



Minutes
July 19th 2023
Special Meeting

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call ~ 5:35 pm**
 - a. Commissioners: Matthew Longino, Fallyn Fonville-Smith, Nishant Sahoo, Margaret Hirsch
 - b. Liaisons: None
 - c. Staff: Cierra Patrick
 - d. Presenter/ Guest: None
- II. Introductions: None**
- III. Approval of Minutes: None**
- IV. Public Comments ~ 3 minutes per person: None**
- V. New Business: None**
- VI. Old Business:**
 - a. Economic Development Grant Programs:
 - i. Buford's Family Restaurant's Minor Façade Improvement Application
 - Discussion Notes:
 - a. Project is complete, application paperwork is done.
 - b. Applicant is in good stand with Groton's Tax Office and Groton Utilities.
 - c. Pending Approvals:
 - i. Final inspection and close out of the building permit for the sign.
 - ii. Confirmation of no pending litigations with either the business owner and property owner vs. the City of Groton
 - d. Upon resolve of pending approvals this application will be presented to the City Council with a recommendation for a reimbursement award of \$2403.51.
 - Motion to approve Buford's Family Restaurant's Minor Façade Improvement application with a recommended award amount of \$2403.51. Contingent upon the resolve of the pending approvals including the close out the sign permit with Building & Zoning Department and confirmation of no pending litigation against the City of Groton from the Finance Department.
 - a. Motion Presented by Matthew Longino
 - b. Seconded by Margaret Hirsch
 - c. Vote: 4-0-0 ~ Passes
 - b. Ribbon Cutting Celebration Research on July 27th
 - i. Ally on the Thames, Groton, has shown interest in having a ribbon cutting celebration.



- ii. In preparation for planning such events staff recommends commissioner to participate in the following events on July 27th
 - 1. GG at Home, Niantic ~ Eastern Chambers of Commerce
 - 2. Plants by the Thames, Mystic ~ Greater Mystic Chambers of Commerce
 - iii. Commission should keep in mind the potential partnerships with the above mentioned Chambers for support in planning/ advertising ribbon cutting celebrations of businesses located in the City of Groton.
- c. Small Business Funding Opportunities Follow-up
- i. Staff will share funding opportunity information via the Groton Business Update Newsletter and will coordinate presentations to the City Council on the following programs.
 - 1. SeCTer Rise
 - 2. WBDC Equity Grant
 - a. Round 7 of this grant will open August 14th offering women owned businesses \$2500-\$10,000 awards for growth plans
 - 3. CT Boost Fund
 - a. A low interest (4.5%) loan program for working capital
 - ii. Supreme Hot Dog, was recommended for the SeCTer Rise program, staff will follow up with business owner.

VII. Additions to Agenda:

- a. Discussion with the Greater Mystic Chambers of Commerce and Groton Utilities about the Brew Run was moved to the August 2nd regular meeting.
- b. Strategic Communication/ Branding Update:
 - i. Bridge Street Banners: staff is in the process of procuring replacements for bracket equipment.
 - ii. Wayfinding signs: ToG has a grant opportunity to install signs, however ToG does not want to utilize the City's branding colors.
 - iii. The Bridge St entrance sign received temporary repairs a few months back, in anticipation of replacing it with an updated sign that utilizes the City's brand Groton City; History in the Making

VIII. Public Comments: None

IX. Adjournment

Matthew Longino moved to adjourn meeting.

Seconded By Margaret Hirsch

4-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:57pm

Submitted by: Matthew Longino & Cierra Patrick