



City of Groton, Connecticut

**Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Monday, May 23, 2022

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

Council Chambers

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 Edward Jacome**

Mayor Keith Hedrick called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

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 Edward Jacome

Excused/Late Arrival: Councilor Rashaad Carter

II. REFERRALS:

561 GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS

9/24/15

There was consensus from the council to move passed this item.

655 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

10/17/17

GROTON UTILITIES BUDGET PRESENTATION

5/23/22

Director Ron Yuhas presented the Groton Utilities FY 2023 Proposed Budget for the Electric, Water and Sewer Divisions.

Deputy Mayor Depot inquired about using cash for capital projects. Finance Director Yuhas explained there is not enough cash on hand to pay for the entire project but rather pay over a period of time. He further explained that bonded projects need to have a twenty year life span while smaller projects will use non-bonded funds.

Councilor Norris inquired taking into account debt service and if there is a threshold that turns a project from cash to bonded. Mayor Hedrick clarified the past practice is to bond projects over \$750k.

Groton Utilities Accounting Manager Yi Xiang explained the recommended cash balance based off of the Cost of Service Study recommendation, which is a tool to see if operations are healthy while assessing debt service and emergency fund reserve.

Councilor Sheffield questioned if Finance Director Yuhas anticipates the cost of service for Groton Utilities Water Division leveling out. Finance Director Yuhas explains that there are multiple factors such a Cost of Service Study and revaluation of rates.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY PLAN

5/23/22

City of Groton Economic Development Specialist Cierra Patrick alongside Consultant Noah Slovin (via Zoom) from SLR Consulting, presented the Community Resiliency Plan which stems from the 2019 Plan of Conservation and Development. Staff applied for a National Fish and Wildlife grant to fund a planning initiative which was presented here.

There was discussion about reducing impervious surfaces and how the City of Groton is focused on mitigating them.

Councilor Piazza asked why the city study was broken up into six parcels and expressed her concern on increased parking. Mr. Slovin responded that it was best to evaluate different sections of the city based on different geographic factors.

Mayor Hedrick responded that there is a tentative Parking Study Presentation on June 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

**742 GROTON UTILITIES
-ELECTRIC BUDGET**

2/21/19

5/23/22

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor Piazza.

All in favor. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 6, 2022.

-WATER BUDGET

5/23/22

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 6, 2022.

-SEWER BUDGET

5/23/22

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 6, 2022.

-SPRINGBROOK HOLDING COMPANY

5/23/22

Director of Utilities Gaudet informed the council that Springbrook Holding Company is the financial software the Finance Department uses for the entire City of Groton.

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 6, 2022.

-COMMUNICATIONS PLUS, LLC

5/23/22

Director of Utilities Gaudet informed the council that General Manager of Operations Biron has been working on improving communication equipment. The recommendation is to use the state

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

communication system which has existing antennas. The City of Groton is transitioning onto the state system. This is a non-bonded capital expense.

Deputy Mayor Depot asked for clarification of the inefficiencies with our current system.

Director Gaudet mentioned the dead spots in the basement of the water treatment plant among others.

Director Gaudet clarified Councilor Piazza's inquiry about the use of different channels. He stated it is the 700-800MHz spectrum, split into multiple frequencies.

Motion made by Councilor Sheffield, second by Councilor McCabe.

All in favor. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 6, 2022.

-INTEGRATED SECURITY GROUP

5/23/22

Director of Utilities Gaudet stated that this would be for badge readers and cameras at the new Water Treatment Plant. In addition, the America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) requires increasing security for the purposes of preventing threats.

Motion made by Councilor Piazza, second by Councilor Sheffield.

All in favor. Motion carried.

This item will be moved to the Mayor and Council Meeting of June 6, 2022.

801 ELECTRIC VEHICLE

5/23/22

Mayor Hedrick discussed electric vehicles and the charging stations one already located at Washington Park and the future possibility of having one station at Eastern Point Beach. He also mentioned the possibility of having certain city vehicles phased into electric vehicles. In addition, the city is looking for private/public partnerships that would enhance the future of electric vehicles.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made to adjourn by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Piazza.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourns meeting at 7:47 p.m.