



**Town of Groton, Connecticut**  
**Town Council Committee of the Whole**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340

Town Manager: 860-441-6630

Town Clerk: 860-441-6640

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

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**Tuesday, July 10, 2018**

**6:30 PM**

**Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1**

134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Granatosky called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Chair**

Chair Patrice Granatosky

**Members**

Member Andre Bumgardner

Member Rachael Franco

Member Conrad Heede

Member Lian Obrey

Member Juliette Parker

Member Rita Schmidt

Member Joe Zeppieri

**Town Manager**

John Burt

**Staff**

Nicki Bresnyan

**3. CALENDAR AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilors reported on the events and meetings that they attended and the communications that they received.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.a. 2018-39 Approval of the Committee of the Whole Minutes of June 26, 2018**

Mayor Granatosky noted that there was discussion related to COLAs under item 5.b. 2018-2 Cost of Living Adjustments for Retirees. She noted a typographical error on page 6 under item 5.j.

**MOTION:** To approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of June 26, 2018.

Moved by: Bumgardner, Aundre		Seconded by: Zeppieri, Joe		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			
Joe Zeppieri	X			
APPROVED				

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.a. 2018-55 Economic Development Assistance Fund Grant - 90 Leonard Drive, CrossFit Inguz

Paige Bronk, Economic and Community Development Manager, distributed a revised referral memo including a copy of the site plan showing the utility extensions. He explained the revisions and noted there are no changes to the recommendation. The Economic Assistance Fund has been well received by the business community. This request by CrossFit Inguz is for a fitness facility to be built at 90 Leonard Drive. The Economic Assistance Fund would primarily assist with gas lateral and electric line extensions. Mr. Bronk reviewed pre- and post-improvement taxes. The resolution has been slightly modified to indicate "utility installation." Mr. Bronk responded to questions from Councilors.

MOTION: To recommend a resolution approving the Economic Assistance Fund grant award of \$15,625.00 to CrossFit Inguz for pre-development costs, gas and electrical connection and roadway repair infrastructure costs at 90 Leonard Drive to be paid on a reimbursement basis after posting a sign indicating the project was supported by the Town of Groton Economic Assistance Fund, satisfying utility and road specifications, and providing proof of payment to the contractor.

Moved by: Parker, Juliette		Seconded by: Heede, Conrad		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			
Joe Zeppieri	X			
APPROVED				

5.b. 2018-32 Filling Vacant Positions

Town Manager Burt noted that the previous resolution set the hiring freeze policy until July 1, 2018. Councilors have indicated that they want to continue the policy and he would recommend that as well.

MOTION: To recommend a resolution Adopting the Re-establishment of the Hiring Justification Policy.

Moved by: Franco, Rachael		Seconded by: Parker, Juliette		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			
Joe Zeppieri	X			
APPROVED				

5.c. 2018-35 Nuclear Safety Grant

Police Chief L. J. Fusaro explained that the grant is coming from residual funds in the State of Connecticut Nuclear Safety Emergency Program. Chief Fusaro applied for funds for a project to interface with the state's radio system, and he recommended that the Town accept the grant funds. This item was not budgeted in FYE 2019, but it is a project that will be required and can now be covered by the grant.

Councilor Bumgardner asked if Groton Long Point and the City are included in the project. Chief Fusaro noted that Groton Long Point is on the Town's radio system; the City of Groton is not. Councilor Zeppieri asked if there will be additional funds required for the project, and Chief Fusaro stated there will be additional costs, but they have not yet been identified. Chief Fusaro noted that there are limited capabilities within the department to communicate with the City, but the City and Town operate on different frequencies. Town Manager Burt noted that the City does not have the gaps in coverage that the Town does, and their system meets their needs. Discussion followed on previous discussions about improving communication between the Town and City Police Departments.

MOTION: To recommend a resolution to authorize the Police Department to accept the Nuclear Safety Grant in the amount of \$63,246.

Moved by: Heede, Conrad		Seconded by: Bumgardner, Aundre		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			
Joe Zeppieri	X			
APPROVED				

5.d. 2018-36 Part-Time Seasonal Pay Plan Modification

Police Chief L. J. Fusaro noted that he has been working with Assistant Town Manager/Director of Human Resources Bob Zagami to integrate a part-time telecommunicator position and increase the pay range for supernumeraries in the part-time seasonal pay plan. Chief Fusaro responded to questions from Councilors.

MOTION: To recommend a resolution adopting the revised Part-Time Seasonal Pay Plan.

Moved by: Schmidt, Rita		Seconded by: Obrey, Lian		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			
Joe Zeppieri	X			
APPROVED				

5.e. 2018-33 Noise Ordinance

Councilor Zeppieri explained that there is a proposed noise ordinance and the options for discussion are adopting an ordinance or being more aggressive in using existing "Creating a Public Disturbance" citations.

A motion was made by Councilor Zeppieri, seconded by Councilor Schmidt, to adopt a noise ordinance.

Police Chief L. J. Fusaro responded to questions from the Council. Chief Fusaro explained that he hopes to work with other Town staff to address noise complaints and if necessary, use existing laws for enforcement action.

Councilor Zeppieri expressed support for an ordinance. He cited the example of noise complaints about Chapter One in downtown Mystic and the lack of enforcement action by the Police Department. Mayor Granatosky expressed support for a more vigorous program of issuing citations. Councilor Schmidt asked why the citations have not been used before and Chief Fusaro explained that the department tries to be community-oriented. The statute is very liberal and interpretation by an officer can be subjective.

Town Manager Burt noted that Public Works may have to be exempted from the ordinance because of some of its operations. Noise-measuring equipment would cost \$500 to \$700. The Town Manager stated he would like to use existing statutes, and he opposes creating an ordinance for one business.

Chief Fusaro responded to additional questions from Councilors. Councilor Obrey asked Chief Fusaro to report to the Council when complaints are made. She expressed concern that the fine is not sufficient to deter businesses, but she will support increased enforcement efforts.

The motion failed by a vote of 2 in favor (Councilors Zeppieri and Schmidt) and 6 opposed.

MOTION: To be more aggressive in using existing Creating a Public Disturbance citations and to utilize the community policing program to do outreach to offending businesses.

Moved by: Granatosky, Patrice	Seconded by: Obrey, Lian
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Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt		X		
Joe Zeppieri		X		
APPROVED				

5.f. 7/2018 - 1 Adoption of An Ordinance to Establish Hours of Operations for B.Y.O.B. Establishments

Town Manager Burt noted two outstanding items associated with the ordinance: 1) Changing times to 12:00 midnight to 10:00 a.m. in Section 4.a. and 2) striking Section 4.b. at the recommendation of the Town Attorney.

A motion was made by Councilor Franco, seconded by Councilor Heede, to amend Sections 4.a. and 4.b. of the ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: To recommend adoption of An Ordinance to Establish Hours of Operations for B.Y.O.B. Establishments.

Moved by: Bumgardner, Aundre		Seconded by: Franco, Rachael		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			
Joe Zeppieri	X			
APPROVED				

5.g. 2018-41 Miscellaneous and Ad Hoc Committee Appointment

MOTION: To recommend a resolution appointing Councilor André Bumgardner be appointed to the Southeast Area Transit (SEAT) Board.

Moved by: Parker, Juliette		Seconded by: Franco, Rachael		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			

Joe Zeppieri	X			
APPROVED				

6. REVIEW OF AGENDA ITEMS - None

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Granatosky noted that Councilor Zeppieri is resigning from the Cable Television Advisory Board and Mayor Granatosky would like to appoint Jim Loughlin. The Council concurred.

The Blight Ordinance will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 24th.

8. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Parker, seconded by Councilor Franco, to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.