



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 21, 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 7:31pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Councilor Rashaad Carter

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

Parks and Recreation Mary Hill recognizes Boatswains Mate 3rd Class Rafael Mercedes on assisting with the City of Groton Basketball Program this year.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot thanks him for volunteering.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield thanks him as well for volunteering.

Councilor Lisa McCabe thanks him for volunteering with our basketball Program and patrolling the waters with the Coast Guard.

Councilor Christine Piazza also thanks him for working with the youth and the military.

Both Officer Christopher Ewing and Officer Jean-Philip Precourt were presented with Police Chief Awards by Police Chief Erick Jenkins for their amazing work recently done on a routine traffic stop. In this routine traffic stop they discovered a considerable amount of drugs and made our City safer by removing it from the streets.

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.

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VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Paul Norris – None.
Councilor Lisa McCabe – None.
Councilor Stephen Sheffield – None.
Councilor Christine Piazza – None.
Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot – Food Box Distribution March 25th.
City Clerk Megan Peters – None.
Ron Yuhas – None.
Mayor Keith Hedrick – None.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-22-03-31 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO APPROVE A THREE (3) YEAR STANDARD RENTAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH A TWO (2) YEAR RENEWAL OPTION, AND ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER NOT TO EXCEED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$29,200.00) FOR EACH OF THE NEXT THREE (3) YEARS, TO CINTAS, POST OFFICE BOX 630921, CINCINNATI, OHIO, FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER UNIFORM RENTAL TO BE PAID FROM THE WATER AND WASTEWATER APPROVED FY 2022 OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, Cintas is the current uniform supplier for the Water Treatment Plant and the Wastewater Treatment Facility; and

WHEREAS, the new agreement has no increase in pricing from the previous agreement as Cintas is an approved vendor with US Communities, a government procurement agency; and **WHEREAS**, there would be a fixed cost for year one (1), year two (2), and year three (3), with option of a fourth year renewal with a projection of a two percent (2%) increase to be negotiated, and option of a fifth year three percent (3%) increase to be negotiated; and

WHEREAS, the current contract expired on February 6, 2022, and Management recommends entering into a new agreement; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on March 16, 2022, the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to approve a three (3) year Standard Rental Agreement with a two (2) year renewal option, and issue a purchase

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order not to exceed Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$29,200.00) for each of the next three (3) years, to Cintas, Post Office Box 630921, Cincinnati, Ohio, for Water and Wastewater Uniform rental to be paid from the approved Water and Wastewater FY 2022 Operating Budget 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 approve a three (3) year Standard Rental Agreement with a two (2) year renewal option, and issue a purchase order not to exceed Twenty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$29,200.00) for each of the next three (3) years, to Cintas, Post Office Box 630921, Cincinnati, Ohio, for Water and Wastewater Uniform rental to be paid from the approved Water and Wastewater FY 2022 Operating Budget.

Motion made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Councilor Stephen Sheffield.
Councilor Stephen Sheffield clarifies the renewal option and the amount.
Councilor Christine Piazza inquires about the expiration.
All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-32 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AMEND RESOLUTION 22-01-06 TO CHANGE THE APPROVED PURCHASE ORDER FROM ONE HUNDRED THIRTY SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS AND (\$137,400.00) TO ONE HUNDRED SIXTY ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY ONE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$161,231.00), SUBMITTED TO NUTMEG INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS, INCORPORATED, 130 BRAINARD ROAD, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, FOR THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL HV507 DUMP TRUCK WITH CUMMINS DIESEL DUE TO VENDOR'S INABILITY TO HONOR THE ORIGINAL QUOTED PRICE DUE TO DRASTIC INCREASES IN THE MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THE AFTERMARKET TRUCK BED TO BE INSTALLED, TO BE PAID FROM THE WATER DIVISION VEHICLE REPLACEMENT FUND

WHEREAS, the Water Division Vehicle Replacement Fund has a balance of \$250,000.00; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Groton Utilities Vehicle Replacement Plan, Management had identified the need to replace, and will trade in, 62W, a 1999 Freightliner Dump Truck in fair condition, with approximately 60,000 miles; and

WHEREAS, utilizing the Town of Chaplin bid, the contract was awarded to Nutmeg International Trucks, Incorporated, 130 Brainard Road, Hartford, Connecticut, is judged by the Finance Director to be the most advantageous pricing for the City; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on December 15, 2021, the Groton Utility Commission/ Water Pollution Control Authority approved GUC-WPCA 21-1-61 and authorized Groton Utilities Management to place an order for, and issue a purchase order to, Nutmeg International

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Trucks, Incorporated, 130 Brainard Road, Hartford, Connecticut, for an amount not to exceed the quoted price of One Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$137,400.00) for the purchase of one (1) 2024 International HV507 4 X 2 Dump Truck with Cummins Diesel to be paid from funds in the Water Division Vehicle Replacement Fund and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on January 3, 2022, the Mayor and Council approved Resolution 22-01-06 and authorized Groton Utilities Management to place an order for, and issue a purchase order to, Nutmeg International Trucks, Incorporated, 130 Brainard Road, Hartford, Connecticut, for an amount not to exceed the quoted price of One Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$137,400.00) for the purchase of one (1) 2024 International HV507 4 X 2 Dump Truck with Cummins Diesel to be paid from funds in the Water Division Vehicle Replacement Fund; and

WHEREAS, an email was received on Thursday, February 24, 2022 from the Nutmeg International Trucks, Inc. representative, indicating that the price of the truck could not be honored and notified Management that the price had increased Twenty Three Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty One Dollars and No Cents (\$23,831.00) ; and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities Management requested confirmation that the increased price would be a lock with no additional increases, and Management received that confirmation; and **WHEREAS**, the total cost breakdown is as follows:

Original Purchase Order	\$137,400.00
Requested Change Order Price Increase	\$23,831.00
Total request	\$161,231.00; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on March 16, 2022, the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control voted to amend Action Item GUC-WPCA 21-12-61 to change the approved purchase order from One Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Dollars and (\$137,400.00) to One Hundred Sixty One Thousand Two Hundred Thirty One Dollars and No Cents (\$161,231.00), submitted to Nutmeg International Trucks, Incorporated, 130 Brainard Road, Hartford, Connecticut, for the 2024 International HV507 Dump Truck with Cummins Diesel due to vendor's inability to honor the original quoted price due to drastic increases in the materials needed for the aftermarket truck bed to be installed, to be paid from the Water Division Vehicle Replacement Fund and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council amend Action Item GUC-WPCA 21-12-61 to change the approved purchase order from One Hundred Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Dollars and (\$137,400.00) to One Hundred Sixty One Thousand Two Hundred Thirty One Dollars and No Cents (\$161,231.00), submitted to Nutmeg International Trucks, Incorporated, 130 Brainard Road, Hartford, Connecticut, for the 2024 International HV507 Dump Truck with Cummins Diesel due to vendor's inability to honor the original quoted price

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due to drastic increases in the materials needed for the aftermarket truck bed to be installed, to be paid from the Water Division Vehicle Replacement Fund.

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

R-22-03-33 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY NINE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED NINETY NINE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$189,699.00) WHICH INCLUDES A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY, TO WESCO RECEIVABLES CORPORATION, 15 EXECUTIVE BOULEVARD, ORANGE, CONNECTICUT, A PREFERRED VENDOR, FOR PURCHASE OF THREE (3) SWITCHGEARS REQUIRED TO REPLACE EXISTING, AGING EQUIPMENT TO BE PAID FROM THE APPROVED ELECTRIC FY 2022 NON BONDED CAPITAL BUDGET

WHEREAS, the existing switchgears are old and replacement is required to ensure reliability; and

WHEREAS, the switchgears will replace existing equipment at Poheganut Drive, Starr Hill Road, and the City of Groton Municipal Building; and

WHEREAS, Costs have been guaranteed until April 1, 2022; and

WHEREAS, this vendor was selected in accordance with the Groton Utilities Purchasing Policy #1004: Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchasing Practices of Groton Utilities in regard to preferred vendor; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on March 16, 2022, the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order not to exceed One Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$189,699.00) which includes a ten percent (10%) contingency, to Wesco Receivables Corporation, 15 Executive Boulevard, Orange, Connecticut, a preferred vendor, for purchase of three (3) switchgears required to replace existing, aging equipment to be paid from the approved Electric FY 2022 non bonded capital budget 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 not to exceed One Hundred Eighty Nine Thousand Six Hundred Ninety Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$189,699.00) which includes a ten percent (10%) contingency, to Wesco Receivables Corporation, 15 Executive Boulevard, Orange, Connecticut, a preferred vendor, for purchase of three (3) switchgears required to replace existing, aging equipment to be paid from the approved Electric FY 2022 non bonded capital budget.

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

R-22-03-34 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AMEND RESOLUTION 21-09-144 TO CHANGE THE APPROVED PURCHASE ORDER FROM EIGHT HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY SEVEN DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$805,397.00) TO ONE MILLION NINETY SIX THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY EIGHT DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$1,096,428.00) WHICH INCLUDES A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY TO COVER ANY ADDITIONAL CHARGES, TO SABRE INDUSTRIES, 8653 EAST HIGHWAY 67, ALVARADO, TEXAS, THE INCREASE DUE TO DESIGN CHANGES MADE BY LIEDOS IN AGREEMENT BY GROTON UTILITIES ENGINEERING, TO BE PAID BY THE TRANSMISSION LINES1410/1280/400 BUDDINGTON SUBSTATION FY 2022 BOND FUND PROJECT

WHEREAS, Sabre Industries is the same vendor that Eversource used when ordering their ductile iron poles; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, Groton Utilities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Eversource allowing the use of shared resources to purchase materials, and to perform construction including drilling, civil work, vegetation management, and clearing, to save money; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on August 18, 2021, the Groton Utilities / Water Pollution Control Authority voted to authorize Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order not to exceed Seven Hundred Forty Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$740,570.60) including a ten percent (10%) contingency, to Sabre Industries, 8653 East Highway 67, Alvarado, Texas, for purchase of poles to replace poles on the 69kV 400 line, and the 115kV 1410 and 1280 lines for the Transmission Project, to be paid by 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; and

WHEREAS, due to the volatile nature of the current steel market and the urgency to lock in pricing, Groton Utilities Management sought immediate approval from the City Council to issue a purchase order in an amount that exceeds that which was authorized by the Utilities Commission on August 18, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, September 3, 2021 Groton Utilities received an updated quote to reflect true pricing until close of business on September 10, 2021. The Groton Utilities / Water Pollution Control Authority will be made aware of the Sixty Four Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Six Dollars and Forty Cents (\$64,826.40) increase during its regular meeting on September 15, 2021; and

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WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on September 7, 2021, the Mayor and Council approved Resolution # 21-9-144, and authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order for Eight Hundred Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars and No Cents (\$805,397.00) to Sabre Industries, 8659 East Highway 67, Alvarado, Texas, for purchase of poles to replace the poles on the 69kV 400 Line and the 115kV 1410 and 1280 Lines for the Transmission Project, to be paid by the Transmission Lines 1410/1280/400/Buddington Substation FY 2022 Bond Fund Project; and

WHEREAS, Leidos, the Engineering Firm designing the Transmission Line, in agreement by Groton Utilities Engineering, made design changes which have modified cost; and

WHEREAS the cost breakdown of the project is as follows:

Existing Purchase Order	\$805,397.00
Requested Increase	\$191,031.00
Total Amount Needed for Material	\$996,425.00
10% Contingency	\$100,000.00
Total Request	\$1,096,428.00; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on March 16, 2022, the Groton Utilities Commission/ Water Pollution Control Authority authorized a purchase order change for a total amount not to exceed One Million Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$1,096,428.00) which includes a ten percent (10%) contingency to cover any additional charges, to Sabre Industries, 8653 East Highway 67, Alavardo, Texas, the increase due to design changes made by Liedos in agreement by Groton Utilities Engineering, to be paid by 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 Mayor and Council amend Resolution 21-09-144 to change the approved purchase order from Eight Hundred Five Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Seven Dollars and No Cents (\$805,397.00) to One Million Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Eight Dollars and No Cents (\$1,096,428.00) which includes a ten percent (10%) contingency to cover any additional charges, to Sabre Industries, 8653 East Highway 67, Alavardo, Texas, the increase due to design changes made by Liedos in agreement by Groton Utilities Engineering, to be paid by the transmission lines 1410/1280/400 Buddington Substation FY 2022 Bond Fund Project.

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

R-22-03-35 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE REFUND OF PROPERTY TAXES TO EAN HOLDINGS LLC, 8 ELLA GRASSO TURNPIKE, WINDSOR LOCKS, CONNECTICUT IN THE AMOUNT OF FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHT DOLLARS AND NINETY EIGHT CENTS (\$4,808.98)

WHEREAS, excessive payment of property taxes must be refunded to the individuals; and

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WHEREAS, on December 7, 1992, the Mayor and Council approved R-92-12-153 authorizing the Finance Director to approve refunds of property taxes up to \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars) as recommended by the Groton Tax Collector; and

WHEREAS, amounts that exceed \$500.00 must be approved by the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, the Groton Tax Collector has recommended that refunds be made as follows:

EAN Holdings LLC, 8 Ella Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, Connecticut
Amount to be refunded: \$4,808.98;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council approve the refund of Property taxes to EAN Holdings LLC, 8 Ella Grasso Turnpike, Windsor Locks, Connecticut in the amount of Four Thousand Eight Hundred Eight Dollars and Ninety Eight Cents (\$4,808.98).

Motion made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Councilor Christine Piazza.
Director Ron Yuhas gives a brief explanation for the refund.
All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-03-36 RESOLUTION THAT MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER NOT TO EXCEED FOUR HUNDRED SEVENTY THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO DOLLARS AND TWENTY CENTS (\$473,552.20), INCLUDING A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY, TO VALMONT UTILITY 28800 IDA STREET, P.O. BOX 358, VALLEY, NEBRASKA, AS A PREFERRED VENDOR, FOR PURCHASE OF A- FRAME STRUCTURES FOR BUDDINGTON SUBSTATION, TO BE PAID FROM THE TRANSMISSION LINES 1410/1280/400 BUDDINGTON SUBSTATION FY 2022 BOND FUND PROJECT, PENDING APPROVAL BY THE GROTON UTILITY COMMISSION/ WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, Valmont Utility, a preferred vendor, provided structures currently in place and new structures will be a replacement in kind; and

WHEREAS, this project has been approved by the Connecticut Siting Council as of February 25, 2021: PETITION NO. 1436; and

WHEREAS, on March 14, 2022, Groton Utilities Management received a quote from Valmont Utility that will expire on March 29, 2022, and due material supply chain pressures and extreme price volatility, Groton Utilities seeks immediate approval; and

WHEREAS, the A-Frame Structures are needed as part of the Transmission Lines 1410/1280/400 Buddington Substation Project; and

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WHEREAS, the cost breakdown of the project is as follows:

A-Frame structures for Buddington Substation	\$ 430,502.00
10% Contingency	\$ 43,050.20
Total Project Cost	\$ 473,552.20; and

WHEREAS, the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority will hold a Special Meeting to authorize Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order not to exceed Four Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Two Dollars and Twenty Cents, (\$473,552.20), including a ten percent (10%) contingency, to Valmont Utility 28800 Ida Street, P.O. Box 358, Valley, Nebraska, as a preferred vendor, for purchase of A-Frame Structures for Buddington Substation, to be paid from the Transmission Lines 1410/1280/400 Buddington Substation FY 2022 Bond Fund Project, pending approval by the Mayor and Council on March 21, 2022;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council authorize Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order not to exceed Four Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Two Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$473,552.20), including a ten percent (10%) contingency, to Valmont Utility 28800 Ida Street, P.O. Box 358, Valley, Nebraska, as a preferred vendor, for purchase of A-Frame Structures for Buddington Substation, to be paid from the Transmission Lines 1410/1280/400 Buddington Substation FY 2022 Bond Fund Project, pending approval by the Groton Utility Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. Josh Rehrig from Groton Utilities comes before the council to explain the need for this purchase to be added to the agenda.
All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Lisa McCabe, second by Councilor Christine Piazza.
All in favor, 6-0-0. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:00pm.