



City of Groton, Connecticut

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

**Special
Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Council Chambers

6:30pm

Monday, April 18, 2022

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 6:38pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Councilor Rashaad Carter.

II. REFERRALS:

**690 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS
FINANCE**

4/6/18

Director Ron Yuhas speaks to the proposed Finance Budget for FY2023. He explains the small increases which include benefits and a few step increases.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires about STEP increases.

Director Ron Yuhas explains the union process of progressive increases.

Councilor Paul Norris would like the difference between current budget and proposed budget.

Director Ron Yuhas explains that the Senior Accountant/Purchasing Agent position is vacant and they are looking to fill it by year end.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires about the Purchasing line and the budget that goes along with the Purchasing position.

No further questions.

SANITATION / BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Director Bill Robarge introduces his budget to the Council, gives a brief explanation of the Sanitation Department to the Council of the department and the small personnel changes that have occurred in the past year.

Director Bill Robarge continues by giving the line by line explanation of his budget.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield inquires about the diesel fuel budget.

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Director Ron Yuhas states that the budget has been continuously over and therefore they felt that it could be lowered at this time. Also, we are locked in for pricing and therefore do not have to worry about increases.

Councilor Lisa McCabe inquired about the longevity item.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires about year-end patterns, Contractual Services

Contractual Services includes fleet services, recycling, this line includes items that cannot be done in-house and we must pay others to do for us.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot also inquires about the STEP increases within the Sanitation Department.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot also inquires about the salary of the Department Head and how it is split across three departments. She feels that it is difficult to add up the salaries when they are spread across three budgets.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires about the part-time employee line.

Director Bill Robarge then moves on to the Building Maintenance Department budget and chooses to go over that line by line as well.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires about a line item of the .5/.25 employee who works on facility items as well as Contractual Services and the money budgeted versus actually spending the money. She would like to spend the money if it is budgeted.

Councilor Lisa McCabe would also like to inquire about the .5/.25 employee. Does that percentage of a person get pulled from the other budget or does that .5/.25 person also stay in that budget line.

Councilor Christine Piazza recaps what she feels that she has heard to confirm that she is following.

No more questions.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Director Mary Hill is here to present the Parks and Recreation budget. She explains that her budget is split into two parts; Recreation & Maintenance.

She gives a brief explanation of the Recreation portion of the budget and the differences that cause those increases.

Mayor Keith Hedrick inquires if there are any questions on the Recreation side of the budget.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires about the Seasonal budget and the reason for the dip or decrease.

Director Mary Hill explains that is due to lifeguards.

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Councilor Stephen Sheffield inquires about the increase in the General Fund.

Director Ron Yuhas states that it is caused by the beach pass income and rental incomes.

Director Mary Hill moves on by giving a brief explanation of her maintenance budget.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires about the amount of money set aside for new vehicles. She appreciates keeping the budget down but she would also like to ensure that we are budgeting for vehicles and equipment needed to obtain daily operations.

Director Mary Hill states that yes, we are budgeting for the necessary equipment.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot asks for clarification on the position titles and their functions.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires about the budget allocated for Director Mary Hill's salary and the split over two departments. There was an error between the two salaries inputted in the budget. She is budgeting for a 3% increase.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires if we raised fees for the beach for this year.

Councilor Paul Norris also inquires about the corrections to the budget and the proper procedure for communicating them to the Council.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Councilor Christine Piazza.
All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourns meeting at 7:33pm.