

**CITY OF GROTON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2016**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
7:30 PM

Mayor Galbraith called the meeting to order at p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Marian Galbraith, Deputy Mayor Keith Hedrick, Councilors Andrew Ilvento, Jill Rusk, Stephen Sheffield, Conrad Heede, Lawrence Gerrish, Finance Director Ron Yuhas and City Clerk Debra Patrick.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 581GROTON CITY FARMER'S MARKET PRESENTATION**

Cindy Barry, LLHD gave an overview of the history of how they determined the need for fresh produce and ways in which they have addressed the need. She said they have been awarded a 2 year grant through the USDA for \$99,698.00 that will enable them to provide a manger to oversee the program and offer agricultural internships to high school students. She noted the partnership with the senior center to provide transportation to the farmers market and named numerous vendors who will participate. She said the internships will allow the students to gain experience on the farm learning about the growing process and working at the stands.

Councilor Ilvento said this is a very positive step for the community and said Ernie Koschmieder ran a stand at WSMS last year.

Ms. Barry said they will be working with Mr. Koschmieder. She noted the coins given to students can be used at the farmers market along with EBT cards and senior vouchers.

Councilor Gerrish asked who the market manager would be,

Ms. Barry said she would be and that she would be in attendance at the markets for the whole season.

Councilor Gerrish asked if there would be a need for police there.

Ms. Barry said she would discuss with the Mayor but there has never been a problem.

Mayor Galbraith said she was very pleased with the internship possibilities, it benefits both the famers and the students.

Councilor Rusk asked how a student could be considered for an internship.

Ms. Barry said they should contact her. She said each school will have a point person working with her too.

They thanked Ms. Barry for coming to go over the program with them.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 582 TYLER AVENUE/CUSHMAN STREET PAVING**

Public Works Director Tim Umrysz said Charles Pasteryak Jr, Inc has the state bid again this year. He went over some specifics and the costs.

Mayor Galbraith said this will be paid for out of the approved bond money from the town.

Councilor Ilvento moved Deputy Mayor Hedrick seconded a motion to move Referral Item # 582 to the April 4, 2016 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

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**REFERRAL ITEM # 585 BLIGHT COMPLAINTS**

Mayor Galbraith gave an update on the advisory panel to look into the Mother Bailey House and named some residents who have agreed to sit on the panel.

Councilor Ilvento said he wanted to explain that he abstained from voting on the Mother Bailey House resolutions because he would prefer to see a plan before committing his vote.

Carlton Smith, acting as the enforcement officer under the blight ordinance, went over the blight complaint procedures he must take for the 2 blight complaints received by his office March 25<sup>th</sup>.

He began with the complaint on the Mother Bailey House saying he did an initial inspection and will be sending a letter to the City, as owner of the property, noting his findings. He went over the timeline for a response from the City. He said there will need to be an action plan by the City and noted that this can present challenges since there might be opposition to the funding required to address the issues in the complaint.

There was a lengthy discussion on how they will proceed, the timetable and clarification on what the engineering firm will do as they prepare the scope of the bid.

There was further discussion on the challenges of this being a city owned property, the stabilization issues and how they might fund repairs.

Mr. Smith said he had not yet read the engineers report so at this point he has only an initial inspection to discuss.

There was discussion that the complaint has resulted in the Council possibly losing the ability to make decisions on the property.

Mr. Smith went over the complaint on the Colonel Ledyard school building. He said the Town of Groton owns the building but the City leases it.

Mayor Galbraith said the terms of the lease make the City responsible.

Mr. Smith said boarded up windows are an issue and may have to be turned over the Police department for oversight.

There was discussion that boarded up windows are considered blight and some possible changes that can be made to bring it into compliance.

There was further discussion that the building is at the end of a dead end street that is not well traveled and how there are other more visible buildings in similar if not worse condition than both the Mother Bailey House and Colonel Ledyard school in the City.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 583 TEMPORARY USE OF AND CONSUMPTION OF KEG BEER  
SUBCENTURY CELEBRATION**

Mayor Galbraith said this would be similar to what was done for Operation Lobster. She said June 21<sup>st</sup> is the Navy's birthday party for the Sub Base and Sub School and will be held at Washington Park. She said they will confine activities within the ballfields and there will be music and vendors.

Councilor Gerrish asked if there will be a police presence.

Mayor Galbraith said there would be, much the same as for Operation Lobster and a fire truck stationed there as well. She said the police officer assigned to the northern sector would be at the park unless a call came in and if assistance was needed a call could be made.

Councilor Gerrish asked who would be paying for this.

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Mayor Galbraith said sponsors for the event are being sought to cover associated costs.  
Councilor Ilvento asked if there would be any cost to the City.  
Mayor Galbraith said only to set the stage up for the music during regular working hours and the electricity during the evening event.  
Councilor Ilvento asked if the City would be sponsoring the event.  
Mayor Galbraith said we would not.

Deputy Mayor Hedrick moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to move Referral Item # 583 to the April 4, 2016 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 584 TEMPORARY USE OF AND CONSUMPTION OF KEG BEER  
SUBCENTURY OCTOBERFEST**

Mayor Galbraith said Outer Light Brewing Company would like to use Washington Park to host an Oktoberfest saying they will cover the costs for public safety and have a contained environment within the ballfields. She said this is different than the Sub Century group. She said they would have food vendors and music. They will keep the beer in a separate area so there would be a family friendly area for games.

Councilor Gerrish asked how they were different.

Mayor Galbraith said Sub Century is a volunteer group looking for sponsors while Outer Light Brewing Company is a built in sponsor. She said they will be unveiling their Sub Century brew as well.

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Rusk seconded a motion to move Referral Item # 584 to the April 4, 2016 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Ilvento moved Deputy Mayor Hedrick seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to General Statutes sections 1-200(6)(E), 1-210(b)(9), to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining to include Human Resources Director Lorry Scheetz and Finance Director Ron Yuhas. Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced in C8 at 8:27 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 9:06 p.m.

**III. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 9:06 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**