

**CITY OF GROTON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 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 William Jervis, Councilors Andrew Ilvento, Jay Dempsey, Stephen Sheffield, Keith Hedrick, Lawrence Gerrish, Finance Director Michael Hillsberg and City Clerk Debra Patrick.

Mayor Galbraith gave an update on appointments to commissions. She has appointed Nolan Nixon as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals. She said there are currently vacancies on the Conservation Commission, Harbor Management Commission, Eastern Point Historic District Commission and Planning and Zoning Commission for Alternates. The application and description of the duties of the commissions is on the City of Groton web site, [www.cityofgroton.com](http://www.cityofgroton.com) and available from the City Clerk.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 475 GROTON BUSINESS ASSOCIATION BANNER COMMITTEE**

Susan Bailey, President of GBA gave a power point presentation with all of the bullet points of the program. She said they hope to launch the pilot program for the banners on Bridge Street in the fall but it may have to wait until early spring. She said they worked with City officials to ensure they complied with all the zoning regulations. She said the goal was to bring to light all Groton has to offer and highlight the historic significance of the waterfront area. She said the theme is Discover Groton and there are 5 designs the sponsors can choose from and the name of the business will appear prominently at the bottom. She said established businesses on Bridge Street would be contacted to start with. She went over the contract length and cost. She said the City would install, replace or remove the banners on City owned poles.

The Councilors asked some questions regarding the newer businesses and whether they would be contacted, if the banners would remain up in the winter, and if they will approach businesses other than on Bridge Street.

Ms. Bailey said she would take the possibility of contacting new businesses to the committee. She said they would be keeping a close eye on the banners over the winter if they are installed in the fall. She said the program may be pushed back to spring. She said they intend to include businesses on Bridge Street, Thames Street and Five Corners as well as others in the City of Groton once the program is established.

Mayor Galbraith said if the Council was in favor of this a resolution would be prepared for the September 3, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting.

The Councilors agreed it was a good program.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Hedrick seconded a motion to move Referral Item # 475 To the September 3, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

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**REFERRAL ITEM # 474 PAF PROJECT FINANCING PLAN**

Mayor Galbraith went over some of the history of the project that has gotten them to this point. Finance Director Hillsberg went over the financing option on the handouts Mr. Stevens distributed. He said there were 2 options and went over where there might be some cost savings. Mr. Stevens went over the scope of work to be done and said the work has been prioritized as shown in the handout. He reported they have a proposal from the vendor for the clarifiers. There was discussion on the possibility the 0-5 year plan might be completed within 3 years. Mr. Stevens said all the 0-5 year projects have been identified in the 3 year plan. He identified the projects staff could complete. Mayor Galbraith asked if there was a sample resolution ready. Mr. Hillsberg said there wasn't. Mayor Galbraith asked if there could be one for the September 16, 2013 meeting. Mr. Hillsberg said he would look into it.

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Dempsey seconded a motion to move Referral Item # 474 to the September 16, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting. There was further discussion on what the function of the clarifiers, the need to continue operations during construction and the need to move and update the lab. They discussed the need to have the lab built higher. There was discussion on having the open house for the public the Saturday following the initial reading but before the Freeman's meeting. There were suggestions to have a virtual tour of the PAF on the City of Groton web site and to have the posters with the plans at the meetings. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 476 DISCUSSION OF JOINT UTILITIES COMMISSION/COUNCIL MEETING REGARDING STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Mayor Galbraith asked the Councilors to look at some Saturday dates she will be forwarding to them soon to have a joint meeting with the Utilities Commission for strategic planning. She asked them to respond in order of preference for the dates. She said she will be speaking to the members of the Utilities Commission at their next meeting to do the same.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 477 AUTHORIZE PENSION BUY-BACK TO THOMAS DAVOREN**

Mayor Galbraith said in August 2012 the Council approved the hiring of Chief Davoren and authorized the buy back. When Chief Davoren was first brought in as an Interim Police Administrator and Interim Captain he didn't buy into the pension since there wasn't an expectation that he would be here for the 5 year period required to be vested. She said that now that he is here in a long term capacity he would like to buy back his past service. The City labor attorney reported to the Retirement Board that with an actuarial report he could do that with their recommendation. The Retirement Board did send a favorable recommendation for him to do that. Mayor Galbraith asked if the Council would like to move this for approval to the next meeting.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Jervis seconded a motion to move Referral Item # 477 to the September 3, 2013 Mayor and Council meeting.

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Councilor Dempsey asked for an explanation of the numbers on the actuarial. Mayor Galbraith and Mr. Hillsberg explained the numbers and the amount Chief Davoren would have to pay in.

Councilor Dempsey questioned the date on one of the resolutions.

Mayor Galbraith said that was the resolution from last year and was included to provide the new Councilors with the history.

Motion carried.

Mayor Galbraith said that former Deputy Mayor Celeste Duffy was the liaison to the Board of Education and the representative for the Town/City Council Liaison Committee. She said Councilor Ilvento has volunteered to do this with the consent of the Council.

The Council was in favor of Councilor Ilvento doing this and thanked him for volunteering.

**II. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**III. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor moved Councilor seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

**Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**