



**City of Groton, Connecticut**

**City Municipal Building  
295 Meridian Street  
Groton, CT 06340**

**Committee of the Whole  
Minutes**

**Council Chambers**

**Monday, February 28, 2022**

**6:00 PM**

**Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Lisa McCabe,  
Councilor Paul Norris, Councilor Christine Piazza and Councilor Stephen Sheffield  
City Clerk Megan Peters**

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Meeting called to order at 6:03pm by Mayor Keith Hedrick.

**I. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Paul Norris, Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Stephen Sheffield and City Clerk Megan Peters.

**II. REFERRALS:**

**1 APPOINTMENTS**

**5/14/01**

Mayor Keith Hedrick reviews the appointments that are listed below. All those that are present are able to speak if they choose to.

**-BRIAN CLINTON (LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT)**

**2/28/22**

Not present to speak.

**-GEORGE SCULLY (SCWA)**

**2/28/22**

Not present to speak.

Mayor Keith Hedrick gives a brief overview of the newly formed Youth Advisory Committee.

Councilor Rashaad Carter commends the group who are looking to join the committee.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires to the planned diversity for the group and if we are looking at different views within the community i.e. teacher, student, coach. She also would like to thank the group for volunteering and stepping up for the community.

Director of Parks and Recreation Mary Hill states that yes we are looking to form a diverse group and are continuing to seek different viewpoints within the community.

Councilor Christine Piazza inquires what specifically we are looking for in candidates.

Councilor Paul Norris also wants to thank the group for volunteering.

**-TONY PATTERSON (YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE)**

**2/28/22**

Tony Patterson was born and raised in Groton and feels that this type of program is very important for the youth of this community. As a black man he wants the youth to see him and look up to him in the community that he grew up in.

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**-ANDREA LANOUX (YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE) 2/28/22**

Andrea Lanoux is a parent of three children and has lived here for 19 years. Professionally she works with young adults at Connecticut College. She has been involved with the Regional Multicultural Magnet School, she teaches Russian and is very committed to education.

**-MIOSOTYS SANTIAGO (YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE) 2/28/22**

Miosotys Santiago is a mother of three, grandmother of four. She is a single mother who was raised by a single mother. She has had many struggles throughout her life and would like to be a positive mentor in the lives of the children who are struggling with the effects of the pandemic and mental illness.

**-KEONA STRICKLAND (YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE) 2/28/22**

Keona Strickland is the current sitting President of the Groton Youth Football League and has two children. Keona is also a paraprofessional who works with special needs children in the school system. She is a strong advocate for the special needs community and has a passion for working with that group.

**-ERIC JAY (EASTERN PT HISTORIC – REAPPOINTMENT) 2/28/22**

Not present to speak.

**-MARCIA GIPSTEIN (EASTERN PT HISTORIC – REAPPOINTMENT) 2/28/22**

Not present to speak.

Motion to move all appointments to the Mayor and Council Meeting of March 7, 2022 made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

**773 PARKS AND RECREATION 7/27/20**

**EASTERN POINT BEACH CONCESSION CONTRACT 2/28/22**

Parks and Recreation Director Mary Hill notifies the group that Groton Public Schools would like to continue with their contract for the Eastern Point Beach Concession contract.

Councilor Paul Norris inquired as to the process for contracting the concession stand.

Mayor Keith Hedrick states that the contract will be reviewed in a future Committee of the Whole to see if the council would like to make any changes to the concession stand, menu items, pricing and the vision for it.

Further discussion occurred in regards to changing the concession stand versus keeping it the same.

Motion to move this to the Mayor and Council of March 7, 2022 made by Councilor Christine Piazza, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

**783 GROTON CITY BREW RUN 5/24/21**

Parks and Recreation Director Mary Hill requests the permission of the Council to get the one day

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exception to allow beer at Eastern Point Beach for Saturday, September 10, 2022.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot would like to know if we are charging the Chamber of Commerce and Groton Utilities to utilize the Zbierski House.

Councilor Rashaad Carter would like to know about the other expenses and costs to the City.

Further discussions pursued in regards to the collaboration of the event, the benefits of the event to the City and the costs associated with the event.

Motion to move this to the Mayor and Council Meeting of March 7, 2022 made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe.

Motion denied, 2-4-0.

Voting to deny was Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Stephen Sheffield and Councilor Paul Norris.

**742 GROTON UTILITIES 2/21/19**  
**-UTILITY PURCHASE AND POLICY PROCEDURE 2/28/22**

General Manager - Information Technology, Sue Blanchette comes to the Council to present a request for revising the purchase policy for the utility. Sue explains the volatility of the supply market and the difficulties that they are having with the current policy to secure product and pricing effectively.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield clarifies the request, he states that the request is to get approval to purchase items without bringing them to council first.

Sue Blanchette clarifies that they would like to increase some of the purchase pricing thresholds for approval through the Council to better manage the utility and the budget.

Mayor Keith Hedrick explains the process and what is being asked today. He further explains that he knows the reservations of this council and he is trying to find a compromise where necessary purchases can be made and the council can be comfortable with those purchases.

Councilor Lisa McCabe inquires as to if the higher threshold purchases are only allowed if the lead time to purchase is within a certain timeframe.

Councilor Rashaad Carter understands that there is a need for change and also notes the thresholds and inflation since the creation of this policy.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot recognizes the need to re-evaluate the thresholds based upon inflation rates. She also recognizes that it may cause concern that a change in the policy does not only effect the mayor and council now, but effects the future mayor and council.

Councilor Christine Piazza inquires about the policy and if an expiration date could be considered

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based upon the current supply chain issues.

Sue Blanchette states that Utility policies generally have a review timeframe of five years. She also mentions that she is aware of the average timelines that world issues can effect supply chains.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires about the discretionary fund and how that is to be controlled within this new proposal to revise.

Sue Blanchette did not want to speak to the discretionary fund but the Director of Utilities could speak to that further if necessary.

Councilor Paul Norris feels that this is a good thing, a necessary business decision and with this decision the Council would need to be more diligent in asking questions and staying informed on the current and upcoming projects.

**-PHASOR TRANSFORMER**

**2/28/22**

Director Ron Gaudet presents this request for service to the Council for approval. This ask is for regular maintenance to refurbish the transformers at the Buddington Station.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield inquires to the life of a refurbished transformer and the frequency of this needed service.

Director Ron Gaudet states that this maintenance is done every 15 – 20 years.

Motion to move this to the Mayor and Council of March 7, 2022 made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

**748 DONATION REQUESTS**

**3/21/19**

**-GROTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

**2/28/22**

Mayor Keith Hedrick is going to pull this topic due to a donation already done by Groton Utilities. This was unknown until earlier in the day.

**-ALUMINUM FALCONS**

**2/28/22**

Martin Cloudas who is an employee of Groton Utilities is here to request the donation of old dual monitor stands to the Aluminum Falcons Robotics Team.

The stands are old, they have been sitting for a long time with no need for use.

Councilor Rashaad Carter commends the employee for coming to the Council to request this.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires if we have ensured that the supplies are not needed for business use.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires about previous donations of surplus and if and we commonly donate to a specific vendor.

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Motion to move this to the Mayor and Council of March 7, 2022 made by Councilor Christine Piazza, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

**561 GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS 9/24/15**

Director of Finance Ron Yuhas gives a brief overview of the Groton Utilities Financials.

**690 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS 4/6/18**

Director of Finance Ron Yuhas gives a brief overview of the City Budget and the upcoming budget season and schedule.

Motion to move into Executive Session made by Councilor Lisa McCabe Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick enters into Executive Session.

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Enter into Executive Session pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6)(D)  
-To discuss Real Estate**

Mayor and Council exited Executive Session at 9:29pm.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made to adjourn by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourned meeting at 9:29pm.