

**CITY OF GROTON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2012**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:30 PM

**Mayor Galbraith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.**

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Marian Galbraith, Deputy Mayor Celeste Duffy, Councilors David Hale, Keith Hedrick, Lawrence Gerrish, Amy Moncy, William Jervis, Treasurer Janice Waller-Brett, Finance Director Michael Hillsberg and City Clerk Debra Patrick.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 1 APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Galbraith said she wanted to keep up with necessary reappointments so that is why there are so many at once. She read the following appointments to be made.

**KATHLEEN HARRINGTON, BEACH AND PARKS COMMITTEE  
EDITH WILLIAMS, BEACH AND PARKS COMMITTEE  
KAREN GRISWOLD, BEACH AND PARKS COMMITTEE  
MARY PRATT, BEACH AND PARKS COMMITTEE  
LINDA SCHNEIDER, BEACH AND PARKS COMMITTEE  
JOSEPH ESPOSITO, REGULAR MEMBER, EASTERN POINT HISTORIC  
DISTRICT COMMISSION  
MARCIA GIPSTEIN, ALTERNATE MEMBER, EASTERN POINT  
HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Mayor Galbraith stated that each of the individuals named have agreed to continue serving on their respective commissions.

**Councilor Hale** moved **Deputy Mayor Duffy** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM #1** to the Mayor and Council meeting of February 6, 2012.

Councilor Hale thanked them for being willing to continue to volunteer their time.

Mayor Galbraith said we could not do our jobs without so many committed individuals.

**Motion carried.**

**REFERRAL ITEM # 1 APPOINTMENTS**

**JAMON L. JENNINGS, POLICE OFFICER, GRADE D**

Mayor Galbraith asked Chief Giulini and HR Director Scheetz to please come forward to present Mr. Jennings to the Council.

Chief Giulini presented the following:

Jamon Jennings, 25 years old, is married and the father of a two-year old son. He and his family reside in Norwich.

Jamon is one of 39 applicants who successfully completed all phases of the selection procedure. The selection procedure consists of a written examination, a physical fitness assessment, an oral examination administered by police officers and a community member, a Chief's interview, polygraph examination, psychological evaluation and medical physical including drug screening and a cardiopulmonary stress test.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2012**

Jamon, a New Jersey native, attended elementary school in Linden, N.J. before moving to Connecticut. He graduated from Hartford Public High School and attended Eastern Connecticut State University where he has earned 37 credits.

Jamon received very favorable comments from his personal and employer references.

He enjoys spending time with his family, swimming, golf, basketball and softball.

Jamon is scheduled to enter the recruit police training course at the Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Academy on Friday, the 27th of January.

Until today, Jamon was employed as an armed security officer by the Sanitas Corporation at the Millstone Power Station.

Mayor Galbraith asked if there were any questions for Mr. Jennings.

Deputy Mayor Duffy said the Chief did a very complete presentation.

Mayor Galbraith asked Mr. Jennings if he was familiar with the area or if he had any questions.

Mr. Jennings said he was not familiar with this area but looked forward to getting to know it well.

Mayor Galbraith said the City of Groton is a wonderful place to work and perhaps he would consider living here as well.

**Councilor Jervis** moved **Councilor Gerrish** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM #1** to the Special Mayor and Council meeting of January 23, 2012. **Motion carried.**

**REFERRAL ITEM # 426 TRANSFER OF \$625,000.00 FROM MEDICAL ACCOUNT TO OPEB**

Mayor Galbraith asked Finance Director Hillsberg to explain this.

Mr. Hillsberg said this will bring the account into compliance with new regulations.

**Councilor Hedrick** moved **Deputy Mayor Duffy** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM #426** to the Mayor and Council meeting of February 6, 2012. **Motion carried.**

**REFERRAL ITEM # 423 BUILDING PERMIT FEES**

Councilor Hedrick said the Finance Committee began looking at the current permit fees with the assistance of the Building Official Carlton Smith, who gathered a great deal of information to support the increase of the fees. He said that due to an increase in the number of required inspections the City could lose revenues if the fees are not increased. He said the increase in inspections requires more manpower hours and the fees currently collected will not support the costs. He said some neighboring towns have begun to collect the fees for final inspections/certificates of occupancy up front.

Councilor Moncy asked about the additional inspections.

Councilor Hedrick said the additional inspections will be quite labor intensive.

Councilor Hale had questions regarding the additional inspections.

Mr. Smith gave an overview of the new requirements for inspections.

Mayor Galbraith called a recess at 7:45 p.m.

Mayor Galbraith reconvened the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2012**

Mr. Smith distributed a review of the steps he and the Finance Committee followed in the request for the permit fee increase and charts documenting permits issued versus fees collected over a seven (7) year period.

There was considerable discussion regarding the additional man hours and costs that would be incurred due to the increased requirements for inspections.

Mr. Smith said that the increase that he is asking for and collecting CO fees at the time of application will bring in 65% of his budget which is where the department previously had been.

There was some discussion regarding any organizations that might be exempt from fees.

Mr. Smith said that is generally done at the discretion of the Mayor.

**Councilor Hale** moved **Councilor Hedrick** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM # 423** to the Mayor and Council meeting of February 6, 2012.

**Motion carried.**

**REFERRAL ITEM # 424 2012 EASTERN POINT BEACH RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Parks & Recreation Director Mary Hill went over the handouts the Councilors were given highlighting any changes to the Rules & Regulations.

The first change is parking for residents/non-residents at Eastern Point Beach. The Beach & Parks Committee felt they should adjust the 80% of parking capacity to 85%. Currently once the parking lot is 80% full only residents are allowed in until more spaces become available. They would like to allow for more non-residents to gain entrance on busy days.

Ms. Hill said it is a rare occurrence to close the parking lot and when it happens it is in the early afternoon and the duration is relatively short.

The second change is an added section for Special Events Parking.

Ms. Hill said that July is generally the only time an issue arises and with OPSAIL 2012 coinciding with the fireworks the Beach & Parks Committee wanted to make some changes. She said they will man the gate from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and raise the daily parking fee for those without season passes to \$25.00. She said the additional fee will help to offset the labor costs.

Councilor Jervis asked if the 85% full rule will apply during special events.

Ms. Hill said it would and it allows them to control a chaotic day with parking also.

Mayor Galbraith asked if someone pays the \$25 fee in the morning to watch the Parade of Sail can they leave and come back later for the fireworks.

Ms. Hill said if they keep the dated receipt they could.

There was discussion to create a special pass for that day in blocks of time.

Ms. Hill said she would have to contact the company that she purchased the register from to see if she can program something like that in.

There was discussion of the daily passes being abused by sharing with others and what they might be able to do to prevent it.

Mayor Galbraith asked what would happen if someone leaves and when they come back the lot is 85% full.

Ms. Hill said they wouldn't be able to get in.

Deputy Mayor Duffy said the Beach & Parks Committee put a great deal of thought into how to handle this.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MINUTES  
JANUARY 23, 2012**

There was continued discussion on the difficulty of parking so many cars for a large crowd and some of the behaviors of people in the past for the fireworks.

Councilor Hale suggested that there be some advance advertising of this change.

Ms. Hill said they would do their best to advertise this prior to July 7<sup>th</sup>, post it at the beach and include the information when season passes are sold.

**Councilor Hedrick** moved **Councilor Gerrish** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM #424** to the Mayor and Council meeting of February 6, 2012.

Deputy Mayor Duffy thanked Ms. Hill for such a thorough job.

**Motion carried.**

**REFERRAL ITEM # 425 2012 RECREATION DEPARTMENT USER FEES**

Ms. Hill said the only change was the Special Events fee being added.

**Councilor Hale** moved **Deputy Mayor Duffy** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM #425** to the Mayor and Council meeting of February 6, 2012. **Motion carried.**

**II. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**III. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilor Hale** moved **Deputy Mayor Duffy** seconded a motion to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

**Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**