



City of Groton, Connecticut

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Committee of the Whole
**SPECIAL
Minutes**

Council Chambers

6:00 PM

Monday, December 19, 2022

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 6:05 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick (Zoom), Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Paul Norris (Zoom), Councilor Christine Piazza (Zoom), Councilor Stephen Sheffield (Zoom), City Clerk Edward Jacome

Excused: Councilor Rashaad Carter, Finance Director Ron Yuhas

II. NEW BUSINESS OR REFERRALS:

A. Ledge Light – ARPA

Director of Ledge Light Health District Stephen Mansfield spoke on the requested \$26,372.16 or 1% of ARPA funding. He stated when the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds were created in Connecticut, municipalities were the ones designated to receive such funds, and no consideration was given to health districts. He also stated LLHD has received 1% of ARPA funding from nine out of ten municipalities. Funds will and have been used for things such as staff and equipment upgrades.

There was a brief discussion from the council on topics of ARPA funding, staffing/supplies and current Covid-19 levels.

Mayor Hedrick stated there are Covid-19 test kits and N95 masks at the City Clerk's Office.

This was informational only. There was no action taken.

B. Operations Agreement between Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) and The City of Groton.

Director Mansfield spoke on the draft agreement between the municipality and LLHD. The agreement describes how LLHD will use their public health powers through Connecticut State Statutes and the Connecticut Public Health Code. Currently, neither the Town of Groton nor the City of Groton have an Operational Agreement rather the city has Ordinance #145. He stated this agreement would be more in line with the rest of the municipalities being served by LLHD.

Deputy Mayor Depot inquired on what is in the current ordinance that should not apply.

Director Mansfield stated that there are multiple references in the ordinance that LLHD is the enforcement agent for the City of Groton. He referenced the new Operation Agreement citing the Connecticut State Statutes and Connecticut Public Health Code.

Councilor Sheffield inquired if we are the only municipality with this ordinance.

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Director Mansfield stated out of the ten municipalities within LLHD this is the only ordinance he is aware of.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting January 3, 2023 made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor McCabe.
All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

C. Repeal Ordinance No. 145 “An Ordinance Concerning the Ledge Light Health District”
Director Mansfield stated the ordinance is not in line like the agreement would be.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting January 3, 2023 made by Councilor Piazza, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.
All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

D. Groton Estates
Mayor Hedrick stated this was already brought to the council, and asked if there were any other questions.

Councilor Piazza inquired on the percentage of children at Groton Estates.

Mayor Hedrick stated he would request that information.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting January 3, 2023 made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor McCabe.
All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

E. Smoking Ordinance
Director of Parks and Recreation Mary Hill and Chief of Police Eric Jenkins presented an updated draft of the smoking ordinance. Changes included additional wording for smoking and vaping and removal of prohibited location that do not currently exist in the city.

There was a brief discussion from the council on the process of ordinances and having a fine set by resolution as suggested by Finance Director Ron Yuhas.

Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting January 3, 2023 made by Councilor Sheffield, second by Councilor McCabe.
All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

F. Branford Manor
Building and Zoning Official Joseph Summers presented the council with an update on Branford Manor. The purpose of the presentation was to address citizen comments, give an update on current remediation and future steps ahead.

Mayor Hedrick stated that current issues have circumvented certain steps to be skipped in the

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reporting process. The proper way is to inform the landlord of any issue, and giving them an opportunity to fix the issue before reaching out to the Building Inspector or LLHD.

This was information only. There was no action taken.

G. Mayor & Council and Committee of the Whole 2023 Meeting Calendar Dates
Motion to move to Mayor and Council Meeting January 3, 2023 made by Deputy Mayor Depot,
second by Councilor McCabe.
All in favor. Motion carried. 5-0-0

H. Replace Group Meetings with Second Committee of the Whole
Mayor Hedrick inquired from the council if Council Group Meetings are useful and productive. He stated the possibility of adding another Committee of the Whole.

There was brief discussion from the council in support of doing the Group Meetings quarterly instead of monthly.

This was information only. There was no action taken.

I. Groton City and Groton Utilities Financials
Finance Director Ron Yuhas was not present.

III. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.