



City of Groton, Connecticut

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Special
Committee of the Whole
Minutes

Council Chambers

6:00PM

Tuesday, October 11, 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 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 Rashaad Carter, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Paul Norris, Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Stephen Sheffield and City Clerk Edward Jacome

Excused: Finance Director Ron Yuhas

II. ARPA (American Rescue Fund Presentations):

A. Chief Eric Jenkins, Police Department

NEXGEN

Chief of Police Eric Jenkins presented the request for the NEXGEN CAD system, which is a Connecticut based computer aided dispatch system. This system would provide remote access and the ability to provide advance reporting. The integration to this system with the first year's maintenances fees would total \$202,691.45.

Deputy Mayor Depot inquired if the remote access includes pulling reports from a phone. She asked if there are current maintenance fees for the current system being used.

Chief Jenkins stated they would be able to pull reports from the phones with the new system. They are currently paying maintenance fees for the current system.

Councilor Sheffield inquired if the Town of Groton is using the NEXGEN CAD system and if there is a public portal available to the public as an option. He also asked for clarification on the internal affairs ability within the new system.

Chief Jenkins stated the Town of Groton is already on the new system. He also clarified that a public portal would be an add-on to the current price. The internal affairs is an internal trigger system set to inform certain department individuals of repeating offense by an officer.

Councilor Carter inquired if there would be training involved for switching to the new system and if there would be a break in contract for the current system being used.

Chief Jenkins stated there is a built in training with NEXGEN. He will have to get back to the council with more information but the annual maintenance fee was just recently paid.

Police Premium Pay

Chief Jenkins presented the request for premium pay stating that officers were not able to modify their schedules and worked through the entire Covid-19 pandemic. He requested \$1.00 an hour be added to their pay in the form of premium pay adjustment for the 12 month period of peak Covid-19 time period for a total of \$72,800.

Deputy Mayor Depot asked if those who worked overtime will be compensated more. She also asked if these funds can be found within their budget.

Chief Jenkins clarified it will be based on the number of hours worked. He also stated he would not be able to find those funds in their budget.

Councilor Carter stated while those who sign up for law enforcement know the risks they did not expect the unknown of Covid-19 every shift when they returned home to their families.

Councilor Norris stated he would like to see one formula for premium pay for all departments. He would also like to see if premium pay can be expanded to other city employees.

Axon Tasers

Chief Jenkins presented the request for replacement of eight Axon Tasers for a total of \$67,581.60. The current supply is outdated and becoming obsolete to the point where the manufacturer will no long be supporting older models.

Deputy Mayor Depot asked if no ARPA funds are given will the department still replace the Tasers.

Chief Jenkins stated they would still need to be replaced and if the ARPA funds are not granted he would return for FY24 budget.

Councilor Sheffield inquired if there is training on the Tasers.

Chief Jenkins stated there would be limited training at the annual range training.

B. Chief Robert Tompkins, Fire Department

Replacement (2) EMS Response Vehicles

Fire Chief Tompkins presented the request for the replacement of two EMS Response Vehicles for a total amount of \$100,000.

There was a brief discussion among the council on the current fleet and tasks they do and the possible funding through the Capital Fund instead of ARPA dollars.

Councilor Piazza arrived at 6:53 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022

Fire Premium Pay

Fire Chief Tompkins presented the request for premium pay stating his employees did not have their schedules modified or receive an increase in pay during the pandemic. He is requesting \$3,000 bonus to all fire department employees for working during the pandemic totaling \$48,000 (April 2020-January 2021).

Cost Breakdown:

48hrs/week x 44 weeks =2,112hrs

12hrs OT/week (average) x 44 weeks=528hrs x 1.5=792hrs

\$1/hr premium pay=\$2,904

16 employees x \$3,000=\$48,000

Deputy Mayor Depot inquired if there are funds in the department budget if ARPA funds were not approved. She also stated she would like to see a similar formula used for premium pay by both the Police Department and Fire Department.

Fire Chief Tompkins stated they do not have those funds.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter into Executive Session pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6)(B), upon motion and vote of the City Council.

-To discuss Branford Manor

(A.) Possible action from Executive Session

Mayor Hedrick entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6) (B) to discuss Branford Manor and to include the Mayor and Council, Building and Zoning Official Joseph Summers and City Attorney Robert Berchem.

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

The executive session began at 7:04 p.m.
The executive session ended at 8:23 p.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.