



City of Groton, Connecticut

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Committee of the Whole
Minutes

Council Chambers

Monday, March 28, 2022

6:00 PM

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

Mayor Keith Hedrick calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Paul Norris, Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Stephen Sheffield, Finance Director Ron Yuhas and City Clerk Megan Peters.

Excused/Late Arrival: Councilor Rashaad Carter

II. REFERRALS:

1	APPOINTMENTS	5/14/01
	JEFF GODLEY (GROTON UTILITIES COM REAPPOINTMENT)	3/28/22
	JOAN M FEENEY (YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE)	3/28/22
	LISA LAMBERT (YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE)	3/28/22
	JENNIFER SMITH (BEACH & PARKS COMMITTEE)	3/28/22

Mayor Keith Hedrick reviews the above list of appointments and re-appointments.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe.
All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

This will be moved to the April 4, 2022 Mayor & Council Meeting.

Councilor Rashaad Carter enters the meeting.

748	DONATION REQUESTS	3/21/19
	FLEET RESERVE ASSOC. – FLAGS FOR MEMORIAL DAY	3/28/22

George Hyland, Treasurer of the Fleet Reserve and Chair of the Patriotic Committee has come to the Council to request a donation for American flags that are placed each Memorial Day at Star Hill and Colonel Ledyard cemeteries. A total of 964 Flags are placed between the two cemeteries.

George is here to request a donation of \$400. Total Cost is \$833. The other half of the cost will be requested from the Town.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Christine Piazza.

All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

This will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of April 4, 2022.

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THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK

3/28/22

Thames River Heritage Park is looking for their annual donation of \$10,000.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires with Mayor Keith Hedrick if this will remain a consistent donation throughout the years. She is looking to see what this \$10,000 donation in funding goes towards.

Mayor Keith Hedrick asks the group if they would like to table the motion for Thames River Heritage Park and have them come to the April Committee of the Whole to present or is the group able to move forward

The consensus of the group is to move forward with moving this to the Mayor and Council of April 4, 2022.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe.

All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of April 4, 2022.

783 GROTON CITY BREW RUN

5/24/21

Bruce Flax and Daniel Bouges join the group to present the Groton City Brew Run.

Groton Utilities Communications Manager Daniel Bouges has come to the Council to give a brief overview of how the Brew Run came to our City. The event is paired with the Mystic Chamber of Commerce, Executive Director of the Mystic Chamber of Commerce, Bruce Flax joins Dan to explain the event, its purpose and impact to the City.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot states that she is happy that they came to present this to the Council and feels that many of the questions that they had the month prior have been answered, but due to it being about one year ago, answers were forgotten at the time.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires about the sponsorship amount, is it a combination of in-kind and cash or a full cash sponsorship. He also requests that the race attendees receive materials that highlight the city and entice visitors to come back to the City of Groton.

Groton Utilities Communications Manager Daniel Bouges states that the sponsorship dollar amount was \$5,000 plus the cost of the band and the staff t-shirts.

Councilor Christine Piazza inquires if the event will always remain at Eastern Point Beach or will it get moved throughout the City to highlight all parts of the City.

Daniel Bouges explain that currently the event is planned to stay at Eastern Point Beach.

Councilor Rashaad Carter states that he is an advocate for this event and he feels like it is something that the City needs.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield thanks Dan and Bruce for coming to the Council. He volunteered at

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last year's event and enjoyed being there.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Paul Norris.
All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of April 4, 2022.

794 PUBLIC WORKS

3/28/22

SALT SHED ROOF REPLACEMENT

3/28/22

Director of Public Works, Bill Robarge, comes to the Council to present a project for a new roof on the salt shed. The salt shed is in need of a new roof and after the bidding process, they have decided to go with the lowest bid presented.

Councilor Lisa McCabe inquires as to where the salt shed is located.

The salt shed is on property next to the Public Works building.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires as to why the low bid was the lowest bid and is there a specific reason, products, quality, etc.

Director Robarge did do the proper research on the company and all the reviews were great.

Councilor Christine Piazza inquires to the warranty on the work.

Director Bill Robarge states that the warranty is 2 years on the work and a 50 year shingle.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield inquires as to how this project will be paid.

The project will be paid for by a yearly state funded grant.

Motion made by Councilor Christine Piazza, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot.
All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of April 4, 2022.

773 PARKS AND RECREATION

7/27/20

BASEBALL FENCE REMOVAL & REPLACEMENT

3/28/22

Director Mary Hill comes to the Council to move forward with the removal and replacement of the baseball field fence that has been in place for 28 years. It is rusted out and it is time for replacement.

The company has done work here in the past and did have the lowest bid.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe.
All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of April 4, 2022.

655 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS **10/17/17**
POLLUTION ABATEMENT FACILITY **3/28/22**

Chief Plant Operator, WWTF, Joseph Pratt is here to present how our waste is processed through the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Joseph Pratt gives is presentation.

Councilor Lisa McCabe inquired about the shredder and how much is collecting there each day.

Councilor Christine Piazza inquires about loading the truck with sludge and how long it typically takes to load.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield inquires about the excess waste gas burner and the odor problems that we have experienced in the past.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot would like the Youth Advisory Board to use this as a learning tool for the youth in the city.

Councilor Rashaad Carter inquires as if there has ever been a major malfunction to the system. He also inquires about the age of the units and replacement.

Mayor Keith Hedrick explain to the group when and why we pulled the sewer tax out of the tax base. He talks to Joseph Pratt about his team, what they do and the specifications required for all team members, that they are licensed to work in this type of facility.

Joseph Pratts concludes my explain the certification process to work in the plant and encourages anyone who may like a tour of the facility to reach out to him and his team.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS UPDATE **3/28/22**

Economic Development Specialist, Cierra Patrick presents the Community Workshop Update of upcoming events that are happening in the City pertaining to Planning & Economic Development.

Groton City Branding Workshop – Thursday, March 31st 6:00pm

Complete Streets Virtual Workshop – Thursday, April 14th

Open House Envisioning Thames Street – Monday, April 25th 5:00pm in Lobby of Municipal Building.

Community Resiliency Workshop – Thursday, April 28th

For further information on any of the above workshops or future workshops, please reach out to Cierra Patrick at 860-446-4066 or PatrickC@cityofgroton-ct.gov.

793 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT **7/26/21**

Mayor Keith Hedrick presents the high level proposed ARPA plan to the Council. Mayor Keith Hedrick would like to present these projects to the Council for the group to review and gather questions. This will be discussed further at a May/June Committee of the Whole.

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- 603 ORDINANCE REVIEW DISCUSSION** **8/19/16**
RETIREE – COST OF LIVING ADJUSTMENT (COLA) **3/28/22**
Director of Finance Ron Yuhas presents the latest COLA increase.
Motion made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot.
All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.
This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of April 4, 2022.
- 561 GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS** **9/24/15**
Director Ron Yuhas gives a brief overview of the Groton utilities Financials.
- 690 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS** **4/6/18**
Director Ron Yuhas gives a brief overview of the City Budget Presentations.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot.
All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourned meeting at 7:52pm.