



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 7, 2022

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 6:30pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Councilor Lisa McCabe

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

None.

IV. 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.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 7, 2022 Mayor and Council Meeting

Motion to approve made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

City Clerk Megan Peters notes the administrative correction to the minutes, Resolution R-22-2-18 Graybar purchase order to be changed to Resolution R-22-2-19.

February 17, 2022 Special Mayor and Council Meeting

Motion to approve made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

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February 28, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting

Motion to approve made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Paul Norris – None.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield – He would just like to state that COVID cases have increased in New London County this week therefore he would like residents to remain vigilant and mask up.

Councilor Christine Piazza – would like to mimic the above from Councilor Stephen Sheffield in regards to COVID.

Councilor Rashaad Carter – None.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot – attended the following events, 2/18 Gold Star Coordinator of the Year to support former resident April Tischler, volunteered at the 2/28 United Way Food Box Distribution, and attended a meeting with the Mayor and Electric Boat for a new parking study meeting/workshop.

Mayor Keith Hedrick – attended the following events, 2/18 Gold Star Coordinator of the Year to support former resident April Tischler, 2/28 United Way Food Box Distribution, the Blue Ribbon School Ceremony at Thames River Magnet School and the 3/3 Community Resilience Workshop.

He continues by mentioning the following upcoming events –

3/25 United Way Food Box Distribution – If you can't get out we will deliver it to you.

Farmer's Market 3/12 10am – 1pm

Additional COVID Test Kits will be available at the Clerk's desk in the coming days.

EB Mumford Ave accident – the Mayor did go to the location of the incident to see what issues that could have caused the accident and what the City can do to help prevent future accidents.

Parking Study – follow up meeting will be established next week to continue talks about the parking management plan. This is a partnership with Electric Boat for their employees and their parking.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-22-03-20 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF BRIAN CLINTON, 12 PEPPERIDGE LANE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE LEDGELIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS TERM TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 7, 2025

WHEREAS, Ordinance #84, amended by Ordinance #86 created the Ledge Light District Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, this Board consists of two (2) member from the City of Groton to serve for a period of three years; and

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WHEREAS, Brian Clinton desires and has been recommended to serve as a regular member, representative of the City of Groton, on the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Brian Clinton, 12 Pepperidge Lane, Groton, Connecticut to serve as a member of the Ledge Light Health District Board of Directors term to expire on March 7, 2025.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-21 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF GEORGE SCULLY, 37 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY BOARD TO THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT WATER AUTHORITY (SCWA), TERM TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 7, 2024

WHEREAS, General Statutes, Special Act 381, Section 4(a) states: “The representative advisory board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority shall consist of two electors from each town within the district who shall be appointed by the board of selectmen or town council, as the case may be, on September 1, 1969, and whose successors shall be so appointed on or before September first biennially thereafter. One of such members of the advisory board from each town shall be appointed by the members of the board of selectmen or town council, as the case may be, of the political party having the greatest representation on such board, or council and the other member of said advisory board shall be appointed by the members of the board or selectmen or town council of the political party having the next greatest representation. Members shall serve for a term of two years and until their successors are appointed and have qualified and shall serve without compensation...”; and

WHEREAS, George Scully, 37 Pennsylvania Avenue, Groton, Connecticut is recommended and desires to serve on the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of George Scully, 37 Pennsylvania Avenue, Groton, Connecticut to serve on the Representative Advisory Board to the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority term to expire on March 7, 2024.

Motion to approve made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-22 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINT TONY PATTERSON TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVISING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY’S YOUTH TERM TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 7, 2025

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WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on November 1, 2021 the Mayor and Council approved the reestablishment of a Youth Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to

- assess the needs of the community's youth,
- identify existing resources available to meet those needs,
- make recommendations to the Mayor and Council on actions the City can take either on its own or in conjunction with other organizations to meet the unmet needs of the community's youth; and

WHEREAS, it was identified that the committee will consist of members with specific skills, expertise and interests toward reaching the goals as defined by the committee, including but not limited to City residents, and representatives may change from time to time based on the focus of the committee; and

WHEREAS, Tony Patterson wishes to serve and has been recommended for appointment by the Mayor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council appoint Tony Patterson to the Youth Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the Mayor and Council on issues related to the Community's Youth, term to expire on March 7, 2025.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Stephen Sheffield, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-23 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINT MIOSOTYS SANTIAGO TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVISING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY'S YOUTH TERM TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 7, 2025

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on November 1, 2021 the Mayor and Council approved the reestablishment of a Youth Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to

- assess the needs of the community's youth,
- identify existing resources available to meet those needs,
- make recommendations to the Mayor and Council on actions the City can take either on its own or in conjunction with other organizations to meet the unmet needs of the community's youth; and

WHEREAS, it was identified that the committee will consist of members with specific skills, expertise and interests toward reaching the goals as defined by the committee, including but not

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limited to City residents, and representatives may change from time to time based on the focus of the committee; and

WHEREAS, Miosotys Santiago wishes to serve and has been recommended for appointment by the Mayor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council appoint Miosotys Santiago to the Youth Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the Mayor and Council on issues related to the Community's Youth term to expire on March 7, 2025.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Christine Piazza, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-24 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINT ANDREA LANOUX TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVISING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY'S YOUTH TERM TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 7, 2025

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on November 1, 2021 the Mayor and Council approved the reestablishment of a Youth Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to

- assess the needs of the community's youth,
- identify existing resources available to meet those needs,
- make recommendations to the Mayor and Council on actions the City can take either on its own or in conjunction with other organizations to meet the unmet needs of the community's youth; and

WHEREAS, it was identified that the committee will consist of members with specific skills, expertise and interests toward reaching the goals as defined by the committee, including but not limited to City residents, and representatives may change from time to time based on the focus of the committee; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Lanoux wishes to serve and has been recommended for appointment by the Mayor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council appoint Andrea Lanoux to the Youth Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the Mayor and Council on issues related to the Community's Youth term to expire on March 7, 2025.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Rashaad Carter, second by Councilor Christine Piazza. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

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R-22-03-25 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINT KEONA STRICKLAND TO THE YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADVISING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE COMMUNITY’S YOUTH TERM TO EXPIRE ON MARCH 7, 2025

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on November 1, 2021 the Mayor and Council approved the reestablishment of a Youth Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Youth Advisory Committee is to

- assess the needs of the community’s youth,
- identify existing resources available to meet those needs,
- make recommendations to the Mayor and Council on actions the City can take either on its own or in conjunction with other organizations to meet the unmet needs of the community’s youth; and

WHEREAS, it was identified that the committee will consist of members with specific skills, expertise and interests toward reaching the goals as defined by the committee, including but not limited to City residents, and representatives may change from time to time based on the focus of the committee; and

WHEREAS, Keona Strickland wishes to serve and has been recommended for appointment by the Mayor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council appoint Keona Strickland to the Youth Advisory Committee for the purpose of advising the Mayor and Council on issues related to the Community’s Youth term to expire on March 7, 2025.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Councilor Christine Piazza.
All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-26 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ERIC JAY, 30 HILLSIDE AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER, EASTERN POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2027

WHEREAS, Ordinance #75, Section 3(e) states, “Appointments shall be made by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council”; and

WHEREAS, Eric Jay, 30 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut term expired on February 1, 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Eric Jay, 30 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut, has been recommended for reappointment and desires to continue to serve as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic Commission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Eric Jay, 30 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission, term to expire on February 1, 2027.

Motion to approve made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Christine Piazza. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-27 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARCIA GIPSTEIN, 6 SHORE AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER, EASTERN POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2027

WHEREAS, Ordinance #75, Section 3(e) states, “Appointments shall be made by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council”; and

WHEREAS, Marcia Gipstein, 6 Shore Avenue, Groton, Connecticut term expired on February 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Marcia Gipstein, 6 Shore Avenue, Groton, Connecticut has been recommended for reappointment and desires to continue to serve;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Marcia Gipstein, 6 Shore Avenue, Groton, Connecticut as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission, term to expire on February 1, 2027.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Stephen Sheffield, second by Councilor Christine Piazza. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-28 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO PHASOR ENGINEERING SERVICES, 14 INDUSTRIAL PARK PLACE, MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT, PREFERRED VENDOR, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED EIGHT DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$174,108.00) INCLUDING A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY, FOR MATERIALS AND TESTING OF THE 1X TRANSFORMER TO BE PAID FROM THE TRANSMISSION LINES 1410/1280/400/BUDDINGTON SUBSTATION FY 2022 BOND FUND PROJECT

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WHEREAS, Phasor Engineering Services is a preferred vendor; and

WHEREAS, Phasor Engineering Services will refurbish, update and test the 1X transformer at the Buddington Substation; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on February 16, 2022, the Groton Utility Commission /Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order to Phasor Engineering Services, 14 Industrial Park Place, Middletown, Connecticut, preferred vendor, for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$174,108.00) including a ten percent (10%) contingency, for materials and testing of the 1X transformer to be paid from the Transmission Lines 1410/1280/400/Buddington Substation FY 2022 Bond Fund Project, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order to Phasor Engineering Services, 14 Industrial Park Place, Middletown, Connecticut, preferred vendor, for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Seventy Four Thousand One Hundred Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$174,108.00) including a ten percent (10%) contingency, for materials and testing of the 1X transformer to be paid from the Transmission Lines 1410/1280/400/Buddington Substation FY 2022 Bond Fund Project.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Christine Piazza, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-29 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE DONATION OF SIX (6) SURPLUS MONITOR DESK STANDS TO GROTON ALUMINUM FALCON ROBOTICS TEAM, 101 GROTON LONG POINT ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, the City of Groton has surplus monitor desk stands which it no longer has a need for use; and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities has supported the Groton Aluminum Falcons Robotics Team financially and through mentorships; and

WHEREAS, the donation of the equipment will provide educational opportunities for Groton youth to expand their knowledge in designing robotics, while keeping monitor desk stands out of landfills;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the donation of six (6) surplus monitor desk stands to Groton Aluminum Falcon Robotics Team, 101 Groton Long Point Road, Groton, Connecticut.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Rashaad Carter, second by Councilor Christine Piazza. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

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Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot would like for the robotics team to come to an upcoming Mayor and Council Meeting for a demonstration. She feels that many people do not know that this club exists and would like to further expose the club to the community.

R-22-03-30 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL GRANT A ONE YEAR EXTENSION OF LICENSE AND WAIVE THE SECURITY DEPOSIT TO GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 1300 FLANDERS ROAD, P.O. BOX K, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, TO OPERATE A REFRESHMENT FACILITY AT EASTERN POINT BEACH FOR THE 2022 SEASON

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Eastern Point Beach Agreement states that “The term of this license shall be for one (1) year from the date of signing. Said term may be extended each one (1) year thereafter at the sole option of the Board if the Licensee gives written notice of said extension to the Board and all financial and/or other obligations from the prior year have been satisfied on or before February 1st of each year.”; and

WHEREAS, Groton Public Schools, Food Services Department, have notified the City of Groton that they wish to extend their license and waive the \$1,500.00 security deposit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council grant a one year extension of license and waive the security deposit to Groton Public Schools, Food Services Department, 1300 Flanders Road, P.O. Box K, Groton, Connecticut, to operate a refreshment facility at Eastern Point Beach for the 2022 season.

Motion to approve made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Keith Hedrick requests a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.