



Town of Groton, Connecticut

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Meeting Minutes

Town Council

Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

7:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1

REGULAR MEETING

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Streeter.

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Sheets and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro and Councilor Peruzzotti

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Office Assistant Lori Watrous.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Kevin Trejo.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS & MEMORIALS

2011-0112 Proclamation Recognizing David Winkler, Jr.

Read

The proclamation was read by Mayor Streeter.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Richard Dixon, 15 Baptist Hill Road, Old Mystic, distributed a packet of information which pertained to providing infrastructure for the Flanders Road industrial area. He noted that the Town had previously approved a plan for connecting sewer and water in this area, and he encouraged Councilors to place a high priority on this item so that the plan can move forward.

David Cote, 78 Colony Road, a member of the Flanders Road Utilities Extension Committee, stated that a report was submitted in 2008 which outlined a long-term plan for providing infrastructure to the Flanders Road industrial park area. He urged Councilors to make it a priority to provide water and sewer to this area.

Peter Pappas, 33 Island Circle South, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, stated that there is an urgent need to provide water and sewer to the Flanders Road area, noting that without this infrastructure, further development is impossible. Mr. Pappas remarked that Pfizer is down-sizing and the Town needs to enable new economic development.

Tim Tylaska, 800 Flanders Road, created the industrial park on Flanders Road which has 52 small businesses with approximately 150 employees. He has created a water company for the area that is at capacity. Mr. Tylaska noted that there is more developable land, but without proper utilities it will not be developed.

Robert Wood, Box 549, Groton, submitted a letter that was read by Richard Dixon. Mr. Wood owns a small business that has outgrown its initial space, but due to the limited infrastructure in the Flanders Road industrial area, he may need to relocate. He encouraged Councilors to make the Town more suitable for potential growth and expansion of small businesses.

Lian Obrey, 141 Shennecossett Parkway, recently went to the UCONN Avery Point campus to view "incubators" where new products and ideas were shown. Most of the individuals she spoke with have the desire to stay in Groton, but they must find suitable areas to be able to manufacture their products. Ms. Obrey stated that it is time for growth and vision, and she urged Councilors to provide the infrastructure on Flanders Road to encourage future economic growth.

V. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Councilor Sheets is a strong supporter of providing water and sewer to the Flanders Road area. She noted that there are two feasible routes and that the project would require a bonding referendum. She stated that infrastructure to this area needs to become a priority.

Councilor Johnson stated that one of the Council goals is to support small business, and he believes that providing utilities to the Flanders Road area needs to be a priority.

Councilor Watson noted that when he was the Mayor of Groton, he had the opportunity to speak with Rep. Courtney, Senator Dodd, and Senator Lieberman about this project, but nothing materialized.

Mr. Dixon stated that he has spoken with Rep. Courtney and that the problem with progressing with the project resulted from confusion about the different routes and alternatives without the establishment of a definitive plan.

Councilors will discuss this item further at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

VI. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of Minutes

2011-0114 Approval of Minutes (Town Council)

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 3, 2011 are hereby accepted and approved.

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

b. Administrative Items

2011-0113 Special Trust Fund Contributions

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING CONTRIBUTIONS TO SPECIAL TRUST FUNDS

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

George Marshall - \$100.00 - Social Services Discretionary

This Matter was Adopted on the Consent Calendar.

Passed The Consent Calendar

A motion was made by Councilor Watson, seconded by Councilor Kolnaski, 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 Johnson attended some of the RTM budget sessions.

Councilor Flax attended the Board of Education meeting.

Councilor Kolnaski attended a Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors meeting at its new

facility.

Councilor Kolnaski, Mayor Streeter, and Town Manager Oefinger attended the retirement celebration for City Mayor Dennis Popp.

Mayor Streeter attended graduation at the University of Connecticut Avery Point Campus, a work party for the New London Ledge Lighthouse Foundation, the ground-breaking ceremony for a building addition at the SubBase, the swearing in ceremony for newly-elected City Mayor Marian Galbraith, and a meeting with Groton's Emergency Management Team.

b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

The Town Clerk noted that the RTM is continuing with its budget sessions, the next being May 18, 2011, at the Groton Senior Center.

c. Clerk of the Council

No report.

d. Town Manager

Mr. Oefinger suggested establishing new mil rates at the June 7, 2011, Town Council meeting to allow more time for the Council to get a clearer picture of what the State's budget will entail. The Town Manager noted that 20 children will be participating in the Tim Horton's Childrens' Foundation Camps this year; a presentation regarding the Pequot War will be made at the Jabez Smith House on May 22, 2011; and the annual Flag Day Ceremony at the Mystic flag pole will be held on June 14, 2011. Mr. Oefinger mentioned that new emergency sirens have been tested and removal of the old Millstone sirens will begin on May 16, 2011.

2011-0118

Landfill Fees

POSSIBLE INCREASE IN LANDFILL PERMIT FEES

This matter was Read.

This item was referred to the Council by the RTM and suggests that the Council explore increasing the permit fees at the transfer station.

2011-0119

Health Care Benefits Reform

EXPLORATION OF REFORM OF TOWN HEALTH CARE BENEFITS

This matter was Read.

This is also a referral from the RTM and calls for investigation of the impact on the Town if it was no longer the health insurance provider for its employees.

e. Town Attorney

No report.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Community & Cultural Development - Chairman Peruzzotti

No meeting, no report.

b. Economic Development - Chairman Johnson

No meeting, no report.

c. Education/Health & Social Services - Chairman Kolnaski

No meeting, no report.

d. Environment/Energy - Chairman Sheets

No meeting, no report.

e. Finance - Chairman O'Beirne

No meeting, no report.

f. Personnel/Appointments/Rules - Chairman Flax

No meeting, no report.

g. Public Safety - Chairman Monteiro

No meeting, no report.

h. Public Works/Recreation - Chairman Watson

No meeting, no report.

i. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Streeter

No meeting, no report.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. was made by Councilor Kolnaski, seconded by Councilor Flax and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the Council*

Lori Watrous, Office Assistant