



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council MINUTES

Monday, August 2, 2021

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Council Chambers

7:30 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 Megan Peters

Mayor Keith Hedrick called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Paul Norris, Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Stephen Sheffield and City Clerk Megan Peters

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter into Executive Session pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6)(A)

-To discuss personnel – Police Department

Motion to enter Executive Session made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

IV. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion made to add Resolution R-21-8-136 by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

Motion made to suspend the rules and move R-21-8-128 and R-21-8-136 up on the agenda by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

R-21-8-128 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF CORPORAL DAVID HOLLIDAY TO THE RANK OF SERGEANT IN THE CITY OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 3, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has a vacancy for the promoted position of Sergeant in the City of Groton Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Corporal David Holliday is currently serving as a Police Officer in the Police Department; and

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

WHEREAS, Corporal David Holliday meets the qualifications required for promotion to Sergeant; and

WHEREAS, Corporal David Holliday has been recommended by the Chief of Police and Mayor to be promoted to Sergeant;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the promotion of Police Corporal David Holliday to the rank of Sergeant in the City of Groton Police Department effective August 3, 2021

Motion to accept the promotion made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

Chief Jenkins introduces Corporal David Holiday to the group and speaks to his many accomplishments throughout his both life and career.

Corporal David Holiday is sworn into office by City Clerk Megan Peters as the newest Sergeant in the City of Groton.

R-21-8-136 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROMOTION OF OFFICER ALAN CHIN TO THE RANK OF CORPORAL IN THE CITY OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE AUGUST 3, 2021

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has a vacancy for the promoted position of Corporal in the City of Groton Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Officer Alan Chin is currently serving as a Police Officer in the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Officer Alan Chin meets the qualifications required for promotion to Corporal; and

WHEREAS, Officer Alan Chin has been recommended by the Chief of Police and Mayor to be promoted to Corporal;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the promotion of Police Officer Alan Chin to the rank of Corporal in the City of Groton Police Department effective August 3, 2021.

Motion to accept the promotion made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

Chief Jenkins introduces Officer Allan Chin to the group and speaks to the many accomplishments of his career.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

Officer Allan Chin is sworn into office by City Clerk Megan Peters as the newest Corporal in the City of Groton.

A seven minute short break is taken for photos and cake to celebrate the promotions.

V. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

None.

VI. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

Receipt of Citizens' Petitions is the portion of the Council meeting where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. To address the Council, please sign the sheet on the table at the front of the meeting room. When you are recognized, please approach the podium. Clearly state your name and address. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit emailed or written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to the City of Groton. City Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the Responses to Citizens' Petitions portion of the meeting.

None.

VII. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 19, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0. Minutes approved.

July 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes with two changes made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0. Two changes will be made, minutes approved.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Paul Norris had a resident inquire on the standing of the Mother Bailey House Purchase Agreement? Mayor Keith Hedrick states that we are waiting on the Performance Bond. **Councilor Paul Norris** received a request for the anticipated costs on the City for the upcoming Groton City Brew Run. Mayor Keith Hedrick will gather costs and provide them to Councilor Paul Norris once he receives them.

Councilor Lisa McCabe – None to report.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield attended the Concerts in the Park which he believes is a great event.

Councilor Christine Piazza also attended the Concerts in the Park and is also working with Cierra Patrick on Community Mural initiatives.

Councilor Rashaad Carter – Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot – Nothing to report.

Mayor Keith Hedrick – Reviewed recent past events as well as the upcoming events happening in the City of Groton.

X. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

XI. NEW BUSINESS

R-21-8-129 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WAIVE THE BID PROCESS AND AUTHORIZE THE CITY OF GROTON TO PURCHASE OFFICER LOCKERS FOR THE CITY OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM TIFFIN METAL PRODUCTS, 450 WALL STREET, TIFFIN, OH, FOR AN ESTIMATED COST OF \$58,809.00 (FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINE DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS) AND AN ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY OF \$5,881.00 (FIVE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS) RESERVED FOR CONTRACT CHANGES FOR A TOTAL AUTHORIZATION NOT TO EXCEED \$64,690.00 (SIXTY-FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS) TO BE PAID FROM CAPITAL NON-RECURRING FUND

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Police Department has conducted a police locker needs assessment and has identified that the police lockers are in need of an upgrade due to age and working conditions; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department conferred with Tiffin Metal Products and identified and formulated a corrective action plan to address the concerns; and

WHEREAS, the lockers will be ordered utilizing the Federal General Services Administration Contract number GS-07F-5780R;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council waive the bid process and authorize the City of Groton to purchase officer lockers for the City of Groton Police Department from Tiffin Metal Products, 450 Wall Street, Tiffin, OH, for an estimated cost of \$58,809.00 (Fifty-Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Nine Dollars and Zero Cents) and an additional contingency of \$5,881.00 (Five Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty-One Dollars and Zero Cents) reserved for contract changes for a total authorization not to exceed \$64,690.00 (Sixty-Four Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Dollars and Zero Cents) to be paid from Capital Non-Recurring Fund

Motion to accept made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield.

This was discussed during Committee of the Whole on July 26, 2021.

Councilor Paul Norris inquires as to why we are not bidding out the locker updates as we typically do with projects.

Mayor Keith Hedrick requests to table this resolution while we wait on the answer from Chief Eric Jenkins. Motion to table made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

Chief Eric Jenkins addresses Councilor Paul Norris question in regards to the lockers. He states that they are part of the State Bid Process.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

Voting on the R-21-8-129 continued.
Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

R-21-8-130 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE AND ACCEPT THE NUCLEAR SAFETY EMERGENCY PROGRAM (NSEP) BUDGET, AS REQUESTED, ALLOCATED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FOUR THOUSAND, SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$24,795.00) FOR EQUIPMENT AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION REIMBURSEMENTS

WHEREAS, State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, created the Nuclear Safety Emergency Planning grant fund in order to provide funding for critical resources to local emergency operation centers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton submits its budget request annually for approval; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Mayor and Council authorize and accept the Nuclear Safety Emergency Program (NSEP) budget, as requested, allocated by the State of Connecticut, Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security with the approval of the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management in the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and Zero Cents (\$24,795.00) for equipment and resource allocation reimbursements.

Motion to accept made by Councilor Stephen Sheffield, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. This was discussed during Committee of the Whole on July 26, 2021. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

R-21-8-131 RESOLUTION TO THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF COLTON JENKINS, 33 BURGESS PLACE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2022

WHEREAS, State Statutes Planning and Zoning, Section 8-1 and Ordinance #41 states, "Appointments shall be made by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council"; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for an alternate member to the Planning and Zoning Commission; and

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

WHEREAS, Colton Jenkins, 33 Burgess Place, Groton, Connecticut, desires to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission and has been recommended for appointment as an alternate member;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Colton Jenkins, 33 Burgess Place, Groton, Connecticut, as an alternate member, Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire on June 30, 2022.

Motion to accept made by Councilor Christine Piazza, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. This was discussed during Committee of the Whole on July 26, 2021. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

R-21-8-132 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE MAYOR KEITH HEDRICK TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SISTER-CITY (TWINNING) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CITY OF GROTON AND THE CITY OF KINGSTON, JAMAICA

WHEREAS, the City Council recognizes the advantages of creating a relationship with Kingston, Jamaica; and

WHEREAS, the City of New London and the Town of Groton have expressed interest in becoming a sister city with Kingston and have expressed interest in partnering with the City of Groton for such endeavor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve Mayor Keith Hedrick to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the Establishment of a Sister-City (Twinning) Relationship between the City of Groton and the City of Kingston, Jamaica.

Motion to accept made by Councilor Rashaad Carter, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. This was discussed during Committee of the Whole on July 26, 2021. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

R-21-8-133 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT THE SUCCESSOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GROTON AND THE LOCAL 1964, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS UNION FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2025

WHEREAS, through the process of negotiations, the City of Groton and the Local 1964 International Association of Fire Fighters Union, have reached a tentative collective bargaining agreement for the police officers of the City of Groton, Connecticut covering the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2025; and

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-474(b) requires the Mayor to submit the Agreement to the City of Groton Council; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-474(b) provides that the legislative body of a municipality may approve or reject the Agreement as a whole within thirty (30) days of submission of such an Agreement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-474(b), the Mayor and Council hereby approve the Agreement and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Groton.

Motion to accept made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. This was discussed during Committee of the Whole on July 26, 2021. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

R-21-8-134 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT A SMALL HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PROGRAM (SHIPP) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$75,000.00) FOR AN ACCESS STUDY AT THAMES VIEW PARK

WHEREAS, the City of Groton applied for a grant from the State of Connecticut to complete an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Study at Thames View Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton was awarded a Seventy Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$75,000.00) Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) grant to complete the study; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton plans to install a dock in Thames View Park utilizing grant money; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of the grant award does not require a match;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council accept a Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) grant in the amount of Seventy Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$75,000.00) for an access study at Thames View Park.

Motion to accept made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. This was discussed during Committee of the Whole on July 26, 2021. Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

R-21-8-135 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT A SMALL HARBOR IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PROGRAM (SHIPP) GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED THIRTY THREE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$649,333.00) AND AUTHORIZE MATCHING FUND OF ONE HUNDRED SIXTY SIX

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2021**

**THOUSAND EIGHTY THREE DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS
(\$166,083.20) FROM THE UNDESIGNATED CAPITAL BUDGET FOR
DOCKS AT THAMES VIEW PARK**

WHEREAS, the City of Groton applied for a grant from the State of Connecticut to replace boat docks at Thames View Park and construct a multi-slip transient boating dock and handicap accessible kayak launch; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton was awarded a Six Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and No Cents Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) grant to complete the study; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of the Grant requires a match of \$166,083.20 which will be funded by utilizing undesignated Capital Funds;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council accept a Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program (SHIPP) grant in the amount of Six Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and No Cents (\$649,333.00) and authorize matching fund of One Hundred Sixty Six Thousand Eighty Three Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$166,083.20) from the Undesignated Capital Budget for docks at Thames View Park.

Motion to accept made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. This was discussed during Committee of the Whole on July 26, 2021.

Councilor Paul Norris is very excited about this project.

Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion carried. All in favor, 6-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.