



City of Groton, Connecticut

City Municipal Building  
295 Meridian Street  
Groton, CT 06340

**Special**  
**Committee of the Whole**  
**Minutes**

Council Chambers

**6:00 PM**

**Monday, August 30, 2021**

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 Megan Peters

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**I. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Stephen Sheffield, Finance Director Ron Yuhas, City Clerk Megan Peters

**Excused:** Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Paul Norris

**II. REFERRALS:**

**797 POQUONNOCK ROAD**

**8/30/21**

Heidi Comeau presents the contract to the Council, the selected contractor for the upcoming Poquonnock Rd. project, B&W Paving.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquired about the timeline of this project.

Timeline is undetermined at this time, but Heidi Comeau is hopeful this will take place in the fall.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquires about the communication to the businesses and whether this project will effect parking.

Heidi Comeau states that the team has been very good with communication to the businesses and the homeowners.

Councilor Lisa McCabe inquires about the process for the project and if the businesses will only be effected during certain times.

Heidi Comeau states that this will all be determined once the project is further along and the team has its first meeting with the contractor.

Councilor Christine Piazza inquires as the specific effect area of Poquonnock Road.

Heidi Comeau states that the affected area is from Five Corners to just before Rainville Avenue intersection.

Motion to move this to the Mayor and Council meeting on 9/7/2021 made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. Motion carried. All in favor, 4-0-0.

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**758 POLICE**

**7/22/19**

**-AXON BODY CAMERAS**

**8/30/21**

Police Chief Eric Jenkins presents the invoice for the body cameras.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot inquired about the storage of camera footage.

Motion to move this to the Mayor and Council meeting on 9/7/2021 made by Councilor Stephen Sheffield, second by Councilor Christine Piazza. Motion carried. All in favor, 4-0-0.

**-TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS**

**8/30/21**

Police Chief Eric Jenkins presents the software systems invoice to the council, it is another payment for this year. This cost is already in the budget.

Councilor Lisa McCabe inquired as to the specific need for this finger printing software and if it is connected to a larger database.

Police Chief Eric Jenkins confirms that yes, it is to be connected to a major finger print database.

Motion to move this to the Mayor and Council meeting on 9/7/2021 made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. Motion carried. All in favor, 4-0-0.

**796 GROTON CITY BREW FEST**

**8/30/21**

Jill Rusk came to the council to follow-up on the questions previously inquired by the Council as to the cost of the Groton City Brew Run to the City.

The City will not be using any tax dollars for this event. Groton Utilities is a major sponsor of this event and will be contributing \$6,000, previously used for the Fall Festival, which this event is replacing.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot is appreciative of the provided budget and happy that the sponsors are covering the event costs.

**793 AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT**

**7/26/21**

Director Ron Yuhas presents the plan for the ARPA Funds as requested by the Council. He explains to the council that he is looking to see what areas specifically mean the most to the Council by asking them which qualifying spending categories are their top priority. Surveys are handed out to the Council and each are asked to rate the top 5 categories, 5 being the highest priority, 1 being the lowest.

Councilor Paul Norris enters the meeting at 6:20pm.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield inquires as to if we have a CIP, 5 year plan, in place yet for this year?

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Director Ron Yuhas states that they do have a 5 year plan and it will be discussed at a later date.

Councilors turn in their surveys to Executive Administrator, Jill Rusk, to calculate highest priority.

**Categories/Scores**

- Residents (20)
- Small Business (17)
- Infrastructure – Broadband (14)
- Tourism, Travel, Hospitality, EDC, Park Programs Infrastructure (9)
- Municipal Social Services (8)
- Non-Profit/Social Services (7)
- Lost Government Services (0)

Councilor Lisa McCabe is happy that Broadband infrastructure is important to the Council because that is something very important to her.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot states that although a project may not be classified in one of the top categories, it doesn't mean that she won't support those projects as well.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot would also like to work with the town on projects based upon the good relationship between Mayor Keith Hedrick and Town Manager John Burke.

Councilor Lisa McCabe asks Mayor Keith Hedrick to give the difference between Non-Profits and Municipal Social Services. She also inquires on the Residential/Residents category.

Mayor Keith Hedrick explains the difference between the categories above for Councilor Lisa McCabe.

Councilor Paul Norris thanks Mayor Keith Hedrick and Director Ron Yuhas for bringing this to the Council. He would like to bring one additional category to the group, Wellness.

Mayor Keith Hedrick and Finance Director Ron Yuhas states that this could fall into a couple categories including the Parks and Recreation category.

Councilor Lisa McCabe inquires about Parks and Recreation initiatives that are weekly programs and geared towards adults.

Councilor Christine Piazza states that she has been involved with many calls that Joe Courtney hosted and it seems that our top priorities align with what is being talked about across the state – resident assistance and broadband.

Mayor Keith Hedrick directly speaks to broadband and the difficulties determining where to expand broadband. He mentions specifically that IT Director Sue Blanchette would like to request better Cyber Security at the Water Treatment Plant.

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No more discussion from the council.

**795 GOAL SETTING**

**8/30/21**

This is the opportunity for the council to decide what they are most interested in accomplishing in this two year term.

The goals that the council have are the following-

**Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot**

- Continuing to increase engagement and communication
- More United Way Food Drive events or giving back to the community
- Joint Town Council Meetings, better communication and more united
- Social Event with the Chamber of Commerce, Career Fair

Executive Administrator Jill Rusk announces that although our United Way event in Groton City was cancelled for September, Groton Utilities see the need for food drives in our city and has stepped up to sponsor one. Therefore we will have a Food Drive sponsored by Groton Utilities on September 24, 2021 in our current location, St. John's Church.

**Councilor Lisa McCabe**

- More Community Building Events
  - Community Garden
  - Holiday Events including Light Displays

Executive Administrator Jill Rusk notifies the group that Pfizer is back in for a Christmas Light Show. She also mentioned that the City is looking at other events coordinating with the upcoming holidays.

Councilor Lisa McCabe also inquired about the neighborhood street signs and holiday lights.

**Councilor Paul Norris**

- Economic Growth
- Parks and Recreation at the beach, better Wi-Fi internet system, Point of Sale system
- Summer Youth Employment Program
- September – National Senior Month, expanding into the City of Groton, doing senior events
- Replacing some old swing sets throughout the city
- Digital signage – Information
- Possible pre-budget “101” meeting prior to being presented the budget
- Council member initiatives like the trash pick-up day multiple times per year
- Council visits to businesses as a team

**Councilor Christine Piazza**

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- Youth Activity – Basketball League
- Military Activity, Events, Honoring, Recognition
- Develop a team to represent the city among the military community
- Cultural events, festivals, celebrating the many cultures within our community
- College events for the youth
- Grief counseling group or point of contact for community members
- Organ Tissue Donation ceremony and awareness

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Megan Peters**  
**City Clerk**