



Town of Groton, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Councilor David Atwater, Councilor Aundre Bumgardner, Councilor Conrad F. Heede, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri

Monday, June 11, 2018

6:00 PM

City Municipal Building

SPECIAL MEETING - JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairperson Granatosky, Councilor Atwater, Councilor Franco, Councilor Heede, Councilor Obrey, Councilor Parker, Councilor Schmidt, Councilor Zeppieri and Bumgardner

City Council: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Lawrence Gerrish, Councilors Jamal Beckford, Stephen Sheffield, Gweneviere Depot, and Rashaad Carter

Also present was Town Manager John Burt.

3. NEW BUSINESS

2018-0006 Joint Meeting with City of Groton (2018 Standing Referral)

Discussed

See discussion in 6/11/18 Joint City of Groton/Town of Groton Special Committee of the Whole Minutes prepared by City Clerk Debra Patrick (attached to permanent minutes).

4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

**JOINT
CITY OF GROTON/TOWN OF GROTON
SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
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**CITY MUNICIPAL BUILDING
6:00 PM**

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Lawrence Gerrish, Councilors Jamal Beckford, Stephen Sheffield, Gweneviere Depot, Rashaad Carter and City Clerk Debra Patrick.

Excused: Councilor Jill Rusk

Town Mayor Patrice Granatosky, Town Councilors Conrad Heede, Juliette Parker, Lian Obrey, Rita Schmidt, David Atwater, Rachael Franco, Joeseeph Zeppieri and Aundre Bumgardner

II. ITEMS

1. TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

Mayor Hedrick gave an overview of where the City TIF policy stands. It is with the attorney for review, once completed it will go to the TIF Advisory Committee for final review. Once that is completed it will go to the City Council for approval and the Town Council for acceptance. The dual review is due to the dual tax for funding the TIF projects.

The local TIF districts map in the City, Thames Street and Five Corners, has been approved by the City EDC and the TIF Advisory Committee. This will be discussed further at the COW June 25th.

Town Manager Burt said the master plans for RT 117/Rt184 and RT 1 are coming along.

Councilor Zeppieri asked if the TIF zone in the City included the south yard at EB.

Mayor Hedrick said it starts on Bridge Street and goes to the far side of Garbo Lobster. It does not include the yard since it is part of an enterprise zone.

Councilor Carter asked if when they refer to RT 1 area, is this the downtown area.

TM Burt said it is, with the boundary to be determined.

There was discussion that once the boundaries are determined they are then referred to as parcels.

TM Burt said the boundaries can be amended as might be needed.

2. HIGHWAY ANALYSIS

Mayor Hedrick distributed the initial data request submitted by Novak Consulting Group.

He had an initial meeting with Julie, Novak Consulting Group, May 16, 2018 to discuss the process and start a dialogue.

The City and Town are currently collecting the data for the initial

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data request. The City will meet July 2, 2018 with Novak followed by a joint meeting that same day with the City, Town and Novak. They want to come up with the benchmark items to compare.

Mayor Granatosky asked if there is an ongoing conversation between Mayor Hedrick, Town Manager Burt and the Public Works Directors for both Town and City.

TM Burt said they are.

Mayor Hedrick said they are all talking and working together to prepare.

Councilor Beckford asked if they are going to compare apples to apples. This has been an issue in the past.

Mayor Hedrick said they are going to do that, they will look at best practices and ways to identify if we are doing things ok. Each may have needs the other doesn't.

TM Burt said the lynchpin is finding benchmark items.

Councilor Sheffield asked if this will include sidewalks.

Mayor Hedrick went over the criteria to determine the area and sidewalks are included in the discussion. He said the City does what it should as does the Town. They will look at how often they do certain tasks and the time required to do them. They are hoping those benchmarks will come out of this.

Councilor Heede asked who complied the data request.

Mayor Hedrick said the contractor, this is the information they need to do the study.

Mayor Granatosky said she thinks it important to include the state classifications of roads such as interstate, feeder roads and arterial in this. Some of the main roads in town aren't Town roads, they are state roads.

TM Burt said this was brought up with the consultant.

Councilor Bungardner said Groton Utilities performs some functions such as maintaining street lights, Town PW does not do this. How can we distinguish services performed by the Town, City and GU?

Mayor Hedrick said GU and street lights are not part of this but we do want to ensure we are including everything we should.

Councilor Bungardner said just roads and highways then.

Mayor Hedrick said yes but the City PW employees also do sanitation, that is not going to be included. They do an accounting on timesheets in 15 minute increments for all work task functions performed to keep it accurate.

Councilor Obrey asked if there is a timeline for this to be completed.

TM Burt said 4-6 months from now.

Mayor Hedrick said they want to have this resolved before the next budget cycle.

Councilor Franco asked if there was a pre agreement to abide by the results once it is completed to determine funding.

Mayor Hedrick said the City and Town entered into this in good faith. They are looking for efficiencies and the impact then we will determine what works best for all. They don't want to see another report that sits on a shelf. They would like to look at what is reasonable and go from there.

TM Burt said they will also compare to other towns to see if we can do things better and work together.

Councilor Depot asked when the 4-6 months starts.

TM Burt said it starts now.

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Councilor Carter said this includes sidewalks but the Town and City do sidewalks differently. Mayor Hedrick said some streets in the Town have no buffer to the road and some do. There was a discussion on concrete, asphalt and bituminous materials used and how the independent contractor will pull the subjectivity out to find an objective view. The hope is that by equally funding it we are both invested in it. We have all worked hard to get to this point. Councilor Sheffield asked what the cost of the study is. Mayor Hedrick said \$35,000.00 each for the Town and City. TM Burt concurred. Mayor Granatosky said this will be worth it and help us find areas for cooperation and not find a need for arbitration. Deputy Mayor Gerrish said his take on the study is that we are all looking for a better, more economical way to spend our money. Councilor Obrey asked to go back to the enterprise zone. She said she thought those were no longer in effect. TM Burt said they are still in effect but that there is no reimbursement by the state. Mayor Hedrick said his intent in raising the Enterprise Zone was that EB has already used it and you can't use both.

3. SAILFEST FOOD DRIVE

Mayor Hedrick said he was approached by Gemma Moran to have a food drive during the Sailfest weekend. She also met with Robert Hayward of the Mashantucket Tribe to participate. They expect it to be one of the biggest food drives they have ever done and are asking people to bring non-perishable food items to the Sailfest July 15th. He was asked to reach out to New London so both sides of the river are included and have a friendly rivalry. He read a statement of what they will be doing noting the places in the City where the trucks for collection will be. There will be 1 truck at the municipal building, 1 truck at Eastern Point Beach and 3 trucks on Thames Street at sites to be determined. A map will be created to guide people to the locations. Chief Spellman will lead the logistics there due to the Police Department's knowledge of where streets are shut down and they are meeting weekly to lock down all the details. Chief Spellman said they did a toy, food and coat drive that was very successful and he anticipates this will be as well. Mayor Granatosky said that since all the locations are in the city is there a way they can help. Mayor Hedrick said they will be having a volunteer drive and a mass marketing blitz on social media, the City web site, radio PSA's and GMTV to help it be successful to reach Gemma's goal. Councilor Depot asked if there was any cost to the City. Mayor Hedrick said Foxwoods would take the lead, he has not agreed to any cost to the City. There was discussion on how they will know who wins the friendly rivalry since it probably won't be known that night. Mayor Granatosky said when they do the food drives at Grasso Tech the trucks are unloaded at the Food Center and the pallets are weighed. Councilor Zeppieri said this is a joint meeting but this project appears to be predominately a City function. Maybe there could be a truck in Mystic for the folks who don't go to Sailfest. He suggested a truck at Stop & Shop and also taking cash donations that can be used to purchase food.

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Mayor Hedrick said he would bring that to the next committee meeting.
Councilor Parker had concerns with the cash donations considering that it is a very busy night although a lock box might work.
Councilor Carter said Sailfest is a New London event and Saturday for the fireworks is for all City and Town residents.
Mayor Hedrick said all ideas will be brought to the committee.
Councilor Zeppieri noted the ways he and his wife along with members of their church have collected food over the years.
Councilor Franco asked if this is 1 day or the week leading up.
Mayor Hedrick said it is just the 1 day.
Councilor Parker said it is the 1 day and asked if there would be a rain date.
Mayor Hedrick said the intent is to tie it to the day the fireworks are.
Councilor Atwater suggested we all buy the heaviest can in the smallest size.
There was discussion that any ideas can be sent to Mayor Hedrick via email.

III. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

IV. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Schmidt moved Councilor Beckford seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**