

Office of the MAYOR

TOWN OF GROTON
CONNECTICUT

Proclamation

Proclamation Recognizing
USS Groton SSN 694 40th Reunion

WHEREAS, USS Groton SSN 694 is the seventh Los Angeles-class submarine built in this class; and

WHEREAS, USS Groton is the third ship of the United States Navy to be named for Groton, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the contract to build her was awarded to the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics Corporation in Groton, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, she was launched on October 9, 1976 and commissioned on July 8, 1978, with her first overseas deployment in March 1980 to the Indian Ocean; and

WHEREAS, she was decommissioned and stricken from the Naval Vessel Register on November 7, 1997 and scheduled to enter the Nuclear Powered Ship and Submarine Recycling Program in Bremerton, Washington on October 1, 2011; and

WHEREAS, a celebration in recognition of the 40th year since commissioning USS Groton SSN 694 will be held on July 6th, 7th, and 8th 2018 with a full agenda of activities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Groton does hereby congratulate the crews who served on USS Groton, SSN 694 for their distinguished service in protecting the values of the citizens of the United States.

Dated at Groton, Connecticut this 6th day of July, 2018.




MAYOR, THE TOWN OF GROTON



Town of Groton, Connecticut
Town Council
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 Aundré Bumgardner, Councilor Rachael Franco, Councilor Conrad Heede, Councilor Lian Obrey, Councilor Juliette Parker, Councilor Rita Schmidt, and Councilor Joe Zeppieri

Tuesday, July 03, 2018

6:30 PM

Town Hall Annex - Community Room 1
134 Groton Long Point Road, Groton

I. ROLL CALL/DECLARE QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Granatosky declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
Councilor Bumgardner arrived at 6:39 p.m.

Mayor

Patrice Granatosky

Councilors

David Atwater

Aundre Bumgardner

Rachael Franco

Conrad Heede

Lian Obrey

Juliette Parker

Rita Schmidt

Town Manager

John Burt

Staff

Assistant Town Clerk Nathan Caron

II. SALUTE TO FLAG

The Salute to the Flag was led by Portia Bordelon.

III. RECOGNITIONS, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

III.a. 2018-13 Proclamation Recognizing USS Groton SSN 694 40th Reunion

The Proclamation was read by Mayor Granatosky.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

V. RECEIPT OF CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

V.a. Receipt of Citizens' Petitions, Comments and Concerns

Karen Morton, 67 Mariners Lane, Mystic, noted that as a previous Town Councilor, she submitted a standing referral to the Council requesting an annual COLA process be

established in retiree pension contracts. She noted that the City of Groton awards COLAs every January. She stated that the FYE 2019 budget has been adopted, and we are still talking about COLAs, even though there were assurances the matter would be addressed during the budget process. She noted that the Town taxpayers pay for all of the City's Public Works COLAs and half of the Police COLAs; the same benefit is not extended to Town retirees. She reviewed the COLA process that she envisioned. She noted that it has been over a year since her referral, and this Council seems to be bogged down by inertia. She noted that by the time a decision is reached on this COLA request, the next review will be overdue. She stated that this is about keeping commitments made. She noted that many Town retirees have not had an increase in fifteen years; this is unacceptable. She stated that this situation creates a greater hardship on Police retirees because they are not covered under Social Security; they contribute twice as much as anyone else. She questioned if this Council is prepared to demonstrate good faith and do what is required of retirees. She concluded by stating that it is her hope that this is the last time Town retirees are forced to beg for what they are owed; it is demeaning and disrespectful. She stated that she hopes the Council will show consideration to the Town retirees. Ms. Morton's statement is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Gretchen Chipperini, 87 Phoenix Drive, Groton, reviewed statistical information from the economic development website and stated that she hoped possible investors would not see it. She stated that the Groton civilian household income figure is the shining light on the chart because it is an untold threshold for retailers. She stated that she does not believe the navy household income figure. She stated that she believes the Navy has high expendable income, and we should use that number on economic development material. She noted that Groton looks terrible when compared to the average income statistic for the State of Connecticut as a whole. She stated that Groton should show the civilian average household income and expendable Navy income, if it is good. She noted that Groton needs to tell its story, if it is told the right way. She stated good marketing includes bragging and emphasizing things that help and de-emphasizing things that do not help.

Ian Thomas, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, welcomed Councilor Bumgardner to the Council; the Council is better for his appointment. He stated that he has concerns with the process by which Councilor Bumgardner was appointed. He stated that the process lacked transparency and inclusivity. He noted that one of the candidates was not interviewed in a formal process. He questioned what the nomination and interview process was as it pertained to the Town Council. He stated that there should be a formal announcement and review process; the deliberation should occur in public. He stated that diversity of opinion is essential for a functioning democracy.

Portia Bordelon, 159 Shennecossett Parkway, noted that she supports Mr. Thomas' comments. She stated that in the future she hopes there is more respect for people who want to put their names forward for consideration. She thanked Councilor Obrey for her individuality and for standing up for what she believed was right. She questioned where we stand with the Groton Ambulance with respect to creating a lease and rent. She noted that she has concerns with waiving the fees for Groton Little League, as it is a private league. She noted that she has concerns with the damage that was done by the installation of the lights at the field; she hopes that is being dealt with before fees are waived. She stated that if we start to waive fees, it will be important to define what a capital improvement is, as other groups have made improvements to facilities.

VI. RESPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

VI.a. Responses to Citizens' Petitions, Comments and Concerns

In response to Councilor Heede, Town Manager Burt stated that it is the intent to put the COLA process on the July 24, 2018 agenda. Councilor Heede stated that he wanted to apologize to Ms. Bordelon for not publically going through an appointment process. He noted that there is not a guideline for it, but he would like to make a referral to the Rules Committee to make the process more positive.

Councilor Obrey stated that she believes this is the first time there is a Little League tournament, which had some bearing on the decision to waive the fees. She stated that the Little League group is working on the repairs and cleanup. She noted that the group worked hard to raise the funds for the lights, and that overcomes the small damages that may have been done. She stated that she wants to encourage this kind of activity in Groton; hopefully this will lead to more tournaments. She noted that they are an economic stimulator. Councilor Bumgardner stated that he would like to see the recommendations of the Pension Review Board. He stated that he agrees that it is important to have a better process in place to deal with nominations; a fair and transparent process is important. He noted his respect for Ms. Bordelon. In response to Ms. Chipperini, he noted that it is important that the Town's website is accessible and attractive for outside investors. He stated that a lot of people are moving to Groton and there is a housing shortage, so it is important that everyone works together.

In response to Ms. Chipperini, Councilor Franco stated that she will bring her concerns to the Economic Development Commission.

Mayor Granatosky stated that she understands the desire to have quick action regarding the COLA, but the Council is now in its seventh month; it is not bogged down. She noted that it is moving deliberately and is trying to make good decisions. She noted that the Council has to make decisions about actuarial assumptions, the cost of COLA long and short term, and it will be discussed at the Committee of the Whole meeting on July 24, 2018. She stated that the Council is moving forward to make wise decisions on behalf of the retirees.

Town Manager Burt stated that he communicated that he would like to see a lease fee to Groton Ambulance; there has been not response as of yet. He noted that it looks like the estimate for the damage to the little league field is approximately \$500; Parks and Recreation Director Mary Berry has communicated that it is the expectation that Groton Little League will pay for the Damage.

Mayor Granatosky referenced correspondence from Mr. Grossman from Groton Little League; it indicated the damage would be paid for.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR

VII.a. 2018-14 Appointments/Reappointments to Authorized Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions and Committees

Councilor Heede stated that the Personnel Committee recommended the individuals on the list for appointment. He noted that Don Levenson was also recommended to become a full member of the Historic District Commission.

Adoption of the Resolution Making Appointments/Reappointments to Authorized Agencies, Authorities, Boards, Commissions, and Committees (ABCs).

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

VII.b. 2018-26 Approval of the Town Council Minutes of June 5, 2018

Adoption of the Resolution Accepting Town Council Minutes.

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

VII.c. 2018-27 Special Trust Fund Contributions

Adoption of the Resolution Accepting Contributions to Special Trust Funds.

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

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS (Other than Committee Reports)

VIII.a. Town Councilors

Councilor Parker stated that she, and Councilor Franco, attended the swearing-in ceremony for the City of Groton Fire Chief and officers.

Councilor Franco stated that she received correspondence from Mr. Fitzgerald regarding signage for water access in downtown Mystic.

Councilor Heede stated that he received correspondence regarding COLA.

Councilor Obrey stated that she received inquiries regarding what is happening on Thomas Road. She noted that there are supposed to be bike/walking lanes on either side of the road. She questioned if the plan changed.

Councilor Schmidt stated that she toured the SECTV offices; she noted that it is an impressive space. She stated that SECTV is anxious to make the equipment available to the general public.

Mayor Granatosky stated that she received correspondence from the GMEA union steward regarding the COLA. She stated that she received correspondence from a former RTM Moderator regarding the damage done to the little league field. She noted that she received the correspondence from Mr. Fitzgerald, and there is a meeting scheduled for July 26, 2018 to discuss those concerns.

Town Manager Burt stated that according to Public Works Director Gary Schneider, the intent is still to have a three-foot walkway on either side of Thomas Road. He noted that he will check with the Public Works Director for an update.

Mayor Granatosky noted that the walkway will be a part of the pavement, but the painting of the lining has not happened yet.

In response to Councilor Bumgardner, Town Manager Burt stated that the walkway is planning to be three-feet instead of four-feet because of the amount of space available. Councilor Bumgardner questioned if there would be a way to remediate that in the future so that a minimum standard could be applied Town-wide. He stated that the road looks very nice.

VIII.b. Clerk of the Representative Town Meeting

Assistant Town Clerk Nathan Caron announced that the RTM meeting scheduled for July 11, 2018 has been cancelled, and the next regular RTM meeting is scheduled for August 08, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center.

VIII.c. Clerk of the Council

Assistant Town Clerk Nathan Caron reported that 1,400 dogs were licensed in the month of June. He also reported that as of July 01, 2018, per recently passed legislation, there was an increase in various fees in the Town Clerk's office.

VIII.d. Town Manager

Town Manager Burt stated that tax bills are out. He stated that he received a request from Mumford Cove to help clean the drains. He stated that Public Works believes it would take a few days, and then they would charge for personnel and vehicle use. He stated that they would like a MOU in place laying out responsibilities and covering liability. He stated that the BYOB Ordinance will be the next agenda. He stated that lead testing continues, and there are two issues: wings C and D of the former Fitch Middle School; Jabez Smith House. He noted that the water has been turned off to those areas.

Mayor Granatosky stated that her only concern with the Mumford Cove work is that because they are not accepted Town Roads, she would like to be sure the liability would be spelled out clearly so that the Town was not responsible if something went awry.

Town Manager Burt noted that he relayed that to the Public Works Director.

VIII.e. Department Heads, Superintendent of Schools and Board of Education

None

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

IX.a. Committee of the Whole - Mayor Granatosky

Mayor Granatosky stated that at this point, there is nothing else to add to the next agenda.

IX.b. Personnel and Appointments - Chairman Heede

Chair Heede reviewed vacancies to the Board and Commissions. He encouraged anyone who is willing to serve to contact him.

IX.c. Temporary Rules - Chairman Heede

No report.

IX.d. Rules

No report.

IX.e. Public Safety

No report.

X. NEW BUSINESS

X.a. 8/2018 - 1 RESOLUTION SETTING THE REFERENDUM DATE AND FORM OF THE QUESTION ON PROPOSED CHARTER REVISIONS

Mayor Granatosky noted that items on the agenda have been discussed in the Committee of the Whole.

Adoption of a Resolution Setting the Referendum Date and Form of the Question on

Proposed Charter Revisions

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

X.b. 6/2018 - 1 RESOLUTION APPROVING A SPECIAL WAIVER OF FIELD RENTAL FEES

In response to Councilor Heede, Town Manager Burt stated that the estimate for the damage is approximately 500 dollars. He noted that he received correspondence from Mr. Berry that indicated Groton Little League would pay for the damage.

Mayor Granatosky noted that she received correspondence from Mr. Grossman that indicated the damage to the field would be paid for by Groton Little League.

Councilor Parker stated that she disagreed with this, and she stipulated that this should be for one year only.

Adoption of a Resolution Approving a Special Waiver of Field Rental Fees

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

X.c. 9/2018 - 1 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CONTINUE THE NEW CONSOLIDATED MIDDLE SCHOOL DESIGN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GROTON 2020 SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PLAN

Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing the Director of Public Works to Continue the New Consolidated Middle School Design in Accordance with the Groton 2020 School Modernization Plan

Moved by: Heede, Conrad		Seconded by: Schmidt, Rita		
Committee Members	YES	NO	ABSTAIN	RECUSE
David Atwater	X			

Aundre Bumgardner	X			
Rachael Franco	X			
Patrice Granatosky	X			
Conrad Heede	X			
Lian Obrey	X			
Juliette Parker	X			
Rita Schmidt	X			
PASSED				

X.d. 10/2018 - 1 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A COMMERCIAL BROKER FOR THE SALE OF THE WILLIAM SEELY SCHOOL PROPERTY

Adoption of Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Enter into an Agreement with a Commercial Broker for the Sale of the William Seely School Property

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

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XI.a. Other Business

In response to Councilor Heede, Town Manager Burt stated that there is a guide for Boards, Commissions, Agencies that addresses purposes that he will forward to Councilor Heede.

Councilor Obrey noted that she would like to bring the Blight Ordinance to a future agenda. Town Manager Burt stated the Blight Ordinance discussion is scheduled for the July 24, 2018 meeting. He noted that Town staff will be present for the discussions.

Councilor Franco noted that Groton Senior Center will have a bakers' battle on July 21, 2018. She stated that there is an Independence Day Parade on the Fourth of July.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

XII.a Adjournment

Councilor Parker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Bumgardner. Mayor Granatosky adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Attest:

Betsy Moukawsher
Clerk of the Council
Groton Town Clerk

RESOLUTION SETTING THE REFERENDUM DATE AND FORM OF THE QUESTION ON PROPOSED CHARTER REVISIONS

WHEREAS, the Charter Revision Commission submitted its final report dated November 2017 to the Town Council, and

WHEREAS, the Town Council voted to reject the recommendations of the Charter Revision Commission, and

WHEREAS, a petition for referendum filed by not less than 10% of the electors was filed with and certified by the Town Clerk on January 22, 2018, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the amendments to the Charter be submitted for approval or rejection at a referendum to be held Tuesday, November 6, 2018. Voters approving the amendments will vote "Yes" and those opposing the amendments will vote "No", and be it further

RESOLVED, that the form of the question shall be:

"SHALL THE TOWN OF GROTON CHARTER BE AMENDED AND REVISED, ALL AS SET FORTH IN THE NOVEMBER 2017 FINAL REPORT OF THE 2016 TOWN OF GROTON CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, AND AS ON FILE WITH THE TOWN CLERK?"

RESOLUTION APPROVING A SPECIAL WAIVER OF FIELD RENTAL FEES

WHEREAS, Groton Little League plans to hold a baseball tournament at the Town of Groton's Calvin Burrows field; and

WHEREAS, the Parks and Recreation Commission has an adopted fee schedule included fees for use of the Calvin Burrows field for non-league use; and

WHEREAS, Groton Little League recently raised close to \$100,000 for the installation of lights at the Calvin Burrows field; and

WHEREAS, Groton Little League's planned tournament will bring visitors from outside of Town as well as raise money for scholarships; and

WHEREAS, Groton Little League has requested the Town Council to waive the fees for use of the field for their summer 2018 tournament; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Groton Town Council hereby waives the fees for Groton Little League's use of the Calvin Burrows field for a planned summer 2018 baseball tournament.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO CONTINUE THE NEW CONSOLIDATED MIDDLE SCHOOL DESIGN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE GROTON 2020 SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PLAN

WHEREAS, the Groton 2020 School Modernization Plan new Consolidated Middle School is scheduled for Occupancy in August 2020; and

WHEREAS, the completion of the design work for this project was suspended pending conversion of the Merritt property as the designated construction site; and

WHEREAS, design work must proceed while awaiting conversion of the property to meet the planned delivery date; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Public Works, Gary Schneider, is authorized to proceed with the design of the new Consolidated Middle School.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A COMMERCIAL BROKER FOR THE SALE OF THE WILLIAM SEELY SCHOOL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Town of Groton has completed a Town-wide market analysis indicating that the Town of Groton should increase the marketing of available properties; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Planning and Development Services (OPDS) has received an exclusive listing/sale agreement from Goman York to market and sell the William Seely School; and

WHEREAS, OPDS proposes to utilize the Economic Development Assistance Fund to pay any upfront, non-commission fees for this service, in an amount not to exceed \$36,000 from said fund; and

WHEREAS, when the William Seely School is sold, funds used from the Economic Development Assistance fund will be reimbursed back to said account; and

WHEREAS, when the William Seely School is sold, a commission will be paid to the broker per the exclusive listing/sale agreement from the proceeds of the sale, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with a commercial broker for the William Seely School as discussed in Executive Session with funds to come from the Economic Assistance Fund. Proceeds of the sale of the William Seely School property will first be used to reimburse those funds used from the Economic Assistance Fund and to pay any required commission to the broker.