



City of Groton, Connecticut

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

**Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Zoom

Monday, January 25, 2021

6:00 PM

In response to State of Connecticut Executive Order No. 7B "Protection of Public Health and Safety During Covid-19 Pandemic and Response – Further Suspension or Modification of Statutes", dated March 14, 2020, suspending in-person open meeting requirements, all public meetings will be closed to the public at this time. Public Meetings will be available on Zoom

Mayor Hedrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilors Lisa McCabe, Reginald Stanford, Steven Sheffield, Rashaad Carter, City Clerk Debra Patrick and Finance Director Ron Yuhas.

Excused: Councilor Minerva Ortiz.

II. REFERRALS:

**REFERRAL ITEM #1 APPOINTMENTS
PETER BERNS III (BOARD OF ETHICS)**

Mayor Hedrick said Rob Zuliani and Jackie Massett have to step down because according to the charter, you can't do more than two consecutive four year terms. So that opens up 2 seats and the first one that we're going to fill is with Peter Berns. He said his resume was provided to the Council and asked if they have any questions.

Deputy Mayor Depot said she doesn't know Mr. Berns personally but knows a lot of people that know him, including some of his family members, and I've always heard great things about him. I also just want to express our gratitude because the Board of Ethics is not something that everyone, in my opinion, qualifies to be on. So finding someone who is qualified and will serve the city well is sometimes a feat. So I just want to say thank you to Mr. Burns for volunteering to be on the ethics committee.

Mayor Hedrick said he knows Pete and can vouch for his character. He said when he left AE Com, high turnover operations manager to Pete and the security manager over to Pete as well. He asked if there were any other questions.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #1, Appointment of Peter Berns III to the Board of Ethics, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 773 PARKS AND RECREATION
AL RESTIVO GATE HOUSE**

Mary Hill, Director Parks & Recreation thanked them for letting her come on behalf of the Beach and Parks Committee to present some things this evening.

The first thing is a request from TJ Restivo. Al's son. Al resigned from the Beach and Parks Committee in early October due to his relocation out of the city. Al had 39 years on the Beach and Parks Committee of which 35 of them he was our chairperson, the request from the family was to name the gatehouse at the entrance of the beach after him. There's a personal connection with the

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gatehouse and Al, his daughter actually was the architect behind the design of that new gatehouse. I'm not sure if anybody remembers what the older gatehouse looked like it was just pretty much a square box with two doors so we enhanced the gatehouse. The request from the family and the recommendation from the Beach and Parks Committee for you tonight is that we name the gatehouse after Al.

Mayor Hedrick asked if there was any comment or questions,

Deputy Mayor Depot said she thinks this is a great idea, our gatehouse doesn't have a name. So I think it's a good idea to name it after someone who's given a lot back to the beach in particular but to the community. I think it's nice you know when you go to the beach, people know the Z house, they knew know who Steve Zbierski is so now when people pass the gate they can think back how they would see him during the summers here. I think that's a great addition to the beach.

Councilor Carter said he wanted to add onto what Deputy Mayor Depot said this is a great way to show the community that the efforts of a long time volunteer are very much appreciated.

Ms. Hill noted that she will have to go to the EPHDC to see if permission is needed for the sign.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to move Referral Item #773, Parks and Recreation Al Restivo Gate House, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

RENAMING OF BASEBALL FIELD AND PRESS BOX

We had a request from one of our committee members who was involved with baseball for 25 years, Bill Borysewicz, with regards to naming dugouts on the little league field for Fred Han who recently passed away. Fred's son played baseball at the field and Fred continued to support Little League and Babe Ruth, even after his son had moved on from the program.

The request was made then at the meeting that we had last week that we may name the field. Field number three, which is our Babe Ruth field, through discussion of having a field named after Fred, there came about the possibility that somebody else who might have done as much or was more was involved our community to a level higher. The discussion came about that the committee would like to name the field three after Roger Bidwell who had 36 years of coaching at UConn, Avery Point baseball. The field was the Avery Point home field so a lot of student athletes played on that field. A lot of student athletes moved on to bigger programs and some have moved on to the Major Leagues so the Beach and Parks Committee would like to name the field after Roger Bidwell and the press box, after Fred Hahn. Now, having reached out to both of the families there is a very strong connection between these two individuals, Roger and Fred were very close friends. Roger was with Fred, in his last days so, it is something that is a nice collaboration and the recommendation from the committee is that the field be named after Roger and the press box after Fred. The current one is going to be replaced and repaired so it'd be in better condition.

Deputy Mayor Depot. I didn't know either of them, I didn't play Little League I didn't have siblings that played but when Fred passed away I know the outpouring online of a lot of people that I knew, including Councilor Carter, talking about their relationship with them. I feel the same way that I do about the gatehouse I think it's a great tribute to them and I'm sure it's nice for people who did know them when they go there to say oh I you know that man was my little league coach.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #773,

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Parks and Recreation Renaming Of Baseball Field and Press Box, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

EASTERN POINT BEACH CONCESSION CONTRACT

Ms. Hill said recently this month, she received notification from Groton Public Schools Food Services that they would like to come back this upcoming summer to run the concession stand. I do believe Ernie Koschmieder is on the meeting with us, if you want to add anything but they are asking to come back. There is a request, if we could, to keep the rent at \$1100, I know there was a discussion last year to bring it up to \$1500.

I don't know if Ernie wants to address that in any length, in regards to their request but it's time to see if we want them back at the at the concession stand at the beach.

Mayor Hedrick said last year we did not have concessions at the beach as I was concerned about flow control and the ability to distance, both outside and inside. Mary and I have talked and Ernie and Mary have talked about flow control what we'll do now is, we'll bring people up the back ramp and come in that way, and serve, instead of there being a choke point at the top of the stairs and people will exit down the stairs. Therefore, we won't have a choke point right there. There is a possibility that we will still be in some form of Covid for the next beach season.

I'll turn it over to Ernie. Ernie, do you want to talk about your preparations and plans and what you're trying to do to help deal with the Covid issues.

Ernie Koschmieder, Director Groton Public Schools Food Services thanked them for allowing him to join them. He said he and Mary have been tossing around some good ideas and we really don't know what June is going to look like we can only assume. He said he also wants to try to keep his staff as safe as possible in there, it's a very tight space. He said they talked about the flow on the deck having folks come up and egress down a certain way. We've talked about possibly limiting the menu, slightly, so that we can move folks quicker keeping obviously the most important and popular items. So, again we have talked about having safety measures still in place to some degree and we're willing to work with you Mr. Mayor and anyone that we have to so this will work because I think we're ready to get back to some type of normalcy this summer.

Mayor Hedrick asked if he wished to speak about the rent issue.

Mr. Koschmieder said they're asking the Council to consider for another season to keep it at the \$1100, due to our need for more expenses, with safety protocols.

We're looking at the potential of possibly paring down the menu a little bit, with possibly limited traffic coming in so it's going to generate less sales, if you will, so that was just our reasoning with that. I know my Superintendent Mrs. Austin and our facilities director and I have talked about this at length. So that was some of our concerns, we're just trying to minimize our costs as much as possible

Mayor Hedrick asked if there was any discussion or questions.

Deputy Mayor Depot said we discussed this at length last year and I just want to say I know we aren't involved in the public school decision making but I do just want to say thank you to Ernie. He's involved in making sure the kids in our community are fed and despite all of Covid they've been doing an admirable job trying to get food into homes and help subsidize the cost of kids being home instead of at school so I just want to say thank you for that. We went through this last year asked a lot of questions of Ernie how to kind of learn how the operation works because it was the first time that I was able to get the details of how it works inside the beach related to the rest of the food system and all of that. In my opinion, I think if discounting the rent \$400 makes it so that more people can save and pay less for food at the beach, you know, \$400 isn't going to break the

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city and it's a community service that we can keep the rates low at the beach

concession stand, so I'm all for keeping it at \$1100 dollars if that will help with that mission. Councilor McCabe said she would have to concur with the Deputy Mayor Depot. I think the revenue probably will be down a little bit, just in terms of people coming to the beach and having a smaller menu, as well as having to probably provide your workers with the PPE just to do their jobs. I agree, \$1100 certainly seems reasonable and I don't think we should go to the \$1500 this year.

Mayor Hedrick asked if any other Councilors had any other comments.

Councilor Carter said he wasn't going to say anything I know we have a lot on the agenda. I just wanted to welcome Mr. Koschmieder back, last week when I heard that they were he requested to come back I was happy.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #773, Parks and Recreation, Eastern Point Beach Concession Contract, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM #655 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Cierra Patrick, Economic Development Specialist, said she was here to just give an overview of projects to expect from Planning & Economic Development over the next six months.

Ms. Patrick went through the Powerpoint presentation she provided for the Councilors.

So over the next six months our objectives are to collaborate with community stakeholders in creating an economic future. That really realizes the city's full potential.

We would like to connect with businesses and residents to grow business and innovation ecosystem. We also want to enhance how people live, invest and play in the city.

It is very important for us to prioritize city investments to implement physical, social and cultural improvements. We also would like to develop street scape designs that shape things for Thames Street with this picture as a conceptual design, and also Five Corners into places where people can connect. And then it's really important for us to enhance the waterfront for to become an amenity some key action verbs I would like for us to take away from this specific slide is the collaborate and connect. We are going to need the community's expertise and creativity. As we design the shared spaces, and then also for the local business community.

We have a very supportive entrepreneur ecosystem of partners that are local, and they are providing valuable resources training.

Professional just advisory services, and if you need that connection or information, I recommend to either reach out to me and also to visit the City of Groton Facebook page on that will provide some really great connections on there as well.

So over the past three years we've done, we've updated our appeal, we participate in both a local and regional economic development strategy strategizing we've conducted a few assessments and workshops and we also ushered in the creation of the Tax Increment Financing District. So we've done all this work, we've got back a lot of feedback from people, of what we've heard of trying to build a mixture of small local businesses, we want more open space waterfront access off street parking and concerns obviously with especially on things street with vacant and blight properties. So taking all of that work and all the information that we received, we would like to

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expand upon these efforts and do some collaborative community engagement to further assess and develop preliminary streetscape designs, our desired results are going to include a more pedestrian friendly.

When we think about streetscape and not exercises we want to think about the function of our streets but we also want to think about the aesthetics the view of the street.

So, this is not a street that is in the City of Groton but I feel like it shows a good depiction of our scale, and maybe what are some opportunities that we can do with our sidewalks public our signage and plantings and different elements so how we can really create these spaces where more people can connect.

Our aim is to really enhance our public participation, that is within our planning process.

We want to do that, especially coming up on this year with everything that's going on through some outdoor programming and some temporary installations.

So, moving the, the desired elements or projects forward we will really like to do something over the fall on summer fall seasons on with that programming and installations that help move these projects forward and really engage the community members really excited that we're not in this on our own, we have some really great partners that are going to participate with us in this process, the SCCOG actually is leading the JLUS City of Groton parking management study which is going to be a significant help to us. So, our community engagement process over these coming months are going to continue to identify and convene our community partners, we would like to prioritize the ideas within each of those desired groups and start to develop our execution strategy.

We would move on to developing those streetscape designs and then implement face installments.

Now how can you engage with us on this, I'm probably going to be your best point of contact where I am your point of contact for these projects moving forward so for individuals who might not have a screen or might be calling in. Once again, my name is Cierra Patrick, I can be reached at 860-446-4066, also you can email me at patrickc@cityofgroton-ct.gov.

Also, under the EDC there are four working groups that we have established coastal vulnerability, pedestrian and bicycle network assessment, Thames Center Planning and Thames Center Programming.

If anyone is interested in participating on those working groups, please contact me and I will get you further information on those as well.

Forthcoming and what's going to be really exciting is the actual outdoor workshops that we will be doing so the participation in that, as well as some online platforms that will help us to engage in a safe distance platform as we move forward as well.

I invite all the Councilors to participate in this project. And I also request that you all become well versed champions of the project so you've have this presentation in your packet and there is a number of slides, after this presentation that goes into more details, please feel free to get in touch with me and we can go into more detail of what some of those studies were and how we have come to this point in our planning process.

So for the JLUS parking management studying is going to assess future parking projections needs in mitigation measures to accommodate the expected growth at electric boat, and also our local economy. We are hoping to receive both Policy and Management recommendations from this initiative for our pedestrian and bicycle network assessment, we will assess the transportation needs preferences and concerns, using a variety of community outreach tools we seek to develop a map highlighting high, medium and low priority improvements. We would also like to investigate some way to find signage and tactical urbanism projects in regards to resiliency and hazard mitigation.

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We're working with Milone and McBroom to develop a community resiliency plan prioritizing infrastructure improvements protection and policies necessary for the City of Groton to budget design and implement in phases.

In regards to the Strategic Communications, we are working with Miranda Creative it was like perfect timing because it's helping us usher in what's new.

I'm really excited about this because we're actually able to engage community stakeholders on a series of visioning exercises to really develop those streetscape designs and the programming for this summer and fall season.

This slide provides some milestones and timelines over the next six months for each project.

Are there any questions.

Councilor McCabe thanked Ms. Patrick for presenting today.

She said she personally will be reaching out as someone who loves to take walks and runs around the city. So I think that I would certainly be looking to participate in some of these groups of the five projects you've identified as you come up with an implementation plan. When are we starting to phase those in as a timeline for what the milestones are what the deliverables are so that we can communicate to the community, what some of the things they're going to see coming out of this.

Ms. Patrick said the initiatives are basically all starting now the working groups will begin convening in February, to start to move those initiatives forward, and then some projects like the strategic communications and the hazard mitigation, are things that we've already have a consultant on board and so those are already underway and moving forward, as we get more information or as we develop the workshops in the online platforms. There will be more engagement with our online presence moving forward, and I will send out Facebook notifications to inform the community on best ways to engage and next steps.

Deputy Mayor Depot thanked Ms. Patrick, I know it's no small feat I'm sure to put these presentations together and, but I think that having them at most of the COW meetings where we have this time, is it keeps it fresh in our minds. Also for people that watch the meetings, keeps it in everyone's mind. It might be helpful if we could have either a flyer or some kind of outreach on the city government Facebook page, so that when people are paying attention that gives us something to share to the community page like when you are looking for input because there are a lot of people who like Councilor McCabe are interested in giving input if there if you know run or walk around the city. I know that we can direct them to you but I think it would be good if we had like a graphic, like some kind of infographic or something that's simple.

Councilor carter said he would like to see the councilors involved to provide more information to the community.

Councilor Sheffield said he would like to discuss further as part of the Council group EDC and thanked her for the presentation.

Mayor Hedrick we have been trying to reinvigorate Thames Street and other portions of the city, for a long time and we do have some challenges. Some of our challenges are some of the property owners that own such a large portion of the properties, aren't as interested in developing as we are we're trying to work on them to try to get them to release some of their properties so that they can be developed. Sometimes you run into the issue if you talk to people about what do you want to do on the street, would you like to develop Thames Street. Some people say well we want to keep it quiet, which means no development, and other people say blowing up and start over. I don't think that's the right answer. However, the answer is somewhere in between. One of the things that we've talked about doing in the past and we've had the

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opportunity to do and we've done a little bit covered is disrupted a little bit, but we have engaged the community to ask, what are you looking for what would you like to see.

We're going to continue to do that. One of the things that's out there that you may have forgotten about is that I'm waiting on the Connecticut Port Authority to get authorization to release an \$800,000 grant to us we acquired for the Ship Small Harbor Improvement Program Plan for the 826 foot docks. So, once we get that money released, that's been held up due to Covid that will help. Now one of the things that I've said in the past and we've talked about is making the City of Groton a destination location that's a term that I've used. Cierra and I were talking about this on Friday, and she has a broader view of that which is to get people to come here to live, work, invest and to improve our community and invest in our community to make improvements, large scale broad investment in the community. So when you talk about sometimes when you talk about destination location, you think of Mystic, you go down there for a quick bite and then you leave. What we're talking about here is yeah you get some outside people coming in, but we're making this better for the local community, we get the investors to come into invest.

Another thing that's important that that we're starting that we started the last couple years but we're going to continue on, is the idea of resiliency. In the next 30 years, there's a projected 20" sea level rise, along our coastline. So, we have to look at how that impacts the waterfront, how that impacts infrastructure, we're also going to look at it down at Eastern Point and Jupiter point, and other areas that are affected by storms. We had a storm, a week or so ago that cause some localized flooding. Now imagine what its going look like with a 20" sea level rise. So these are the kinds of things that we're looking at and thinking about as well. So it's all part and parcel, Cierra is the point person on this and she has lots of ideas, and a great vision and we are going to move forward.

**REFERRAL ITEM #690 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS
FY22 POLICE BUDGET**

Chief Spellman said his proposed budget is a "loaded budget, a snapshot of the true cost of policing. It has a 3.8% increase (\$202,000.00) which includes vehicle replacement which was cut last year. He would like to also replace a detectives vehicle with a used vehicle from another municipality. He said his budget includes all costs and he has held the line on fixed costs. He said they are ahead of the curve with police accountability mandates by having already purchased the body cams with a JAG grant and the CARD system was paid for with a donation by Jim Streeter. He said they are working on getting connected to the State radio system with a Capital Improvement Project through the Town of Groton. He said his agency has done well with securing PPE for his officers and staff when the pandemic was initially declared.

He noted there is a typo in General Support, Contractual Services it should be \$99,522.83 not \$19,522.83.

There was some discussion on what drives the increases, such as legal fees for contract negotiation, physicals, travel expenses, filing fees and mental health checks/screenings.

Deputy Mayor Depot thanked Chief Spellman for always looking to secure grants whenever possible. She asked for some more clarity on the safety incentive line item.

Finance Director Yuhas said the safety awards is a program driven through HR and rewards safety in the work place.

Chief Spellman said it is a management tool to promote safety and holds costs down.

Deputy Mayor Depot asked about the increase in the clothing allowance, is it due to the costs for cleaning for the uniforms.

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Chief Spellman said it is a contractual item for that reason.

Deputy Mayor Depot asked about the increase in FICA for Dispatch, whether it was underfunded last year.

Mr. Yuhas said it was under funded and they are correcting it.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #690, City Budget Presentations, Police Budget, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

FY22 HIGHWAY BUDGET

Finance Director Yuhas said Heidi Comeau and Steve Biekert were available and had been instrumental with assisting once Tim Umrysz retired.

He went over the operation budget noting where increases and decreases were. The increase \$104,615.00 or 5.8% was driven by contract approval and insurance costs. He noted an increase for computer replacements and an on call paid time.

He said there is an increase in the contractual services for repairs /crack sealing to extend the life of roads.

He noted a decrease in snow/ice removal due to the milder winter's averaged over the last 5 years.

He went over the capital budget and noted the bond funds from the Town of Groton is used up.

There is a request for \$332,430.00 to pave Mitchell Street. The request for a plow/sander and street sweeper for \$475,000.00 is a true up from last year represents a 28.99% increase.

He said they will maintain the same level of services.

Councilor Sheffield asked if we need the vehicle if we anticipate a milder winter.

Mr. Yuhas said the vehicle would be for next year.

Steve Biekert, Public Works Foreman said the plow/sander are a 2004 and could possibly be put off 1 more year but the street sweeper is a 1999 and on it's last legs.

Deputy Mayor Depot said this goes to the Town of Groton for approval, will they approve the vehicles.

Mayor Hedrick said he isn't sure but we asked last year and it was cut based on TOG response.

Deputy Mayor Depot said we need a strategy, especially with safety issues.

Mayor Hedrick said replacing the street sweeper will assist with the MS4 regulations and allow us to keep more debris out of the waterways.

Councilor McCabe asked about the \$20,000.00 increase under roads and streets that wasn't there last year.

Heidi Comeau, Public Works Engineering said this is budgeted to do the repairs/crack sealing to extend the life of the roads since there is no bod funding for roads at this time.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to move Referral Item #690, City Budget Presentations, Highway Budget, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried

**REFERRAL ITEM #742 GROTON UTILITIES
STRATEGIC PLAN**

Ron Gaudet, Utilities Director said a consultant worked with the Groton Utilities Commission to develop priorities across the company and it was approved at the last GUC meeting. In the mission

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statement they kept At Your Service and determined the 6 core values that will drive the strategic priorities. They will have a roll out group within GU for each one to discuss and provide feedback. Deputy Mayor Depot said this is a great focus and organizational tool for the employees. Mayor Hedrick said they have worked on this for some time and it will be good for GU.

SCADA RADIO UPGRADE WASTE WATER

Director Gaudet said this system will talk to the wastewater pump system and the same as the system that came before them for the water distribution.

There was discussion that this isn't presented as an approved budget item but rather as a planned capital improvement item.

Deputy Mayor Depot said that having the sewer charges out of tax base is now allowing for the necessary work to get done. Glad to see the capital money used as it is intended.

Director Gaudet said they are working on a capital plan for getting projects done.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Groton Utilities, SCADA Radio Upgrade Waste Water, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

LOW LIFT PUMP STATION PROJECT

Director Gaudet said he would speak to both this project and the Wright-Pierce Low Lift Project Engineering at this time. He said this is an unfunded project but is needed to solve an issue at the filtration plant. He said eels were able to get into and plugged up the new filters that weren't designed to move the eels so they came up with a plan that will prevent this moving forward. He gave a breakdown of the costs that will include the engineering.

Deputy Mayor Depot said there is money in the account but wanted to know where that would leave them after this is done.

Director Yuhas said in the water account there is approximately 1.8 million in cash and 4.8 million temporarily invested that can be drawn from.

Deputy Mayor Depot asked if there is a CIP for water.

Director Gaudet said they have 3,5 and 10 year plans.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Groton Utilities, Low Lift Pump Station Project, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

WRIGHT-PIERCE LOW LIFT PROJECT ENGINEERING

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Groton Utilities, Wright-Pierce Low Lift Project Engineering, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

BOZRAH LIGHT AND POWER ELECTRIC RATE SCHEDULE

Director Gaudet said BL&P Commission just approved this today and GUC approved it last week. He said there are no rate increase, they are redesigning the rate structure lowering the kilowatt hour charge and raising the basic meter charge.

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Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Groton Utilities, Bozrah Light And Power Electric Rate Schedule, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried

GROTON UTILITIES ELECTRIC RATE SCHEDULE

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Groton Utilities, Groton Utilities Electric Rate Schedule , to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried

**REFERRAL ITEM #550 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS/BONDS
REPURPOSE MUNICIPAL BOND**

**TYLER HOUSE WINDOWS
MUNICIPAL BUILDING WINDOWS, DOORS AND LANDING
POLICE DIVE LOCKER ASBESTOS ABATEMENT
FIRE DEPARTMENT COMPANY ONE REPAVING
POLICE LOCKER ROOMS**

Director Yuhas said this to repurpose bond money we already have. These projects came before the Council prior to Covid and were paused due to Executive Orders except for the renovations of the bathrooms, hallway and office at the Tyler House. Those projects have already been completed. Councilor Sheffield asked what the allocation for these projects would be.

Mr. Yuhas said about \$600,000.00.

Councilor Sheffield asked how much is left in the fund.

Mr. Yuhas said there is \$800,000.00 at this time.

Councilor Sheffield noted a freeman's approval is needed and asked what the allocations for each project are.

Mr. Yuhas said we have the money and the quotes from when this was first brought to the Council in February of 2020, we just need to get the process started.

Deputy Mayor Depot asked how we will have the Freeman's meeting, in person or Zoom.

There was discussion that the Freeman's meeting should be in person according to the Executive Order and that staff will determine the safest way to get it accomplished.

Mayor Hedrick said it is the best way and gives the public a voice.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #550, Capital Improvement Projects/Bonds Repurpose Municipal Bond, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried

BOZRAH LIGHT AND POWER BONDING

Director Gaudet said GU Electric carries the bond for this borrowing. He said GUC moved on this months ago but it is just getting to the Council now. He said there is a 5 year plan and broke down the allotments and noted the various upgrades to the distribution system, facilities and engineering.

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Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #550, Capital Improvement Projects/ Bozrah Light And Power Bonding, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried

GROTON UTILITIES ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION BONDING

Director Gaudet said this was presented to the Council several months ago, since the city is moving forward with a Freeman's meeting we are moving this up.

Mayor Hedrick said this is the ISO project discussed some months ago.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #550, Capital Improvement Projects/ Groton Utilities Electric Transmission Bonding, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried

GROTON UTILITIES WATER BONDING

Director Gaudet said this is a 5 year plan and gave an overview of the projects this would cover.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #550, Capital Improvement Projects/ Groton Utilities Water Bonding, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried

GROTON UTILITIES WASTEWATER BONDING

Director Gaudet said this has not been discussed previously with Council. He said it is a 5 year plan for replacement of sewer piping, pump station work and general upgrades at the wastewater plant.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #550, Capital Improvement Projects/ Groton Utilities Waste Water Bonding, to the February 1, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor McCabe moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**