



**City of Groton, Connecticut**

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

**Committee of the Whole  
Minutes**

**Council Chambers**

**Monday, March 22, 2021**

**6:00 PM**

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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 Statues", 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 Groton Municipal Television Channel 2 in real time or on Zoom

Mayor Hedrick called the meeting to order at p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

Excused: Councilor Minerva Ortiz

**II. REFERRALS:**

**REFERRAL ITEM #1 APPOINTMENTS**

**ZOFIA BAUMANN (HARBOR MANAGEMENT)**

Mayor Hedrick said Ms. Baumann submitted an application and is well qualified to serve.

Ms. Baumann spoke to the Council via Zoom saying that she has been looking for a way to be more involved in the community and with her background as a UConn AP Marine Sciences Research faculty member this is a good fit for her.

Councilor McCabe thanked Ms. Baumann for stepping forward.

Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #1 to the April 5, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM #748 DONATION REQUESTS**

**USSVI, DOMINIC NEGRI MEMORIAL CLUBHOUSE**

**REFERRAL ITEM #561 GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS**

Jeff Walsh, commander Sub Vets thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak to them via Zoom tonight. He gave an overview of the renovations made to their facility and the planned exterior upgrades. He said the support they receive from the City of Groton is wonderful for the young sailors who come here to Groton.

There was discussion on past donations made and how they could increase the amount this year as there was not a donation request last year. They discussed how the Sub Vets creates a community place for the sailors and veterans.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #748, donation of \$500.00 to Ussvi, Dominic Negri Memorial Clubhouse to the April 5, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM #773 PARKS AND RECREATION  
2021 EASTERN POINT BEACH RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Mary Hill, Parks & Recreation Director said these are the recommendations of the Beach & Parks Committee. She noted a few changes from last year regarding pop up tents on the beach or Tyler House lawn. She went over the decision to increase capacity to 75% with no restrictions for non-residents with a planned June 19<sup>th</sup> opening for the beach. She said there will be an entry/exit plan for the concession to eliminate congestion on the porch.

There was discussion on opening the beach for Memorial Day and the fact that staffing the beach would be difficult.

There was a discussion on putting basketball nets and following the CDC recommendations and the EO by the Governor.

There was a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of keeping the gate open for free after 6:00 p.m. and what the B&P Committee recommended.

There was discussion that the changes submitted weren't redlined to make it easier to ascertain what was changed.

There was further discussion that the Councilors should email their questions to Ms. Hill so she can have the information they want for the April 5, 2021 M&C meeting.

Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #773, 2021 Eastern Point Beach Rules and Regulations to the April 5, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting with direction and questions to be sent to staff. Motion carried.

**2021 PARKS AND RECREATION USER FEES**

Ms. Hill went over the changes on pages 3 and 4 with regard to fee changes.

There was some discussion that the fee increase to the Summer Playground is too much, that there are programs to mitigate the fees for those who qualify and a breakdown of the costs per day being lower than other local programs.

Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #773, 2021 Parks and Recreation User Fees to the April 5, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**TYLER HOUSE WINDOW PROJECT**

Ms. Hill said the public hearing and Freeman's meeting approved the use of funds for this project. She went over the scope of the project and noted that the windows would be installed after the beach season due to the time it would take for the custom windows to be manufactured but that the painting would be done.

Councilor McCabe moved Deputy Mayor Depot seconded a motion to move Referral Item #773, Tyler House Window Project, to the April 5, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM #781 BUILDING AND ZONING USER FEES**

Joe Summers, Building & Zoning Official said the ordinance is being revised to allow for future increases in fees to be done by resolution. He went over the fee increases for permits, CO's and waiver of fees for City and non profit projects.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item # 781, Building and Zoning User Fees to the April 5, 2021 mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM #780 ACTUARIAL COST ESTIMATE–2021 COLA FOR PRE-2017 RETIREES**

Finance Director Yuhas said this is evaluated and brought to the Council annually and was approved by the Retirement Board.

Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #780, Actuarial Cost Estimate–2021 Cola for Pre-2017 Retirees to the April 5, 2021 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM #655 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – GROTON RIVERWALK**

Mayor Hedrick said this will come to the Council at the April 5, 2021 meeting

**REFERRAL ITEM #561 GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS**

Finance Director Yuhas gave an overview of the electric, water and sewer financials for February.

**REFERRAL ITEM #690 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

Finance Director Yuhas gave an overview of the expenditures through February.

He noted the discrepancy asked about in Civil Preparedness last month was due to grants that will offset the expenditures.

Deputy Mayor Depot thanked him for the follow-up.

**REFERRAL ITEM #782 PUBLIC WORKS**

Mayor Hedrick addressed some questions regarding the snowplowing of the cemetery noting the entry has been plowed for 30 years. He said it was a reciprocal agreement where they would take leaves and seaweed that the City would otherwise have to pay to dispose of. He said an MOU would be drawn up. He said there was some question of excess asphalt that was used on a road there and it was to address a back entrance that would get very muddy. He addressed the issues of whether a driveway apron was authorized and noted the ordinance that covers driveway access. He said there can only be 1 entry. He said if there are any further questions residents should contact the Mayor's office at 860-446-4103 or Public Works at 860-446-4127.

He addressed questions regarding mowing done on state property and said it was done because the state didn't have the funding to do it regularly and the City decided to do it for safety concerns.

He addressed the leaning trees on Mitchell Street that are on Fort Griswold property saying the

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state took them down and reached out to Public Works to remove them.  
He said they will present a candidate for PW Director soon.

Mayor Hedrick said there are several items that can be deleted from the Referral List and noted the numbers.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded to delete Referral Items #306, #578, #680, #719, #734, #733 and #764. Motion carried.

**III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor McCabe moved Councilor Sheffield seconded to enter into Executive Session pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6)(A) to discuss personnel - Police Department to include the Mayor, Councilors, Chief Michael Spellman and Reginald Stanford. Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced at 8:02 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 8:18 p.m.

**IV. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**V. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**