



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 3, 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 7:34pm.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mayor Keith Hedrick asks for a motion to suspend the rules and move R-22-01-01.
Motion to suspend the rules made by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, second by Councilor Lisa McCabe. All in favor, 5-0-0. Motion carried.

R-22-01-01 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF NICHOLAS CARDELLE AS A PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER GRADE "D", IN THE CITY OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, WAIVE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND THAT THE APPOINTMENT BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2022

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Police Department has patrol officer vacancies in the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Cardelle was selected as an applicant from a Police Officer candidacy list established by the Law Enforcement Council of Southeastern Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Cardelle has passed an oral interview panel, the background investigation, polygraph, physical agility, psychological and medical testing; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Cardelle has met the required entry standards established by the Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council, for admission to the Police Academy, and it would be beneficial for the City of Groton to hire him; and

WHEREAS, Nicholas Cardelle desires to serve as a patrol officer with the City of Groton Police Department;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Nicholas Cardelle as a probationary Police Officer Grade “D”, in the City of Groton Police Department, waive the residency requirement and that the appointment be effective January 3, 2022.

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

Police Chief Erick Jenkins gives a brief overview of Nick Cardelle and why he is qualified to join the Groton City Police Department.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield enters the meeting.

Nicholas Cardelle is sworn in by City Clerk Megan Peters.

Mother, Lisa Gianette, and father, Steve Cardelle, pin their son, Nicholas Cardelle.

Nicholas Cardelle thanks the City Council, the Police Chief and the Police Captain for this opportunity to serve the City of Groton. He also thanks his family for their support with this new venture.

Recess for pictures with the council, 5 minutes. Meeting resumes at 7:44pm.

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.

David Costello, 70 Benham Rd.

Mr. Costello gives a brief description of his history with the City of Groton and the address he resides at. He then gives his opinion on the newest proposal for the Five Corners development. He states that he is not opposed to development in his area, but he is opposed to overdevelopment of the area and the size and scope of the project.

Mike Boucher, 16 Hillside Ave.

Mr. Boucher gives a brief overview of the history of this project and the company that is looking to build and develop this area. He goes on to provide a brief description of Chris West, the owner and developer of the property at Five Corners.

Frank Jeanette, 142 Benham Rd.

Mr. Jeanette states that he is not opposed to development but he feels that this development will hurt the local business as well as the property value of his home and neighborhood.

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Steve Nye, 129 Poquonnock Rd.

Mr. Nye states that his property abuts the proposed property and he would like to state firmly his opposition to this project.

Tristan Taylor, 64 Benham Rd.

Ms. Taylor would like to also state that she agrees with the others who oppose this project.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot would like to thank everyone for coming out today. She appreciates the feedback and welcomes the residents to come to the meetings and speak out. She continues by stating that this is a project with the Planning and Zoning Commission. She would like to address the comment of the impact mentioned on small business. She is an advocate for small business and will ensure that construction does not affect their business and it's day to day. She also addresses the comment in regards to the vacant properties and businesses around the city. She commends the Economic Development team and their efforts in filling those vacant storefronts.

Councilor Rashaad Carter would like to piggyback on the comments from Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot in regards to the empty storefronts, specifically Thames Street. Councilor Rashaad Carter states that there are empty storefronts on Thames Street but unfortunately some of the spaces are not "turn-key". He also mentions the lack of parking on Thames Street for those empty storefronts. He does understand both sides and has heard the opposition today, but has also heard positive feedback to the project also.

Councilor Christine Piazza would like to thank the residents for coming out today. She provides a brief history of her time here in the City of Groton and understands where the residents are coming from with their opposition. She hopes that there can be a compromise with this project.

Councilor Lisa McCabe would also like to thank the residents for coming today. She does feel it is important for residents to come and speak. She values both the business and the neighborhoods of this city.

Mayor Keith Hedrick addresses David Costello's comment about storefronts and small business loans. He will have Cierra Patrick, the Economic Development Specialist, reach out to the businesses on Poquonnock Rd. and see if they would like to participate in available façade grants and loans. Mayor Keith Hedrick continues with the status of the project with the Planning and Zoning Commission and discusses the next steps.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 6, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting

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

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December 20, 2021 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting

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

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Paul Norris – Nothing to report.

Councilor Lisa McCabe – attended the last Farmer’s Market and advertises the next one in January.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield – December 13th, Group II Committee Meeting, Nothing to report from that meeting.

Councilor Christine Piazza – Pfizer Light Show, amazed by the light show and would like to move forward next year with possible bus participation for kids.

Councilor Rashaad Carter – Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot – would like to encourage vaccinations and booster shots.

Councilor Christine Piazza – speaks to her past with nursing and vaccinations. She states that it is your right to get vaccinated or to not get vaccinated. She states that it is not just the unvaccinated who get COVID but also the vaccinated as well.

City Clerk Megan Peters – Nothing to report.

Mayor Keith Hedrick – notifies the group that we will start to enforce a mask mandate here at the City Municipal Building and additional owned City Buildings starting tomorrow. He explains that regardless of vaccination status he hopes that people can be aware of their behaviors and not only mask up but also do their due diligence with washing their hands, social distancing, etc.

Ledge Light Health District will conduct COVID Testing here at the Municipal Building, tomorrow, Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 2pm – 6pm.

COVID Test Kits will be distributed Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 5pm. Based upon the limited quantity, there will be one test kit given per vehicle.

The Municipal Building will be closed on Monday, January 17th, if you have garbage pick-up on Monday, it will be picked up on Tuesday.

Robert’s Rules of Order Training will take place on January 18th at 6:30pm for all Councilors, Boards and Commission members.

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Personal Hygiene Collection Municipal Building is ongoing at the City Municipal Building. Please bring new hygiene items to the collection box.

United Way/Groton Utilities Food Box Distribution, Friday, January 28th, 2022, 12:30pm – 2:30pm.

Councilor Christine Piazza confirms that the COVID Tests being distributed are rapid tests. Confirmed.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-22-01-02 RESOLUTION TO THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CONRAD HEEDE, 58 MIRRA DRIVE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2024

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, Conrad Heede, 58 Mirra Drive, 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 Conrad Heede, 58 Mirra Drive, Groton, Connecticut, as an alternate member, Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire on June 30, 2024.

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

R-22-01-03 RESOLUTION TO THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERT BORIS, 47 BEACH POND ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER, PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON JUNE 30, 2023

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

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WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for an alternate member to the Planning and Zoning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Robert Boris, 47 Beach Pond Road 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 Robert Boris, 47 Beach Pond Road, Groton, Connecticut, as an alternate member, Planning and Zoning Commission, term to expire on June 30, 2023.

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

R-22-01-04 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF GAIL KELLY, 167 MIRRA DRIVE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER, BEACH AND PARKS COMMITTEE, TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2024

WHEREAS, the term of Gail Kelly, 167 Mirra Drive, Groton, expired on December 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Gail Kelly, 167 Mirra Drive, Groton, desires to continue to serve as a regular member of the Beach and Parks Committee and has been recommended for reappointment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Gail Kelly, 167 Mirra Drive, Groton, as a regular member, Beach and Parks Committee, term to expire on December 31, 2024.

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

R-22-01-05 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DEVON ROBARGE, 921 EASTERN POINT ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER, BEACH AND PARKS COMMITTEE, TERM TO EXPIRE ON DECEMBER 31, 2024

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists on the Beach and Parks Committee; and

WHEREAS, Devon Robarge, 921 Eastern Point Road, Groton, Connecticut has been recommended for appointment and desires to serve as a regular member of the Beach and Parks Committee;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Devon Robarge, 921 Eastern Point Road, Groton, Connecticut, as a regular member, Beach and Parks Committee, term to expire on December 31, 2024.

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

R-22-01-06 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE 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

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 has 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 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 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 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.

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

R-22-01-07 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO PROVISIONALLY APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 22 FROM R.H. WHITE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INCORPORATED, 41 CENTRAL STREET, AUBURN, MASSACHUSETTS, WHICH INCLUDES CHARGES AND CREDITS AS PART OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF) PROJECT NO. 2013-0140, PENDING FINAL APPROVAL BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH) FOR A CREDIT AMOUNT OF ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY NINE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY EIGHT CENTS (\$186,639.78), AND MAYOR KEITH HEDRICK BE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE CHANGE ORDER NO. 22 UPON FINAL APPROVAL BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DPH

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2017, Groton Utilities received authorization to award a construction contract under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to R.H. White in the amount of \$43,901,043 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, the Water Treatment Facility Improvements program is an approved State of Connecticut Drinking Water State Revolving Fund project; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2017, Groton Utilities received authorization to award a construction contract under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to R.H. White in the amount of \$43,901,043 from the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, on April 11, 2017, Mayor Galbraith executed a Notice to Award; and

WHEREAS, at its Special meeting held on April 19, 2017, the Groton Utilities Commission approved awarding contract DWSRF 2013-0590011a for Water Filtration Plant Improvements including, but not limited to construction of a new DAF/GAC filter building, manganese contactors, intermediate and high lift pumping systems, water storage tanks, yard piping, utility piping, renovation of the existing Water Filtration Plant as described in the plans and specifications to R.H. White Construction Company, Incorporated, 41 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts in its low bid amount of Forty-Three Million, Nine Hundred One Thousand, Forty-Three Dollars and No Cents (\$43,901,043.00) and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur and Mayor Marian Galbraith be authorized to execute the contract award; and

WHEREAS, at its Special meeting held on April 24, 2017, the Mayor and Council awarded contract DWSRF 2013-0590011a for Water Filtration Plant Improvements including, but not limited to construction of a new DAF/GAC filter building, manganese contactors, intermediate

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and high lift pumping systems, water storage tanks, yard piping, utility piping, renovation of the existing Water Filtration Plant as described in the plans and specifications to R.H. White Construction Company, Incorporated, 41 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts, in its low bid amount of Forty-Three Million, Nine Hundred One Thousand, Forty-Three Dollars and No Cents (\$43,901,043.00) and Mayor Marian Galbraith be authorized to execute the contract award; and

WHEREAS, at its Special meeting held on April 24, 2017, the Mayor and Council further resolved to concur with the letter dated April 7, 2017, from the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health (DPH) approving an allocation of up to 10.1% contingency for the construction contract costs associated with the contract award with R.H. White Construction Company, Incorporated, 41 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts in the amount not to exceed Four Million Four Hundred Thirty-Four Thousand Five Dollars and No Cents (\$4,434,005.00); and

WHEREAS, upon completion of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Financial Assistance Application Revised/Updated Project Costs Overview form as required by the State, it was requested the contingency amount be amended from 10.1% to 10.77% to cover the cost for unforeseen activities relating to environmental remediation and building rehabilitation work; and

WHEREAS, in a letter dated June 30, 2017, the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health (DPH) approved the amended construction contingencies; and

WHEREAS, the total project costs remain unchanged from the approved Fifty Four Million Dollars and No Cents (\$54,000,000.00); and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on August 7, 2017, the Mayor and Council amended the construction contingencies for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project from 10.1%, as originally approved by Resolution R-17-4-81, to 10.77% in an amount not to exceed Four Million, Seven Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand, Three Hundred Thirty Dollars and No Cents (\$4,728,330.00) to concur with a letter dated June 30, 2017 from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH); and

WHEREAS, the changes include: relocation of the finished water transmission main in the south road, revisions to the locker room, deletion of specialty furnishings, additional grating at East end of the existing pipe gallery, Silo roof edging, additional pressure transmitters, Manganese Contactor additional injection and sampling locations, additional pipe supports in the Manganese Pipe Gallery; and the following credits: Remove dispose and abandon yard piping, remove dispose and abandon AC pipe, Utility Company back charges, Earth excavation for Additional test pits, Earth excavation below grade, gravel borrow, miscellaneous concrete, crack repair vertical, crack repair overhead, crack repair horizontal, spall repair, and sheeting and shoring left in place and less encapsulated required than was planned; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on December 15, 2021, the Groton Utility Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to provisionally approve Change Order NO. 22 from R.H. White Construction Company, Incorporated, 41 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts, which includes charges and credits as part of the State of

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Connecticut, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project NO. 2013-0140, pending final approval by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health (DPH) for a credit amount of One Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars and Seventy Eight Cents (\$186,639.78), and Mayor Keith Hedrick be authorized to execute the Change Order NO. 22 upon final approval by the State of Connecticut DPH, 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 provisionally approve Change Order NO. 22 from R.H. White Construction Company, Incorporated, 41 Central Street, Auburn, Massachusetts, which includes charges and credits as part of the State of Connecticut, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project NO. 2013-0140, pending final approval by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health (DPH) for a credit amount of One Hundred Eighty Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Nine Dollars and Seventy Eight Cents (\$186,639.78), and Mayor Keith Hedrick be authorized to execute the Change Order NO. 22 upon final approval by the State of Connecticut DPH.

Motion made by Councilor Paul Norris, second by Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot. All in favor, 6-0-0. 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 8:33pm.