



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2021

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Council Chambers
and Zoom

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

Public Meetings will be available in person, on Groton Municipal Television Channel 2 or on Zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/98423052366?pwd=UDRnL3E5Y2lCNFhOQU5TUUnBGRTJ4UT09> Meeting ID: 984 2305 2366 Passcode: 025171

I. ROLL CALL

Present - 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

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

AFL-CIO Worker's Memorial

Representative for the Worker's Memorial event is introduced, Maggie, and spoke of the event. She thanked Parks & Rec for their support as well as noted how beautiful the park was. She presented a picture of Chief Spellman and Michael Knoll from the Electric Boat Fire Department saluting the flag that was raised that day. This picture is presented as a token of their appreciation to the Mayor, the Council and the city.

Mayor Keith Hedrick noted that it is also National Public Work Week.

Mayor Keith Hedrick made a motion to amend the agenda to move Resolution R-21-5-73, R-21-5-74 & R-21-5-75 to directly after Recognition, Awards & Memorials.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot moved, Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded. Motion carried to amend the agenda.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

R-21-5-73 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE RESIGNATION OF POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL J. SPELLMAN FROM THE CITY OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE MAY 21, 2021

WHEREAS, Police Chief Michael J. Spellman has informed the Mayor of his intent to leave his position with the City of Groton Police Department by reason of resignation effective May 21, 2021;

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council accept and approve the resignation of Police Chief Michael J. Spellman from the City of Groton Police Department effective May 21, 2021.

Councilor Paul Norris moved, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot seconded to approve R-21-5-73.

Chief Spellman spoke of his time on the police force, being an honor to serve the City of Groton and what a great community it is. He also mentions the great leaders that are following him and carrying the city forward. He thanked everyone for the support throughout his time.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot thanked Chief Spellman for his service to the city.

Councilor Rashaad Carter speaks to Chief Spellman and the respect he has for him.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield thanked Chief Spellman for his service.

Mayor Keith Hedrick thanked Chief Spellman for his service to the city and the solid foundation he set for the future leaders.

Councilor Lisa McCabe thanked Chief Spellman for his service.

All in favor, motion carried to accept and approve the resignation of Chief Michael Spellman.

**R-21-5-74 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE
APPOINTMENT OF JOHN E. JENKINS AS INTERIM POLICE CHIEF IN
THE CITY OF GROTON, EFFECTIVE MAY 17, 2021**

WHEREAS, Police Chief Michael J. Spellman has given his notice of retirement with his last day to be May 21, 2021; and

WHEREAS, John E. Jenkins has successfully served in the position of Captain since July 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor recommends the selection of John E. Jenkins as the Interim Police Chief for the City of Groton:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of John E. Jenkins as Interim Police Chief for the City of Groton, effective May 17, 2021.

Councilor Lisa McCabe moved motion, Councilor Stephen Sheffield seconded, motion carried to approve R-21-5-74.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot congratulated John Jenkins on his promotion to Interim Police Chief.

Councilor Rashaad Carter congratulated John Jenkins on his promotion to Interim Police Chief and his happy to continue to work with him.

Councilor Paul Norris wished John Jenkins the best of luck in his new role.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Megan Peters administered the Oath of Office to John Jenkins.

John Jenkins is pinned by his wife.

Newly appointed Chief John Jenkins thanked the Mayor and City Council for the opportunity. He thanked his mentors and all those who have supported and helped him along the way.

R-21-5-75 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA A. LIETEAU AS POLICE CAPTAIN FOR THE CITY OF GROTON, EFFECTIVE MAY 17, 2021

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for a Captain in the City of Groton Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Patricia A. Lieteau has successfully served in the positions of Police Officer and Sergeant since April 2014; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor recommends the selection of Patricia A. Lieteau as the Captain for the City of Groton;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Patricia A. Lieteau as Captain for the City of Groton, effective May 17, 2021.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot moved motion, Councilor Stephen Sheffield seconded, motion carried to approve R-21-5-75.

Deputy Gweneviere Depot spoke to Patricia Lieteau being the first female Captain in the City and thanked her for serving the city.

Councilor Rashaad Carter spoke to Patricia Lieteau of how happy he is to see her being promoted to Captain. He commends her leadership & the respect she has of others.

All in favor, motion carried.

Clerk Megan Peters administered the Oath of Office to Patricia Lieteau.

Patricia Lieteau is pinned by her husband and daughter.

Newly appointed Captain Patricia Lieteau spoke and thanked everyone for this great opportunity. She than thanked those who have inspired her as well as the City of Groton.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

V. 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 or join via Zoom. 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.

VI. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 19, 2021 Budget Public Hearing – approved.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield moved, Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded, motion carried.

April 19, 2021 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting – approved.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere moved, Councilor Stephen Sheffield seconded, motion carried.

April 19, 2021 Mayor and Council Meeting – approved.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere moved, Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded, motion carried.

April 26, 2021 Committee of the Whole Meeting – approved.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere moved, Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded, motion carried.

May 10, 2021 Special Mayor and Council Meeting – approved.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere moved, Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded, motion carried.

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Paul Norris – City Clean-up Day on April 24th and the Economic Development Community Commission Meeting on April 5th. Both were great events and great opportunities for residents to be heard and get involved.

Councilor Lisa McCabe – Nothing to report.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield attended Deb Patrick's retirement party at Washington Park.

Councilor Christine Piazza – Nothing to report.

Councilor Rashaad Carter – Nothing to report.

Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot – City Clean-up Day on April 24th, she encouraged residents to help to clean up the trash when you are out in the city as most trash is not caused from residents, but actually from the wind.

Food Box Distribution on April 27th, she encouraged anyone who needs food to follow the City of Groton Facebook page for future dates as well as anyone who needs food outside of the distribution dates to reach out to the Mayor & Council for assistance.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

Worker’s Memorial Event on April 28th, she encourages people to go to his event, it is at 6am on April 28th each year. If you are unable to go for the event, please visit the memorial any day and honor those and their families who it represents.

National Day of Prayer on May 6th, she appreciated this event as it is attended by many different pastors from many different churches and religious establishments.

Deb Patrick’s retirement picnic, she wishes her well in her retirement.

Mayor Keith Hedrick also reported that we will release additional Food Box Distribution dates when they are announced.

Ledge Light Health District is working with Branford Manor to bring vaccines to Branford Manor on a monthly basis. Open to anyone but appointments will take place at Branford Manor. Contact Ledge Light for an appointment.

IX. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

Committee Assignments – What Committee would each Councilor like to be chair of? Each Councilor is to reach out to Mayor Keith Hedrick with their preferences so they can be assigned. They will receive past information on their committee once they are determined.

X. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

R-21-5-76 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE CITY OF GROTON BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 pursuant to the City of Groton Charter, Article VI, Section 2(c).

Councilor Stephen Sheffield moved and Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded motion to approve R-21-5-76. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-19-5-77 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 2017 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY OF GROTON RETIREMENT BOARD”

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

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

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 2017 at their meeting held on February 11, 2021; 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 2017 with the same COLA.

Effective Date This Ordinance shall become effective on or about July 1, 2020.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was published in The Day, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Groton on April 7, 2021 and Friday, April 8, 2021;

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 2017 as Recommended by the City of Groton Retirement Board”.

Councilor Christine Piazza moved and Councilor Stephen Sheffield seconded motion to approve R-21-5-77. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

**R-21-5-78 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL FINALLY
APPROVE “AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FEES FOR BUILDING
PERMITS, AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 190”**

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has adopted the Connecticut State Building Code; and

WHEREAS, said code proposes that the fee schedule for permits be calculated to defray municipal costs of administering the code; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was published in The Day, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Groton on April 7, 2021 and Friday, April 8, 2021;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council finally approve “An Ordinance Establishing Fees for Building Permits, an amendment to Ordinance 190” and that this Ordinance be effective upon passage.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

BUILDING PERMIT FEES

All building permit fees shall be based on the estimated value of construction in accordance with the current Connecticut State Building Code. The fees shall be:

First \$1,000.00	\$40.00
Each additional \$1,000.00	\$15.00

The permit fees for electrical, plumbing, mechanical, fire protection shall be calculated at the same rate as the building permit fees, except that there will not be a certificate of occupancy fee.

The fee for a demolition permit is based on the cost of demolition. The fees shall be:

First \$1,000.00	\$40.00
Each additional \$1,000.00	\$15.00

Requests for non-permit related inspections or letters of approval shall be assessed a fee of \$50 per request per building and shall be paid prior to the inspection or the issuance of the letter.

Note: An additional fee is added to cover the mandated State Education Fee. The fee will be calculated based on the amount set forth by State Statute 29-251c, as amended from time to time, at the time of application.

CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FEES

All building permits that require the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy shall be assessed an additional fee of 2% of the associated building permit fee.

A Temporary Certificate of Occupancy will only be issued for commercial work at the discretion of the Building Official. The fee for a temporary certificate of occupancy shall be 2% of the associated building permit fee and shall be in addition to the certificate of occupancy fee. Said fee shall be paid in full prior to scheduling of the inspection for a temporary certificate of occupancy.

REFUND POLICY FOR PERMITS

<u>Status of Application</u>	<u>Amount of Refund</u>
No Action taken on application	Total fee less \$40.00 administrative fee
Plan Review performed	75% of Total permit fee but not less than the \$40 administrative fee
Plan Review complete-permit issued	No Refund

WAIVER OF FEES

No City fee shall be charged for any application as may be submitted by City agencies, boards, commissions or authorities. The Council may, by resolution, waive City fees for nonprofit organizations upon written request by the nonprofit organization.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

REVIEW AND EVALUATION

The above fee schedule shall be reviewed and evaluated by the City Building and Zoning Official at least every five years following the effective date of the Ordinance and any future changes to the fee schedule as set forth herein shall be adopted by resolution of the City Council after receipt of recommendation of the Building and Zoning Official.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the building permit fee schedule shall be reviewed and evaluated by the City Building and Zoning Official at least every five years following the effective date of the Ordinance and any future changes to the fee schedule as set forth herein shall be adopted by resolution of the City Council after receipt of recommendation of the Building and Zoning Official.

Councilor Rashaad Carter moved and Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-78. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-79 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WAIVE THE BID REQUIREMENT AND AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE THE CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH HONKERS LLC, 14 DIMMOCK ROAD, WATERFORD, CONNECTICUT FOR SERVICE FROM JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022 FOR THE CONTINUATION OF GOOSE CONTROL SERVICE AT CITY PARKS FOR A COST OF \$445.00 PER WEEK

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Parks & Recreation Department utilized Honkers LLC in past years for a very successful goose control program in its parks, especially at Eastern Point Beach and Washington Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Parks & Recreation Department solicited other quotes for this very specialized service and received only one other at an increased cost over Honkers LLC and outside of our service area;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council waive the bid requirement and authorize and approve the contract extension with Honkers LLC, 14 Dimmock Road, Waterford, Connecticut for service from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for the continuation of goose control service at City Parks for a cost of \$445.00 per week.

Councilor Paul Norris moved and Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded motion to approve R-21-5-79. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-80 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF A MEMORIAL BENCH AT EASTERN POINT BEACH IN HONOR OF RICHARD WEISS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF BEACH AND PARKS MEMORIALS, AS APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

WHEREAS, Pamela Smith has requested that a memorial bench be placed at Eastern Point Beach to honor her dad's memory; and

WHEREAS, Richard Weiss lived on Country Club Rd for 49 years and walked at the beach almost daily. He was a Navy Veteran and was so proud when a submarine passed by the beach; and

WHEREAS, the request was made to the Director of Parks and Recreation and has received the approval of the Beach and Parks Committee;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the request for a memorial bench at Eastern Point Beach in honor of Richard Weiss in accordance with the Procedures for Consideration of Beach and Parks Memorials, as approved by the Mayor and Council.

Councilor Lisa McCabe moved and Deputy Mayor Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-80. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-81 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT A DONATION FROM THE SANDBOX FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,646.00 (FIVE THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED FORTY SIX DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) TO BENEFIT THE BEACH VOLLEYBALL COURT AREA LOCATED IN WASHINGTON PARK

WHEREAS, The Sandbox Foundation has reached out to the City of Groton Parks & Recreation Department requesting to donate the materials and supplies needed to renovate the beach volleyball court area at Washington Park; and

WHEREAS, their mission is to continue to grow the sport of beach volleyball, and the wonderful community it creates, by making high-quality beach volleyball experiences and opportunities accessible to everyone; and

WHEREAS, The Sandbox Foundation would work with the City's Park & Recreation Department's team to provide an appropriate level of manpower to plan, execute, implement and maintain the project. They are confident that annual maintenance of the beach volleyball area, supported by The Sandbox Foundation, will be minimized and the project timeframe would be July/August 2021;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council accept a donation from The Sandbox Foundation in the amount of \$5,646.00 (Five Thousand, Six Hundred Forty Six Dollars and No Cents) to benefit the beach volleyball court area located in Washington Park.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved and Councilor Stephen Sheffield seconded motion to approve R-21-5-81. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

R-21-5-82 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL PROVISIONALLY AUTHORIZE CITY OF GROTON MAYOR TO WAIVE THE BID PROCESS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NINIGRET PARTNERS LLC, 11 SOUTH ANGELL STREET, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, TO CONDUCT A SERIES OF VISIONING EXERCISES WITH COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO IDENTIFY TEMPORARY AND PHASED IMPROVEMENTS TO STREETScape AND PUBLIC SPACE ALONG THAMES STREET; COLLABORATE WITH PROPERTY OWNERS TO CREATE PROGRAMING FOR UNDERUTILIZED AND VACANT SPACE; AND TO DEVELOP PLACEMAKING DESIGNS AND A COMMUNITY-BASED STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN; FOR A TOTAL COST OF THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$30,000), TO BE PAID FROM PRESERVATION CT VIBRANT COMMUNITIES GRANT AWARD OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS(\$25,000), AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CITY OF GROTON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$5,000)

WHEREAS, the Department of Planning and Economic Development will collaborate with community stakeholders in a series of visioning exercises designed to identify and be implemented as temporary improvements to streetscape and public space along Thames Street; and

WHEREAS, historic, economic, and generational dynamics have caused Thames Street to suffer disinvestment. Key concerns include the number of vacant buildings, underutilized space, consideration of climate change and sea level rise, parking, through traffic safety, and walkability/ bikeability; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Thames Street Promenade Report, identifies strategies to revitalize Thames Street and maintain its viability. Strategies include leveraging Thames Street by maximizing its value as a walkable historic coastal village; and enhancing the waterfront to become an amenity that will draw people to Thames Street; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Plan of Conservation and Development, Section 2.3 Improve Placemaking, recommends that the City of Groton use placemaking strategies to project a memorable image. The plan emphasizes the importance of promoting community assets and activities that contribute to the overall “sense of place”; and

WHEREAS, the 2020 Groton Economic Development Strategy’s overarching goals include shaping Groton’s pockets of economic activity into places where people connect. The strategy looks at the relationship between people and place, encouraging the empowerment of communities to create a future that realizes the full social, economic, and cultural potential of the City; and

WHEREAS, Ninigret Partners was the consultant that completed the 2019 Thames Street Promenade Report; and

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

WHEREAS, The Department of Planning and Economic Development is satisfied with Ninigret Partners work during the Thames Street Reconnection Initiative and the resulting the Phase 1 high-level analysis report (Thames Street Promenade Report). Department staff would like to utilize Ninigret Partners in Phase 2 development of placemaking designs, action plan and community engagement (Visioning Thames Center); and

WHEREAS, Ninigret Partners provides the added benefit of valuable local experience with the Thames Street neighborhood and stakeholders granting considerable savings in time and project expense; and

WHEREAS, the City applied for, and was awarded, a Vibrant Communities Grant from Preservation CT to undertake community visioning to revitalize the Thames Street neighborhood, part of the Groton Bank National Register District. The Grant Award will be utilized for consultant services to: engage community stakeholders in visioning exercises to ensure that placemaking designs are responsive to community needs; Develop placemaking designs for streetscape and underutilized space along Thames Street; Design vibrant, welcoming public spaces that complement the diversity of the areas land uses; Propose pilot projects/ pop-up events that can be executed and tested to verify criteria for placemaking goals; Develop an action plan and project budget for Summer-Fall 2021 implementation; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of the Grant requires a match of \$5,000.00 which will be attained through the Economic Development FY 2021 Operating Budget;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council provisionally authorize City of Groton Mayor to waive the bid process and enter into a contract with Ninigret Partners LLC, 11 South Angell Street, Providence, Rhode Island, to conduct a series of visioning exercises with community stakeholders to identify temporary and phased improvements to streetscape and public space along Thames Street; collaborate with property owners to create programing for underutilized and vacant space; and to develop placemaking designs and a community-based strategic action plan; for a total cost of thirty thousand dollars and zero cents (\$30,000), to be paid from Preservation CT Vibrant Communities Grant award of twenty-five thousand dollars and zero cents(\$25,000), as well as contributions from the City of Groton Economic Development Department in the amount of five thousand dollars and zero cents (\$5,000).

Councilor Stephen Sheffield moved and Deputy Mayor Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-82. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-83 RESOLUTION 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 EARTHLIGHT TECHNOLOGIES, LLC., 92 WEST ROAD, ELLINGTON,

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

CONNECTICUT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FIFTY FOUR THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FORTY TWO DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$254,642.00) INCLUDING A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY, FOR PURCHASE OF AND CONVERSION TO LIGHT EMITTING DIODE (LED) TECHNOLOGY FIXTURES FOR THE TWO SPORTS FIELDS, BASKETBALL COURT, AND PARKING AREA FOR WASHINGTON PARK'S COMPLEX AS A NON-BUDGETED PROJECT TO BE PAID FROM REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE (RGGI) FUNDS

WHEREAS, as part of the City of Groton Parks and Recreation project, Management recommends upgrading the outdated lights to the new LED technology; and

WHEREAS, this project includes material, installation, labor, and hazardous material disposal; and

WHEREAS, Earthlight Technologies, LLC is a State preferred contractor; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on April 21, 2021, 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 Earthlight Technologies, LLC., 92 West Road, Ellington, Connecticut for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Forty Two Dollars and No Cents (\$254,642.00) including a ten percent (10%) contingency, for purchase of and conversion to Light Emitting Diode (LED) Technology fixtures for the two sports fields, basketball court, and parking area for Washington Park's Complex as a non-budgeted project to be paid from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds 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 Earthlight Technologies, LLC., 92 West Road, Ellington, Connecticut for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Four Thousand Six Hundred Forty Two Dollars and No Cents (\$254,642.00) including a ten percent (10%) contingency, for purchase of and conversion to Light Emitting Diode (LED) Technology fixtures for the two sports fields, basketball court, and parking area for Washington Park's Complex as a non-budgeted project to be paid from Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds.

Councilor Christine Piazza moved and Deputy Mayor Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-83. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

Councilor Christine Piazza questioned the osprey nest located on the light post and if this was going to be disrupted by replacing the light. The osprey nest will be moved according to DEEP requirements and returned to its location once the lights are replaced.

R-21-5-84 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER FOR TWO HUNDRED TWENTY SEVEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED ELEVEN DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$227,411.00) TO BHI ENERGY-D AND D POWER, 40 SEQUIN DRIVE, GLASTONBURY, CONNECTICUT, AND ALLOW A TEN PERCENT (10%) PROJECT CONTINGENCY OF TWENTY TWO THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY ONE DOLLARS AND TEN CENTS (\$22,741.10) FOR A TOTAL PROJECT COST NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO DOLLARS AND TEN CENTS (\$250,152.10) FOR INSTALLATION OF THE ELECTRIC BOAT – SOUTH YARD ASSEMBLY BUILDING 35 KV SUB TRANSMISSION POWER LINES TO BE INSTALLED USING THE MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT (MSA) WITH BHI ENERGY AND THEIR LINE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY TO BE PAID BY CUSTOMER FUNDS ALREADY ON DEPOSIT TO COVER COSTS FOR THIS WORK

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities entered into a Master Service Agreement with BHI Energy, and D& D Power is the construction subsidiary of BHI Energy; and

WHEREAS, The spacer cable assembly installation is to provide two(2) 35kV lines rated for nearly 30MW to a new Electric Boat power receiving station on Eastern Point Road named the South Yard Assembly Building(SYAB); and

WHEREAS, one line will start on Benham Road and will proceed west on Nicholas Avenue and then north on Eastern Point Road. The other will be installed from an existing Electric Boat substation located at Chester Street and will proceed south on Eastern Point Road to the new power receiving station; and

WHEREAS, This work will be funded under a Sales Order for the Electric Boat South Yard Assembly Building Project, for which a Purchase Order was issued to Groton Utilities in May 2020; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on April 21, 2021, the Groton Utilities- Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order for Two Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eleven Dollars and No Cents (\$227,411.00) to BHI Energy-D and D Power, 40 Sequin Drive, Glastonbury, Connecticut, and allow a ten percent (10%) project contingency of Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty One Dollars and Ten Cents (\$22,741.10) for a total project cost not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Dollars and Ten Cents (\$250,152.10) for installation of the Electric Boat – South Yard Assembly Building 35 kV sub transmission power lines to be installed using the Master

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

Service Agreement (MSA) with BHI Energy and their line construction company to be paid by customer funds already on deposit to cover costs for this work 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 for Two Hundred Twenty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eleven Dollars and No Cents (\$227,411.00) to BHI Energy-D and D Power, 40 Sequin Drive, Glastonbury, Connecticut, and allow a ten percent (10%) project contingency of Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Forty One Dollars and Ten Cents (\$22,741.10) for a total project cost not to exceed Two Hundred Fifty Thousand One Hundred Fifty Two Dollars and Ten Cents (\$250,152.10) for installation of the Electric Boat – South Yard Assembly Building 35 kV sub transmission power lines to be installed using the Master Service Agreement (MSA) with BHI Energy and their line construction company to be paid by customer funds already on deposit to cover costs for this work.

Councilor Rashaad Carter moved and Deputy Mayor Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-84. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-85 RESOLUTION THAT MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS AS APPROPRIATE TO BLU ROC, 15 ATWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 301, NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED NINETY TWO THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHT DOLLARS AND SIX CENTS (\$2,392,148.06) INCLUDING A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY AS AN EVERSOURCE SELECTED CONTRACTOR, TO PERFORM ALL LAND CLEARING, CIVIL WORK AND PAD CONSTRUCTION FOR THE VEGETATION CLEARING OF THE 1410/1280/400 TRANSMISSION LINES, TO BE PAID BY THE TRANSMISSION LINES 1410/1280/400 / BUDDINGTON SUBSTATION FY 2021 BOND FUND PROJECT

WHEREAS, this work is part of the ISO NE required upgrade to the 1410/1280/400 Transmission Lines; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2020, Groton Utilities entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Eversource allowing the use of shared preferred vendors to save time and money, and Blu Roc is an Eversource preferred vendor; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held April 21, 2021, the Groton Utilities Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue purchase orders as appropriate to Blu Roc, 15 Atwood Drive, Suite 301, Northampton, Massachusetts for a total not to exceed Two Million Three Hundred Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Eight Dollars and Six Cents (\$2,392,148.06) including a ten percent (10%) contingency as an Eversource selected contractor, to perform all land clearing, civil work and pad construction for the vegetation clearing of the 1410/1280/400 transmission lines, to be paid by the Transmission Lines

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

1410/1280/400 / Buddington Substation FY 2021 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 authorize Groton Utilities Management to issue purchase orders as appropriate to Blu Roc, 15 Atwood Drive, Suite 301, Northampton, Massachusetts for a total not to exceed Two Million Three Hundred Ninety Two Thousand One Hundred Forty Eight Dollars and Six Cents (\$2,392,148.06) including a ten percent (10%) contingency as an Eversource selected contractor, to perform all land clearing, civil work and pad construction for the vegetation clearing of the 1410/1280/400 transmission lines, to be paid by the Transmission Lines 1410/1280/400 / Buddington Substation FY 2021 bond fund project.

Councilor Paul Norris moved and Deputy Mayor Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-85. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-86 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS, 213 COURT STREET, MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUPPORT SERVICES TO ADDRESS (POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYL (PCB) REGULATORY COMPLIANCE FOR PCB REMOVAL AT THE WATER FILTRATION PLANT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED FIVE THOUSAND FORTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$205,040.00) INCLUDING A TEN PERCENT (10%) CONTINGENCY AS A NON-BUDGETED ITEM TO BE PAID FROM RETAINED EARNINGS IN THE APPROVED FY 2021 WATER BUDGET

WHEREAS, PCB remediation is required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS, the previous purchase order to Environmental Partners in support of the Groton Utilities Water Treatment Plant has been exhausted; and

WHEREAS, this purchase order is requested to satisfy the commitment to the EPA, and \$186,400.00 is needed to initiate Phase II; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on April 21, 2021, the Groton Utilities Commission-Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order to Environmental Partners, 213 Court Street, Middletown, Connecticut for environmental support services to address (Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Regulatory Compliance for PCB removal at the Water Filtration plant for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Five Thousand Forty Dollars and No Cents (\$205,040.00) including a ten percent (10%) contingency as a non-budgeted item to be paid from retained earnings in the Approved FY 2021 Water Budget, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation it concur;

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order to Environmental Partners, 213 Court Street, Middletown, Connecticut for environmental support services to address (Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Regulatory Compliance for PCB removal at the Water Filtration plant for an amount not to exceed Two Hundred Five Thousand Forty Dollars and No Cents (\$205,040.00) including a ten percent (10%) contingency as a non-budgeted item to be paid from retained earnings in the Approved FY 2021 Water Budget.

Councilor Lisa McCabe moved and Deputy Mayor Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-86. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-87 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ENTER INTO A FIVE YEAR CONTRACT AND ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO FIRST CHOICE SAFETY SOLUTIONS, LLC, 800 FLANDERS ROAD, BUILDING 11, UNIT 11, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT FOR ONE YEAR OF SAFETY CONSULTING SERVICES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED TWENTY DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$138,320.00), TO BE PAID FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022 ELECTRIC AND WATER OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS AND THAT THE DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THE CONTRACT

WHEREAS, an RFP was sent out in January for Environmental Health and Safety Consulting Services and seven responses were received; and

WHEREAS, responses were carefully reviewed by the Groton Utilities Safety Team designated members and three companies were selected for interview; one company withdrew prior to the interview date; and

WHEREAS, based on interview scores and group consensus, the recommendation is to enter into a five (5) year contract with First Choice Safety Solutions, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the price breakdown for the five year contract is as follows:

Year 1	32 hrs/ 52 weeks	\$133,120.00
Year 2	32 hrs/ 52 weeks	\$ 135,782.20
Year 3	32 hrs/ 52 weeks	\$138,511.36
Year 4	32 hrs/ 52 weeks	\$141,290.24
Year 5	32 hrs/ 52 weeks	\$144,119.04

An additional \$5200.00 will be added each year to cover mileage (Fifty Two Weeks at \$100.00); and

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on April 21, 2021, the Groton Utilities- Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to enter into a five year contract and issue a purchase order to First Choice Safety Solutions, LLC, 800 Flanders Road, Building 11, Unit 11, Mystic, Connecticut for one year of Safety Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Dollars and No Cents (\$138,320.00), to be paid from funds available in the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 Electric and Water Operating and Capital Budgets and that the Director of Utilities be authorized to sign the contract 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 enter into a five year contract and issue a purchase order to First Choice Safety Solutions, LLC, 800 Flanders Road, Building 11, Unit 11, Mystic, Connecticut for one year of Safety Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed One Hundred Thirty Eight Thousand Three Hundred Twenty Dollars and No Cents (\$138,320.00), to be paid from funds available in the proposed fiscal year 2021-2022 Electric and Water Operating and Capital Budgets and that the Director of Utilities be authorized to sign the contract.

Deputy Mayor Depot moved and Councilor Stephen Sheffield seconded motion to approve R-21-5-87. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-21-5-88 RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CITY OF GROTON, CONNECTICUT GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS NOT EXCEEDING \$14,200,000

RESOLVED:

Section 1. Not exceeding \$14,200,000 General Obligation Refunding Bonds (the "Refunding Bonds") of the City of Groton, Connecticut (the "City") or so much thereof as the Mayor and the City Treasurer shall determine to be necessary, are hereby authorized to be issued to refund all or any portion of any one or more series of the City's outstanding general obligation bonds, including, without limitation, Clean Water Fund Obligations and/or Drinking Water Program Obligations of the City issued under the State of Connecticut Clean Water Fund/Drinking Water Program (collectively, the "Refunded Bonds") to achieve net present value savings and/or to restructure debt service payments of the City. The Refunding Bonds shall be issued and sold in either a negotiated underwriting or a competitive offering, and at such time or times as the Mayor and the City Treasurer shall determine to be most opportune for the City. If the Refunding Bonds are sold in a negotiated underwriting, the Mayor and the City Treasurer shall approve and designate the managing underwriter. The Refunding Bonds shall mature on such date or dates and in such amounts as shall be determined by the Mayor and the City Treasurer, in accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and shall bear interest payable at such rate or rates as shall be determined by the Mayor and the City Treasurer; provided, however, that no Refunding Bonds shall mature later than the final maturity date of the last maturity of any Refunded Bonds being refunded by such series. The Refunding Bonds shall be executed in the

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

name and on behalf of the City by the manual or facsimile signatures of the Mayor and the City Treasurer, bear the City seal or a facsimile thereof, and be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Bond Counsel. The Refunding Bonds shall be general obligations of the City and each of the Refunding Bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the City are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The aggregate denominations, form, details, and other particulars thereof, including the terms of any rights of redemption and redemption prices, the designation of the certifying, paying, registrar and transfer agent, shall be subject to the approval of the Mayor and the City Treasurer in accordance with the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended from time to time. The net proceeds of the sale of the Refunding Bonds, after payment of underwriter's discount and other costs of issuance, shall be deposited in an irrevocable escrow account in an amount sufficient to pay the principal of, interest and redemption premium, if any, due on the Refunded Bonds to maturity or earlier redemption pursuant to the plan of refunding. The Mayor and the City Treasurer are authorized to appoint an escrow agent and other professionals and to execute and deliver any and all escrow, investment and related agreements necessary to provide for such payments on the Refunded Bonds and to provide for the transactions contemplated hereby. The Mayor and the City Treasurer, are authorized to prepare and distribute preliminary and final Official Statements of the City for use in connection with the offering and sale of the Refunding Bonds, and they are hereby authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the City a Bond Purchase Agreement, a Continuing Disclosure Agreement, a Tax Regulatory Agreement and such other agreements and documents necessary or desirable for the issuance of the Refunding Bonds and the payment of the Refunded Bonds. The City may issue taxable bonds as the issuance of such taxable bonds is hereby determined to be in the public interest.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective until January 1, 2022.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize the authorization, issuance and sale of city of Groton, Connecticut general obligation refunding bonds not exceeding \$14,200,000.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield and Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot seconded motion to approve R-21-5-88. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the COW meeting. Motion carried.

Councilor Stephen Sheffield requested clarification on the refinancing of bonds.

Deputy Mayor Gwen Depot requested that the Director of Finance provide further explanation of the refinancing at the next Committee of the Whole Meeting.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Enter into Executive Session pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6)(A)

-To discuss Personnel – Fire Department

-To discuss the Sale or Purchase of Real Estate

Mayor & the Council came out of Executive Session at 9:20pm.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
AGENDA
MAY 17, 2021**

XII. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

We came out of executive session at 9:20 pm. The motion to adjourn was made:

Councilor Paul Norris moved and Councilor Lisa McCabe seconded motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Keith Hedrick adjourned meeting at 9:21pm.

APPROVED: 06/07/2021

ATTEST:

Megan Peters
City Clerk