

**CITY OF GROTON
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MINUTES**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 1, 2009
7:00 PM**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and presided. He was joined on the dais by City Attorney Shafner and Finance Director Hillsberg. There were 27 electors present.

City Clerk Debra Patrick read the call of the meeting and the warning to electors.

All electors and citizens qualified to vote in the City of Groton Annual Budget Meeting are hereby notified and warned to assemble at the Annual Budget Meeting, City Municipal Building, 295 Meridian Street, Groton, Connecticut on Monday, June 1, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time, for the purpose of acting on the following matters:

WARNING TO ELECTORS

In accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended, only an elector of the City of Groton or a Citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally is liable to the City for taxes assessed against him/her on an assessment of not less than \$1,000.00 on the last completed Grand List of the City, or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person, a veteran, a widow or parent of a veteran, would be entitled to vote at this meeting.

Dated at Groton, Connecticut, this 20th day of May, 2009.

Dennis L. Popp, Mayor

CITY OF GROTON
REVISED PROPOSED BUDGETS
FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 – JUNE 30, 2010

GENERAL FUND ANTICIPATED REVENUES

Property taxes (at 4.135 mills), Interest and Lien Fees	\$5,557,211
Intergovernmental Revenues	5,340,986
Licenses and Permits	304,000
Intradepartmental Revenues	3,741,854
Miscellaneous Revenues	245,500
Operating Transfers In	0
Service Charge	128,100
Utilization of Fund Balance	<u>808,410</u>
Total General Fund Anticipated Revenues	\$16,126,061

GENERAL FUND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$1,727,967
Police Department	4,908,845
Fire Department	2,405,320
Public Works Department	3,090,637
Pollution Abatement	1,630,641
Parks and Recreation Department	1,037,088
Non-Departmental	106,305
Debt Service	1,104,258
Contingency	<u>115,000</u>
Total General Fund Appropriations	\$16,126,061

Item 1. To authorize the Water and Electric Departments to provide, at the discretion of the Utilities Commissioners, the following free services from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010:

- a. Water and electricity to Fort Griswold Park and Groton Monument House - Approximately \$2,700.00.
- b. Water and electricity to Bill Memorial Library – Approximately \$7,400.00.
- c. Illumination of the United States Flag during hours of darkness at the Groton Monument – Approximately \$300.00.
- d. Water and electricity to Washington Park – Approximately \$26,000.00.
- e. Water and electricity to Avery Copp Carriage House and Museum – Approximately \$1,500.00

Lisa M. Luck, 368 Thames Street moved **Hali Keeler, 45 Ramsdell Street** seconded a motion to approve **Item #1. Motion carried.**

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Item 2. To appropriate for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010 the sum for the accounts and purposes set forth in the proposed annual budget as published in full in *The Day* on May 18, 2009 and May 20, 2009.

Lorraine Scheetz, 52 Fleming Court moved **Anthony Timpano, 323 Benham Road** seconded a motion to approve **Item #2**.

Mayor Popp said this is an appropriation of \$16,126,061.00 which is \$110,786.00 less than last year causing a reduction of the mill rate from 4.30 to 4.135.

James Streeter, 64 Pleasant Street said while he was not against the bottom line of the budget he feels the City Council and the citizens should have a greater say in the budget process. He feels the City Charter has become outdated. He would like to see citizens have better access to the proposed budget books as well by having copies available at the libraries. He feels it should be made available for transparency purposes.

Hali Keeler of the Bill Memorial Library said she does have 2 copies available.

Mr. Streeter apologized for his mistaken belief regarding the availability of the book but he would like to have them available at the Groton Public Library also.

He said that the Council and Department Heads should have a meeting to go over their budgets. He said he can't support the budget for that reason. He feels it is time to establish a City Charter Revision Committee and will make that recommendation as a Councilor. He said if started soon it can be ready for the ballot in the next election.

Daniel Tompkins, 30 South Prospect Street said he was speaking as a resident and on behalf of the firefighters union. He said he can not support any budget that does not fully address the unsafe staffing issues that are present in the City of Groton. He said the reason given was that it would be cost prohibitive however after doing a quick analysis he found that non-unionized department heads were receiving raises of 4.6 %, 5%, 5.3%, 6% and 8%. He feels that money is not an issue and he will not support this budget.

Kevin Trejo, 536 L Shennecossett Road said he will not support the budget for many of the same reasons Mr. Streeter mentioned. He feels the budget should be available on the City web site without the disclaimer. He feels the public has a right to know who is getting raises and who is not.

George Swift, 808 Eastern Point Road took issue with remarks by Mr. Streeter regarding comparing the budgets of 1987 and present. He also does not believe that the department heads were not consulted.

Motion carried 21-4-0.

Item 3. To authorize the Mayor and Council to apply to the foregoing budget any excess of revenue over expenditures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009, and any anticipated revenues from other sources.

Anthony Timpano, 323 Benham Road moved **Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street** seconded a motion to approve **Item #3. Motion carried.**

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Item 4. To authorize the Water and Electric Departments to transfer to the City of Groton the sum of Three million seven hundred twelve thousand three hundred forty-nine dollars and no cents (\$3,712,349.00) to apply to the appropriations approved at this meeting for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, and to provide for the reimbursement for services furnished to the Utilities as set forth in the foregoing budget.

Marian Galbraith, 771 Shennecossett Road moved **Anthony Timpano, 323 Benham Road** seconded a motion to approve **Item #4. Motion carried.**

Item 5. To levy a tax, based on current list, sufficient when combined with the funds noted in Items 3 and 4 hereof, and other incomes to cover the appropriations approved at this meeting for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, said tax to be collected July 1, 2009. Note: It is the opinion of the Mayor that a four point one three five (4.135) mills tax would be sufficient, when combined with funds noted in Items 3 and 4 hereof, to finance the appropriations contained in Item 2 of the Call, and said Mayor recommends a **four point one three five mills tax.**

Marian Galbraith, 771 Shennecossett Road moved **Anthony Timpano, 323 Benham Road** seconded a motion to approve **Item #5. Motion carried 26-0-1.**

Item 6. To authorize the Treasurer of the City of Groton to borrow monies in anticipation of tax receipts, as required, for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Anthony Timpano, 323 Benham Road moved **Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street** seconded a motion to approve **Item # 6. Motion carried 26-0-1.**

Item 7. To authorize the Mayor and Council to transfer any surplus funds from one account to another as prescribed in Article V, Section 3 of the Charter, as may be warranted in their discretion for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010, provided that such transfer of funds does not result in exceeding the total amount of the appropriations made at this meeting.

Anthony Timpano, 323 Benham Road moved **George Swift, 808 Eastern Point Road** seconded a motion to approve **Item # 7. Motion carried.**

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Item 8. To approve the minutes of the following meetings:

David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue moved **Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street** seconded a motion to approve the City of Groton Annual Budget meeting minutes of June 2, 2008.

Lisa M. Luck, 368 Thames Street asked if the location of the meeting was correct on the minutes. She recalled being in Council Chambers not the auditorium.

Clerk Patrick said it was in Council Chambers.

Marian Galbraith, 771 Shennecossett Road moved **Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street** seconded to amend the minutes to reflect the change to Council Chambers. **Motion carried 26-0-1 as amended.**

Anthony Timpano, 323 Benham Road moved **Marian Galbraith, 771 Shennecossett Road** seconded a motion to approve the Special Freeman's meeting minutes of January 5, 2009.

Motion carried 26-0-1.

Item 9. To take any action on any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

There being no further action the Mayor called for a motion for adjournment.

II. ADJOURNMENT

David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue moved **Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street** seconded a motion to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Popp adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**