



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 1, 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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Paul Norris (via Zoom), Councilor Christine Piazza, Councilor Stephen Sheffield, and City Clerk Edward Jacome

Excused/Late Arrival: Finance Director Ron Yuhas

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

On Friday, July 29, 2022 at 12pm the City of Groton celebrated the 201st Anniversary of Peruvian Independence.

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.

Michael Boucher, 16 Hillside Avenue – stated he would like to see the amended proposal(s) for consideration by Planning and Zoning for five corners based on discussion at the July 19, 2022 Planning and Zoning meeting. He also stated his concerns with not reappointing André Bumgardner to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and late 2018 certificates of completion issued to Branford Manor when issues were still occurring.

Ian Thomas, 24 Jefferson Drive – stated his concerns with not reappointing André Bumgardner to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the progress made on the Branford Manor rehabilitation plan. In addition, he stated concerns with fixing one unit at a time instead of one building at a time creating minimum disruption to families being sent to hotels.

Portia Bordelon, 24 Jefferson Drive – stated her concerns with not reappointing André Bumgardner to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and the current displacement of families from Branford Manor to hotels during the rehabilitation process. She also suggested the City of Groton pursue similar policy to the Town of Groton Complete Streets Policy.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

Councilor Carter – stated he would have liked to have seen André Bumgardner come speak on his own behalf if there was an issue with his reappointment.

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Deputy Mayor Depot – reiterated the concerns of Branford Manor and that the city can enforce that they follow the laws, but ultimately the rehabilitation plan will be at the discretion of Branford Manor. She has also been in contact with someone from the Complete Streets program and is interested in making the city more accessible.

Councilor Piazza – stated her concerns about André Bumgardner not being reappointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the health and safety of families at Branford Manor, and stated her interest on being a liaison on the tenets association. She stated her support for a similar program to the Complete Street Policy.

Councilor McCabe – inquired to Mayor Hedrick if there is leverage to use the tax abatement for not following the agreement. Mayor Hedrick reaffirmed that there is a tax incentive agreement and currently the city is in the process of gathering information and leveraging state and federal officials. Councilor McCabe concluded that those losing items to the mold at Branford Manor should be covered either by Branford Manor or their insurance.

Councilor Sheffield – inquired if a deadline can be imposed on Branford Manor by any entity. Mayor Hedrick clarified that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) required that Branford Manor have a remediation plan by Friday.

Mayor Hedrick – stated that Groton Town Manager John Burt and Mayor Hedrick have toured units at Branford Manor with their individual Building and Zoning Inspectors. A report came from those inspections and they are expected to do another tour in August. The City of Groton is currently looking at creating a similar plan to Complete Streets. The Mayor and Electric Boat are meeting biweekly for safety and parking discussions. Mayor Hedrick thanked André Bumgardner for serving on the commission, but has served his term and the decision to not reappoint was based on his conflict of interest serving on both the Town Council and the City of Groton Planning and Zoning Commission.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor and Council, July 5, 2022

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

All in favor. Motion carried.

Committee of the Whole, July 25, 2022

Motion made by Councilor Sheffield, second by Councilor Piazza.

All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor McCabe – None.

Councilor Sheffield – Discussed Washington Park Basketball court

Councilor Piazza – Attended the Concert at the Park and communicating with Branford Manor residents.

Councilor Carter – None.

Councilor Norris – None.

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Deputy Mayor Depot – Attended the Community Speaks Out Gala. They are an organization helping those suffering from substance abuse.

Mayor Hedrick – Asked the council to send their top 5 bottom 5 for future ARPA discussion. In addition, the city had put out a Request for Proposal (RFP) seal bid for the Mother Bailey House open until September 12, 2022.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-22-07-89 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF COLTON JENKINS, 33 BURGESS PLACE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2025

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 a regular member to the Planning and Zoning Commission; and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Colton Jenkins, 33 Burgess Place, Groton, Connecticut, as a regular member, Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire on June 30, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor McCabe, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.
All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0-0

R-22-07-90 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARIE CARMENATI, 36 ADAMS HEIGHTS, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2025

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 a regular member to the Planning and Zoning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Marie Carmenati, 36 Adams Heights, Groton, Connecticut, desires to serve on the Planning and Zoning Commission and has been recommended for reappointment as a regular member;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Marie Carmenati, 36 Adams Heights, Groton, Connecticut, as a regular member, Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire on June 30, 2025.

Motion made by Deputy Mayor Depot, second by Councilor Sheffield.
All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0-0

R-22-07-91 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF JASON RUSK, 85 BAKER AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2025

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

WHEREAS, Jason Rusk, 85 Baker Avenue, 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 Jason Rusk, 85 Baker Avenue, Groton, Connecticut, as an alternate member, Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire on June 30, 2025.

Motion made by Councilor Sheffield, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.
Councilor Piazza abstained. Motion carried. 5-0-1

R-22-07-92 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WAIVE THE BID PROCESS AND PROVISIONALLY AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE THE CITY OF GROTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH TRIMBLE, INCORPORATED, PO BOX 203558, DALLAS, TEXAS FOR PHASE 2 AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CITY’S STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE INVENTORY FOR A COST NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$61,830.00) TO BE PAID FROM APPROVED FISCAL YEAR 2023 HIGHWAY OPERATING FUNDS

WHEREAS, as a requirement of the General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from the Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), the City of Groton must develop a detailed system-wide map of its MS4 infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Trimble, Incorporated is in the process of developing a GIS database based on a collection of asset data; and

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WHEREAS, Phase 2 of the project will be to configure and implement Cityworks as an asset management tool; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Director, in conjunction with Groton Utilities Management, identified Trimble, Incorporated as an appropriate vendor to provide this solution;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council Waive the Bid Process and Provisionally Authorize and Approve the City of Groton Public Works Department to enter into a contract with Trimble, Incorporated, P.O. Box 203558, Dallas, Texas for Phase 2 and Implementation of the City's Stormwater infrastructure inventory for a cost not to exceed Sixty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$61,830.00) to be paid from Approved Fiscal Year 2023 Highway Operating Funds.

Motion made by Councilor Piazza, second by Councilor Sheffield.
All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0-0

R-22-07-93 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE THE CONTRACT WITH CHARLES PASTERYAK, JR, INCORPORATED, 20 NORTH BURNHAM HIGHWAY, LISBON, CONNECTICUT FOR BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVEMENT AND MILLING AS REQUIRED OF BRANDEGEE AVENUE FOR THE QUOTED PRICE OF \$261,895.00 (TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) AND AN ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY FOR A TOTAL EXPENDITURE NOT TO EXCEED \$288,084.50 (TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY-EIGHT THOUSAND EIGHTY-FOUR DOLLARS AND FIFTY CENTS) TO BE PAID FROM APPROVED FY23 HIGHWAY OPERATING FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Highway Department has identified the need for improvements to the above listed street; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Highway Department and the Finance Director recommend Charles Pasteryak, Jr., Incorporated utilizing the state contract # 22PSX0008; and

WHEREAS, the project is part of the City's Road Work Schedule for Fiscal Year 2023 and has been approved by the Town of Groton;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize and approve the contract with Charles Pasteryak, Jr, Incorporated, 20 North Burnham Highway, Lisbon, Connecticut for bituminous concrete pavement and milling as required of Brandegge Avenue for the quoted price of \$261,895.00 (Two Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Five Dollars and No Cents) and an additional contingency for a total expenditure not to exceed \$288,084.50 (Two Hundred Eighty-Eight Thousand Eighty-Four Dollars and Fifty Cents) to be paid from approved FY23 Highway Operating Funds.

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Motion made by Councilor Carter, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.
All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0-0

R-22-07-94 RESOLUTION THAT MAYOR AND COUNCIL RESCIND PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTION R-21-8-138 AND AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE A NEW CONTRACT WITH CHARLES PASTERYAK, JR, INCORPORATED, 20 NORTH BURNHAM HIGHWAY, LISBON, CONNECTICUT FOR BITUMINOUS CONCRETE PAVEMENT AND MILLING AS REQUIRED OF MITCHELL STREET FOR THE QUOTED PRICE OF \$365,530.00 (THREE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED THIRTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) AND AN ADDITIONAL CONTINGENCY FOR A TOTAL EXPENDITURE NOT TO EXCEED \$402,083.00 (FOUR HUNDRED TWO THOUSAND EIGHTY-THREE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) TO BE PAID FROM APPROVED FY22 HIGHWAY OPERATING FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Highway Department has identified the need for improvements to the above listed street; and

WHEREAS, due to project timing and escalation costs, the updated project costs have exceeded the original costs approved by resolution R-21-8-138; and

WHEREAS, Resolution R-21-8-138 will be rescinded; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Highway Department and the Finance Director recommend Charles Pasteryak, Jr., Incorporated utilizing the state contract # 22PSX0008; and

WHEREAS, the project is part of the City's Road Work Schedule for Fiscal Year 2022 and has been approved by the Town of Groton;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council Rescind previously approved Resolution R-21-8-138 and authorize and approve a new contract with Charles Pasteryak, Jr, Incorporated, 20 North Burnham Highway, Lisbon, Connecticut for bituminous concrete pavement and milling as required of Mitchell Street for the quoted price of \$365,530.00 (Three Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents) and an additional contingency for a total expenditure not to exceed \$402,083.00 (Four Hundred Two Thousand Eighty-Three Dollars and No Cents) to be paid from approved FY22 Highway Operating Funds.

Motion made by Councilor Norris, second by Deputy Mayor Depot.
All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0-0

R-22-07-95 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE A PURCHASE WITH TURF PRODUCTS, LLC, 157 MOODY ROAD, ENFIELD, CT FOR A VENTRAC TRACTOR: KN, 4520Z KUBOTA FOR A TOTAL COST OF \$26,983.33 (TWENTY SIX THOUSAND, NINE

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CENTS) TO BE PAID FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the purchase of a Ventrac Tractor is essential to continue to maintain the City's Parks; and

WHEREAS, funds have been budgeted for the project in the current year; and

WHEREAS, Turf Products works with Sourcewell, a cooperative purchasing contract, and is judged by the Parks & Recreation Director to be the most advantageous pricing for the City;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve a purchase with Turf Products, LLC, 157 Moody Road, Enfield, CT for a Ventrac Tractor: KN, 4520Z Kubota for a total cost of \$26,983.33 (Twenty six thousand, nine hundred and eighty three dollars and thirty three cents) to be paid from Capital Reserve Funds.

Motion made by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Sheffield.
All in favor. Motion carried. 6-0-0

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor McCabe, second by Councilor Piazza.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:31 p.m.