

**CITY OF GROTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2013**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:30 PM

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

REFERRAL ITEM # 1 APPOINTMENTS

KIRSTEN EDWARDS, PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER, D

Chief Tom Davoren introduced Ms. Edwards and made the following remarks.

Kristen Edwards was born and raised in the City of Groton. Kristen grew up in a household where public service was always very important. Her father, J.D. Edwards is a City Firefighter, and her mother, Paula Edwards works as a dispatcher for the City of Groton police Department and as an EMT for Groton Ambulance. After Kristen graduated from Fitch senior high School she attended Three Rivers Community College where she obtained an associate's degree in Criminal Justice Enforcement. While attending Three Rivers, she volunteered with the Law Enforcement Council to assist in Active Shooter training for police departments throughout Southeastern Connecticut. Kristen is currently working on her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Eastern Connecticut State University.

Mayor Galbraith asked Ms. Edwards to come forward.

Mayor Galbraith welcomed her and asked if the Councilors had any questions.

Councilor Gerrish said he was happy to see her follow in the example set by her parents in serving the City in public safety. He said they set a fine example for her.

Ms. Edwards agreed that they were great role models.

Councilor Hale said it was good to have a hometown candidate make it through.

Councilor Jervis said he knows the process to get to this point is rigorous and congratulated her for making it.

Mayor Galbraith said she is happy that Ms. Edwards chose the City of Groton as her career choice and that knowing the community as she does she will be an asset with our youth.

Ms. Edwards said it was always her first choice.

Deputy Mayor Duffy congratulated Ms. Edwards and said she was very proud of her and hoped she would be happy here.

Councilor Hale moved Deputy Mayor Duffy seconded a motion to move the REFERRAL ITEM #1 and the name of Kirsten Edwards to the Mayor and Council meeting of April 1, 2013.

Motion carried.

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REFERRAL ITEM # 449 POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT FOR THE PURCHASE OF PUBLIC SAFETY DATA NETWORK AND AUDIO/VIDEO EQUIPMENT

Chief Tom Davoren said this grant will help to bring the department into compliance with Public Act 11- 174. He said there is no matching funding required by the City.

Deputy Mayor Duffy said it seemed unusual to approve an application when we usually approve the acceptance of the grants.

Chief Davoren said the grant has already been awarded but the application must be approved and submitted. He said it was time sensitive also.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Hedrick seconded a motion to move REFERRAL ITEM #449 To The Mayor and Council meeting of April 1, 2013. Motion carried.

REFERRAL ITEM # 450 CMEEC – AMENDMENT TO POQUONNOCK ROAD GROUND LEASE

Utilities Director Paul Yatcko explained that CMEEC wanted to renegotiate and extend the lease in order to achieve better financing.

Mayor Galbraith asked Director Yatcko how much rent is paid to the City.

Director Yatcko said they pay \$12,000.00 per unit, per year for a total of \$24,000.00.

Mayor Galbraith asked Mr. Hillsberg what the City does with the money.

Mr. Hillsberg said the money is used for City project through the Community Development Fund.

Deputy Mayor Duffy asked what happens if the units become obsolete or ineffective.

Director Yatcko said they would have to restore the site and we would continue to be paid the rent until 2021.

Councilor Hedrick asked what the benefit to the City was.

Director Yatcko said there is no cost to the City and we benefit from the rent that is paid.

There was further discussion on the contract, potential extension beyond 2021 and the possibility of escalation after 2021.

Director Yatcko said he will confirm the details of escalation kicking after the term of the lease.

Deputy Mayor Duffy asked if they actually run very much.

Director Yatcko said they run about 8-16 hours per month, during peak demand.

Councilor Hedrick said he has been told they run very quietly by the employees in the business on Bridge Street where the generator is located.

Councilor Hedrick moved Councilor Hale seconded a motion to move REFERRAL ITEM # 450 to the Mayor and Council meeting of April 1, 2013. Motion carried.

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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 7:46 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**