



City of Groton, Connecticut

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Committee of the Whole
Minutes

Council Chambers

Monday, November 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 Edward Jacome

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Paul Norris, Councilor Christine Piazza, (Via Zoom) Councilor Stephen Sheffield, City Clerk Edward Jacome and Finance Director Ron Yuhas

Excused: Mayor Keith Hedrick

II. NEW BUSINESS OR REFERRALS:

A. City of Groton Brand & Tagline Presentation with Miranda Creative
Maria Miranda from Miranda Creative alongside Economic Development Specialist Cierra Patrick presented the Groton City Marketing Brand: Phase Two Update. The topics presented included the current city newsletter, municipal brand and tagline.

There was lengthy discussion from the council on newsletter sign-ups, the number one rated municipal brand and slogan and the possible future rollout of municipal merchandise.

Economic Development Specialist Cierra Patrick stated the next step would be an internal and external rollout of the new branding alongside the City Anniversary in 2023.

This was informational only. There was no action taken.

B. Public Works:

1. Purchase of an ELGIN Sweeper

Director William Robarge requested approval to purchase a new sweeper for \$331,029.55 as budgeted and approved in capital for FY22. He stated there are currently two sweepers in the fleet with the oldest being a 1999 model which is badly rusted and has not been used in over a year.

There was lengthy discussion from the council on possible trade in value and mileage of the vehicle.

Director Robarge stated there are opportunities to auction but they do not yield significant results. He also clarified that the sweeper's mileage is not as significant as the idle time on the vehicle.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Piazza.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

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2. Purchase of an F-550 Truck

Director Robarge requested approval to purchase a new bucket truck for \$159,797.55. This new vehicle would replace a 1988 vehicle which now has obsolete parts and is a safety concern to employees. They are utilizing the state contractor Ford with a current wait time of a year for the vehicle.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor Norris, second by Councilor McCabe.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

C. Human Resources – Amendments to the Non-Union Management Handbook and Non-Union Employee Handbook (Salary and Hourly)

Human Resources Director Linda Avedisian presented amendments for the Non-Union Management Handbook and Non-Union Employee Handbook (Salary and Hourly) regarding Vacation accruals.

There was lengthy discussion from the council on the current system for those who use time off versus those who do not. The council inquired on the data of those who use vacation versus those who do not, and the cost impact the city would bare if the system was changed.

Deputy Mayor Depot stated there was no consensus to move this item forward.

There was no action taken on this item.

D. Re-appointment of Beach & Parks Committee Members

Motion to move the Reappointment of Brian Clinton to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor Norris, second by Councilor Piazza.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

Motion to move the Reappointment of Scott Nadeau to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Norris.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

E. Ordinance Update: 199 - An Ordinance Concerning Smoking in City Owned Public Parks and Recreation Areas

Director of Parks and Recreation Mary Hill and Chief of Police Eric Jenkins presented an updated Ordinance #199 to include language from Public Act 21-1 regarding Cannabis.

There was lengthy discussion on the language of Public Act 21-1, enforcement of current or future ordinances and the fine amount.

Deputy Mayor Depot stated this will continue to be worked on.

There was no action taken on this item.

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F. Police Department:

1. EMPG Sub-Grant Award and Supplemental Emergency Management Performance Grant Award from State of CT/DESPP/Homeland Security.

Chief of Police Eric Jenkins stated that this is for the acceptance of the EMPG Sub-Grant Award totaling \$10,000.00 and the Supplemental Emergency Management Performance Grant totaling \$13,313.40.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Piazza.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

2. Authorize Mayor Hedrick to execute agreements, grants, documents, from DESPP and DEHMS.

Chief Jenkins stated it is their request to have Mayor Hedrick Sign any and all documents current and future from DESPP and DEHMS. Chief Jenkins stated the acceptance of the grant would still come before the council for approval.

There was a brief discussion on the possibility of allowing the Mayor to sign any and all grants, and how that discussion needs to be made by the council.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Piazza.

Motion carried. 4-0-1 Abstained: Councilor Sheffield

G. Groton Utilities:

1. Lobbying Services – Medici, LLC

Director of Utilities Ron Gaudet stated how municipal entities use lobbying services to fight for supportive legislation.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Piazza.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

2. Purchase annual maintenance and support of the NorthStar billing system and the add-on modules from Harris Computer Systems, Inc.

Director Gaudet stated this is the annual maintenance and support fee for the Customer Information System.

Councilor Piazza inquired on a previous ability to look at ones own bill and compare it with others.

Director Gaudet clarified due to a security vulnerability certain portals are not available.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor Piazza, second by Councilor McCabe.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

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3. Phasor Engineering Services to perform equipment testing for Buddington
Substation Upgrade Project

Director Gaudet stated Phasor Engineering Services is a preferred vendor that will do all the testing for the new Buddington Substation.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting December 5, 2022 made by Councilor Sheffield,
second by Councilor McCabe.

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

H. Groton City and Groton Utilities Financials

The council will review Groton City and Groton Utilities Financials and forward any questions to Finance Director Ron Yuhas.

III. ADJOURNMENT

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

All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

Deputy Mayor Depot adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.