarbox thanked the Citizenship Day Committee and Deb Monteiro for their work. The Town Clerk's office sent out 127 early ballots on September 18. The majority of these ballots were sent to military personnel throughout the United States and overseas. She stated that absentee ballots will be available on October 6. Citizens may call the Town Clerk's office to request a ballot via mail to their address or pick one up.

d. Town Manager

Town Manager Oefinger reminded viewers of the joint meeting of the Permanent School Building Committee, BOE and Town Council on September 21. The purpose of this meeting is to provide the Council with an update concerning the high school project. The Economic Development Committee will be reviewing the hatchery proposal on October 11. He discussed the correction in The Day regarding the animal shelter and clarified that the shelter is not receiving a donation of land. The Town Manager noted that the next Committee of the Whole agenda will include a brief update on the animal shelter. The following COW meetings will provide a more detailed history on the animal shelter and updated cost estimates.

Councilor Wright asked if the possibility of creating a private fund raiser for the animal shelter might be discussed at the next COW meeting. Responding to Councilor Wright's request, the Town Manager stated that there is a fund already in existence. Responding to Councilor Sheets' question regarding the replacement or repair of the animal shelter, Councilor Wright clarified that the people she had spoken with would like to contribute to the construction of a new shelter.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting; no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Bond

No meeting; no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting; no report.

d. Environment & Recreation - Chairman Sheets

No meeting; no report.

e. Finance - Chairman Wright

No meeting; no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Scott

No meeting; no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Streeter

No meeting; no report.

h. Public Works - Chairman Bartinik

No meeting; no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Watson

There was a Special Committee of the Whole and City Council meeting on September 12. The items on tonight's agenda are a result of that meeting. There was a Special Committee of the Whole meeting preceding tonight's Town Council meeting which included general discussion relating to the budget. The Town Manager was given direction by consensus to bring his budget to the Council.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

2005-0249 Central Hall Building Project - Status Update

CENTRAL HALL REDEVELOPMENT PARKING PROVISION

WHEREAS, a substantial structure on West Main Street, Mystic, was destroyed by fire in March, 2000, and

WHEREAS, intense public interest has been expressed in favor of the visual and commercial development of the property that was vacated by fire, and

WHEREAS, a developer is proposing a redevelopment plan that includes retail spaces and residential units, and

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that any such development that is approved will include increased public access to the river side of the property, and

WHEREAS, residential units in such a development cannot be sold without adequate provision of parking spaces, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton owns a sewer pump station on Gravel Street that abuts the property that is to be redeveloped, and

WHEREAS, the developer has previously asked for and received from the Town Council endorsement of the concept of the Town's leasing a portion of the sewer pump station property, to be used as partial fulfillment of the developer's residential parking requirement, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council previously approved, on March 2, 2004, a resolution to lease the same property for the same reasons, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council reconfirms its endorsement of the concept to lease a portion of the Gravel Street sewer pump station site for the purposes stated above, and hereby authorizes the Town Manager to negotiate the terms of a proposed lease with the developer, such lease to be

subject to a further review and determination by the Town Council following favorable action by all pertinent land use agencies.

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

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 7 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Scott, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Streeter
Opposed: 1 - Councilor Wright

2006-0132

Library Social Service Position

RESOLUTION CONCERNING A JOB VACANCY AT THE GROTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

WHEREAS, the Town Council, during deliberations on the FYE 2007 budget made a referral concerning the Library Program Developer position, and

WHEREAS, this position recently became vacant due to a resignation, and

WHEREAS, the Director of Library Services has used this vacancy as an opportunity to re-evaluate the community and Library needs, and is proposing to change the Program Developer position to a Young Adult Librarian position, and

WHEREAS, the Library Director and staff have expressed substantial justification for hiring a Young Adult Librarian who, according to the current job description for that position, would work primarily in the Library itself, with some time spent on outreach in schools, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves the filling of a Young Adult Librarian position with funds already appropriated for the Library for the current fiscal year.

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

Councilor Streeter opposes this resolution because he feels that a new position is being created.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Votes: In Favor: 6 - Mayor Watson, Councilor Bartinik, Jr., Councilor Bond, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor Sheets and Councilor Wright
Opposed: 2 - Councilor Scott and Councilor Streeter

2006-0217

Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut Women and Girls Fund Grant

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM THE WOMEN AND GIRLS FUND OF THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services provides programs for children, adults and families that address unmet and/or ongoing community needs and,

WHEREAS, teen pregnancy is an issue affecting Groton and many communities across the region and country and,

WHEREAS, the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut, through its Women and Girls Fund, is seeking proposals from groups including government entities that will effectively address teen pregnancy and,

WHEREAS, Groton Human Services has developed a program, "Fantastic 4" Girls, that meets the criteria for funding via the Women and Girls Fund, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Groton Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager or his designee

to submit a request to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut's Women and Girls Fund for funding in an amount not to exceed \$6,500 that will allow Groton Human Services to offer the "Fantastic 4" Girls Program.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2006-0232

Repeal of Ambro Amendment

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REPEAL OF THE AMBRO AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, Long Island Sound, a non-ocean estuary, is one of our most cherished resources; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act governs all environmentally sensitive activities and provides significant protection to Long Island Sound; and

WHEREAS, water and sediment quality in Long Island Sound have been dramatically improved through the implementation of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the managing of all dredging and relocation activities within Long Island Sound has been proven to be carried out in an exemplary way though the use of the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Protection, Research & Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), also known as the Ocean Dumping Act, creates significant economic hurdles and hardships and delays in reviewing potential dredging projects, threatening the commercial, recreational and fishing industries in Long Island Sound and the efficient use of our harbors and waterways; and

WHEREAS the Ocean Dumping Act does not add any significant environmental safeguards that are not available and present in the Clean Water Act; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Groton Town Council urges our United States Senators and United States Representatives to support the repeal of the Ambro Amendment; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution also endorses efforts by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection to work with New York and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop an environmentally sound and economically viable Dredged Material Management Plan (DMMP) for Long Island Sound.

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

The motion carried unanimously

2006-0234

Police Station Reroofing

RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CIP FUNDS FOR POLICE STATION ROOFING

WHEREAS, there is an approved CIP project from FYE 2006 for the partial re-roofing of the Town Police Station, and

WHEREAS, current construction bids and estimates show that more than \$8,000 in additional funds will be necessary for the project, and

WHEREAS, there are unused funds in another CIP appropriation for related work, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council approves a transfer of \$10,000 from Capital Improvement Project 50105 5542 to Capital Improvement Project 50105 5512.

Refer to R.T.M. under Rule 6.5.3

A motion was made by Councilor Scott, seconded by Councilor Streeter, that this matter be Adopted and referred under Rule 6.5.3 to the Representative Town Meeting.

The motion carried unanimously

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Scott and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk

Elga Concepcion

Office Assistant