



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 16, 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, Councilor Stephen Sheffield, City Clerk Edward Jacome

Mayor Keith Hedrick called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilors Rashaad Carter, Lisa McCabe, Paul Norris, Christine Piazza, Stephen Sheffield, City Clerk Edward Jacome and Finance Director Ron Yuhas

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Led by Mayor Hedrick

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

Mayor Hedrick thanked Noemi Walencewicz for her assistance during the transition and welcomed City Clerk Edward Jacome.

Proclamation of National Public Works Week, May 15-21, 2022

Proclamation of National Police Week, May 11-17, 2022

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.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 2, 2022 Mayor and Council Meeting

Motion to approve made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor McCabe.

All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Norris – Thanked the Mayor for responding to an email regarding No Wake signs for Baker's Cove. He extended a thank you on behalf of Jupiter Point residents for the Mayor's presence and discussion of CIP work.

Councilor McCabe – Nothing to report.

Councilor Sheffield – Nothing to report.

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Councilor Piazza – Thankful to see the police radar on Mitchell Street.

Councilor Carter – Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Depot – On May 6th she attended a Community Meeting organized by residents of Branford Manor. Listened to the residents and informed the public that any Health Safety, Building Safety and Fire Safety issues not being handled by landlords to please contact the Mayor’s Office or the Building Department. If you were unable to attend, call the Mayor’s Office.

City Clerk Jacome– Nothing to report.

Finance Director Yuhas – Nothing to report.

Mayor Hedrick – Expanded on Deputy Mayor Depot’s comment about meeting with residents of Branford Manor. Reiterated that all tenants should be able raise their families in safe homes. He read some of the comments on the forum. City departments and Ledge Light Health District have been alerted. Councilor Sheffield inquired if there will be an expense to remediate the issues. Mayor Hedrick noted it is the Landlords responsibility and therefore no expense on the City of Groton. Deputy Mayor Depot continued that the residents were concerned that their rents would be raised if issues were brought up but the rent will not raise as it is controlled by the Fair Housing Act. Councilor Piazza asked if the playground was brought up as a concern as it is currently being renovated. Mayor Hedrick noted Branford Manor is evaluating all aspects for healthy living. Councilor Sheffield asked for an estimate on number of tenants that are having an issue and of those that complained, have there been any retaliation from Branford Manor Management. Mayor Hedrick has not been given a number. There is a total of 442 units and about 20 residents attended the Community Meeting. He doesn’t believe there is any retaliation from the Branford Manor Management.

Councilor Piazza asked if most of the complaints were from the elderly and handicap.

Deputy Mayor Depot did not get the impression it was isolated to one building or section.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-22-05-65 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE CITY OF GROTON BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 PURSUANT TO THE CITY OF GROTON CHARTER, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2(C)

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City of Groton Charter, Article VI, Section 2(c) “the Council shall approve the budget”..”if no budget is approved by the Council, the Mayor’s original proposed budget shall be submitted to the electors and qualified citizens of the City for their approval...”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the City of Groton Budget for the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 pursuant to the City of Groton Charter, Article VI, Section 2(c).

Motion made by Councilor Norris, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.

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Finance Director Yuhas handed out an updated anticipated revenues sheet for FY 2023 to remove \$1.4M from the Highway Budget.

Councilor Sheffield asked if the appropriation of funds would be from the State and won't be a burden of the tax payers. Mayor Hedrick confirmed.

All in favor. Motion carried.

R-22-05-66 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE DONATION OF USED OFFICE FURNITURE FROM PFIZER INC. FOR CITY DEPARTMENT USE

WHEREAS, Pfizer Inc. has offered the City of Groton used office furniture that is scheduled to be disposed of; and

WHEREAS, this donation of used office furniture will be for use by City Departments;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the donation of used office furniture from Pfizer Inc. for City department use.

Motion made by Councilor McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.

Mayor Hedrick noted Pfizer approached Joe Summers about their excess furniture. Mayor Hedrick stated the request is for specific pieces of furniture not the whole lot.

All in favor. Motion carried.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Keith Hedrick
Mayor**