



# City of Groton, Connecticut

## Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 6, 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

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

### I. ROLL CALL

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

**Excused/Late Arrival:** 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.

**Portia Bordelon, 24 Jefferson Drive** – Portia asked for a more detailed budget that details the previous mill rate and previous requested and approved funds. She also discussed the Branford Manor housing situation and tax abatement. In addition, she would spoke on accessibility of Eastern Point Beach by low income families the possibility of using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to assist those who are of low income.

### V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Depot encouraged Branford Manor residents to continue to reach out to the council. She also recognized the Poquonnock/Rainville intersection as an accessibility issue. In addition, she stated she would be in support of adding the previous fiscal year as a budget line item for future budgets.

Councilor Piazza also agreed that the Poquonnock/Rainville intersection is a safety issue.

Mayor Hedrick clarified that the City is working with the state to get the crosswalk and the lights fixed as well as ownership of the land as the state will not provide the sidewalk. The council will be talking about the ARPA funding soon.

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Councilor Carter stated that if there were individuals who could not afford a beach pass Parks and Recreation would work with them or look into the situation, but no individual have.

Mayor Hedrick stated that for this year the last Monday in June, July and August is going to be Military Appreciation Day.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mayor and Council Minutes, May 16, 2022

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole Minutes, May 23, 2022

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

All in favor. Motion carried

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

Councilor Sheffield inquired about the total seawall funding.

Mayor Hedrick clarified that the difference between the \$2.7 million bonded money and the total amount of the project will be what the Town pays. He also stated that the City of Groton bond rating has improved from AA- to AA.

Councilor Piazza thanked the City of Groton for the pride flag raising.

Councilor Carter stated he had the opportunity on Memorial Day to attend the WWII Memorial to honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Deputy Mayor Depot stated she volunteered at the food box distribution with United Way on May 27, 2022. The next one is June 24, 2022 and volunteers are always needed.

The Mayor stated the pride flag raising was a great event. He also stated that Groton Bank Day is happening this weekend, Eastern Point Beach officially opens on June 18, 2022, Farmers Market opens on June 14, 2022 3-6 pm and the food box distribution is the fourth Friday of every month at 12:30pm at St. John's Christian Church.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

Councilor Norris made two referrals:

Group II Community Development- Evaluation of a scholarship program for beach passes.

Beach and Parks Committee- Review of military and low income family passes.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

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**R-22-06-67 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE ELECTRIC DIVISION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the City of Groton Charter, Article XI, Section 4(a), “the Utilities Commission shall prepare and approve an itemized annual budget proposed for the Department of Utilities, which shall be sent to the Mayor and Council by April 30<sup>th</sup> for their approval. The Mayor and Council shall approve the final budget no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meeting held on April 13, 2022, the City of Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority reviewed the Electric Division budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and at its regular meeting held April 20, 2022; the City of Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approved the Electric Division budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the Operating and Capital Budgets for the Electric Division for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Motion made by Councilor Norris, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**R-22-06-68 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE WATER DIVISION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the City of Groton Charter, Article XI, Section 4(a), “the Utilities Commission shall prepare and approve an itemized annual budget proposed for the Department of Utilities, which shall be sent to the Mayor and Council by April 30<sup>th</sup> for their approval. The Mayor and Council shall approve the final budget no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meeting held on April 13, 2022, the City of Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority reviewed the Water Division budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and at its regular meeting held April 20, 2022; the City of Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approved the Water Division budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the Operating and Capital Budgets for the Water Division for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor Sheffield.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**R-22-06-69 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS FOR THE SEWER DIVISION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023**

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**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the City of Groton Charter, Article XI, Section 4(a), “the Utilities Commission shall prepare and approve an itemized annual budget proposed for the Department of Utilities, which shall be sent to the Mayor and Council by April 30<sup>th</sup> for their approval. The Mayor and Council shall approve the final budget no later than June 30<sup>th</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meeting held on April 13, 2022, the City of Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority reviewed the Sewer Division budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 and at its regular meeting held April 20, 2022; the City of Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority approved the Sewer Division budgets for Fiscal Year 2022-2023;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the Operating and Capital Budgets for the Sewer Division for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

Motion made by Councilor Sheffield, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**R 22-06-70 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO SPRINGBROOK HOLDING COMPANY, LLC, P.O. BOX 200566, DALLAS, TEXAS, A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED TWENTY ONE DOLLARS AND THIRTY SEVEN CENTS (\$65,121.37) TO PURCHASE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT FROM JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023 FOR THE SPRINGBROOK FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING SYSTEM TO BE PAID FROM THE PROPOSED FY 2023 UTILITIES FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, Springbrook financial account system is used by the City of Groton, Groton Utilities and Bozrah Light and Power Company;

**WHEREAS**, This purchase is for renewal, and is necessary to have interrupted services; and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meeting held on May 18, 2022 , the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a Purchase Order to Springbrook Holding Company, LLC, P.O. Box 200566, Dallas, Texas, a sole source provider, for an amount not to exceed Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty One Dollars and Thirty Seven Cents (\$65,121.37) to purchase annual maintenance and support from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for the Springbrook financial accounting system to be paid from the proposed FY 2023 Utilities Finance and Accounting 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 to Springbrook Holding Company, LLC, P.O. Box 200566, Dallas, Texas, a sole source provider, for an amount not to exceed Sixty Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty One Dollars and Thirty Seven Cents (\$65,121.37) to purchase annual

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maintenance and support from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for the Springbrook financial accounting system to be paid from the proposed FY 2023 Utilities Finance and Accounting budget.

Motion made by Councilor Piazza, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**R 22-06-71 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO COMMUNICATIONS PLUS, 84 SALEM TURNPIKE, NORWICH, CONNECTICUT, STATE PREFERRED VENDOR, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FIFTY ONE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT DOLLARS AND SIXTY TWO CENTS (\$251,408.62) TO PURCHASE STATE SPONSORED DIGITAL RADIOS AS PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION OF STATEWIDE TELECOMMUNICATION (DESPP) SYSTEM, CT LAND MOBILE RADIO NETWORK (CLMRN) TO BE PAID FROM THE ELECTRIC DIVISION FY 2022 APPROVED NON-BONDED CAPITAL BUDGET**

**WHEREAS**, The current radio system in use is outdated and does not have 911 functionality. The new system will have the ability to connect to 911 for any emergencies;

**WHEREAS**, The City of Groton Police Department has purchased these radios and shared use will improve public safety communications;

**WHEREAS**, Groton Utilities Management recommends improved safety for the Utility; and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meeting held on May 18, 2022 , the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a Purchase Order to Communications Plus, 84 Salem Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut, state preferred vendor, for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred Eight Dollars and Sixty Two Cents (\$251,408.62) to purchase State sponsored digital radios as part of The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of Statewide Telecommunication (DESPP) System, CT Land Mobile Radio Network (CLMRN) to be paid from the Electric Division FY 2022 Approved 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 to Communications Plus, 84 Salem Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut, state preferred vendor, for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty One Thousand Four Hundred Eight Dollars and Sixty Two Cents (\$251,408.62) to purchase State sponsored digital radios as part of The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Division of Statewide Telecommunication (DESPP) System, CT Land Mobile Radio Network (CLMRN) to be paid from the Electric Division FY 2022 Approved Non-Bonded Capital budget.

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Motion made by Councilor Carter, second by Councilor Sheffield.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**R 22-06-72 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO WAIVE THE BIDDING REQUIREMENT OF GROTON UTILITIES POLICY NO. 1004, POLICY AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE PURCHASING PRACTICES OF GROTON UTILITIES AND ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO INTEGRATED SECURITY GROUP, 19 TUTTLE PLACE, MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT, A SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$165,000.00), FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THE INITIAL PHASE OF PHYSICAL ACCESS CONTROL DEVICES AND VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR THE GROTON UTILITIES WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO BE PAID FROM THE WATER DIVISION FY 2022 APPROVED NON-BONDED CAPITAL PROJECT FOR WTP TECHNOLOGY**

**WHEREAS**, Integrated Security Group (ISG) is the current provider of the physical access control system for the City of Groton and the Groton Utilities video surveillance camera system. This project will be an expansion of the existing systems currently maintained and supported by ISG;  
**WHEREAS**, The America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 recommends the use of physical security controls to protect drinking water facilities and improve the resilience of water systems;  
and

**WHEREAS**, at its regular meeting held on May 18, 2022 , the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to waive the bidding requirement of Groton Utilities Policy No. 1004, Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchasing Practices of Groton Utilities and issue a purchase order to Integrated Security Group, 19 Tuttle Place, Middletown, Connecticut, a sole source provider, for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$165,000.00), for the purchase and installation of the initial phase of physical access control devices and video surveillance cameras for the Groton Utilities Water Treatment Plant to be paid from the Water Division FY 2022 Approved Non-Bonded Capital Project for WTP Technology, 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 waive the bidding requirement of Groton Utilities Policy No. 1004, Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchasing Practices of Groton Utilities and issue a purchase order to Integrated Security Group, 19 Tuttle Place, Middletown, Connecticut, a sole source provider, for an amount not to exceed One Hundred Sixty Five Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$165,000.00), for the purchase and installation of the initial phase of physical access control

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devices and video surveillance cameras for the Groton Utilities Water Treatment Plant to be paid from the Water Division FY 2022 Approved Non-Bonded Capital Project for WTP Technology.

Motion made by Councilor Norris, second by Councilor Sheffield.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**R-22-06-73 RESOLUTION TO FINALLY APPROVE “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO APPROVE INCREASES TO RETIREES PENSIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING THOSE WHO RETIRED IN 2018 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY OF GROTON RETIREMENT BOARD”**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROTON:

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council, upon recommendation of the Retirement Board, may increase the benefits of retired employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have received a qualified cost estimate from an actuary; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Groton Retirement Board recommended increasing the benefits of retired employees who retired in 2018 at their meeting held on March 10, 2022; and

That is: The COLA increase shall be calculated by multiplying the annualized increase in the Consumer Price Index issued by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor for the last available twelve (12) months by a factor of twenty-five percent (25%); however, in no event shall the adjustments exceed one and one-half (1.5%) per year. This adjustment is intended to provide persons retired before 1990 and those who retired up until December 2018 with the same COLA.

Effective Date This Ordinance shall become effective on or about July 1, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, this Ordinance was published in The Day, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Groton on May 6, 2022 and May 9, 2022;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council finally approve “An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Approve Increases to Retirees Pensions up to and including those who retired in 2018 as Recommended by the City of Groton Retirement Board”.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor Piazza.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Hedrick entertained a motion to add R-22-06-74 (below) to the agenda.  
Motion made by Councilor Norris, second by Councilor Sheffield.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

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**R-22-06-74 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL APPROVE THE AWARDING OF AUDITING SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022 TO CLIFTONLARSONALLEN LLP, 29 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT TO BE PAID FROM CITY, ELECTRIC, WATER AND SEWER GENERAL FUNDS**

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Director solicited proposals for auditing services; and

**WHEREAS**, Blum, Shapiro & Company, PC submitted the lowest qualified bid and subsequently merged into CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Director recommends this award; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and City Council approve the awarding of auditing services for fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 to CliftonLarsonAllen LLP, 29 South Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut to be paid from City, Electric, Water and Sewer General Funds.

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

Finance Director Ron Yuhas gave a brief overview of the auditing services and how it is paid.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor Piazza.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.