

**CITY OF GROTON  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 22, 2017**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING  
7:30 PM

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

**I. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Lawrence Gerrish, Councilors Jill Rusk, Jamal Beckford, Stephen Sheffield, Conrad Heede, Rashaad Carter, Finance Director Ron Yuhas and City Clerk Debra Patrick.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 1 APPOINTMENTS**

Cynthia Garvey, Beach and Parks Committee

Mayor Hedrick noted the Councilors all received her application. He said this appointment will fill the committee to full compliment.

Councilor Sheffield asked how long the term is for.

Mayor Hedrick said this would be until December 31, 2018.

Councilor Rusk moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to move Referral Item #1, the appointment of Cynthia Garvey, to the Beach and Parks Committee to the June 5, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 624 DONATION REQUESTS**

**CURE INNOVATION COMMONS, \$500**

Mayor Hedrick said there is a resolution that allows for these donations, R-14-4-48. He said there is currently \$2,500.00 remaining in the account for donations through FY 2017.

Councilor Heede asked if the City gets recognition for the donation.

Councilor Beckford said he went to the website and saw there were various levels of sponsorship and that they indicated the donation on a sign at this level.

Finance Director Yuhas said we can also follow up on this prior to the final approval if there are any concerns.

Councilor Heede moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to move Referral Item #624, donation in the amount of \$500.00 to CURE Innovations Commons, to the June 5, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**R.I.S.E.N. LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER, SACRED HEART**

Mayor Hedrick went over the levels of sponsorship.

Councilor Rusk asked what we gave last time.

Finance Director Yuhas said \$500.00 was donated to the Sub Vets Golf Tournament.

Councilor Heede asked if we were being asked what level of sponsorship we were comfortable with and how much is left in the account at this time.

Mayor Hedrick said there would be \$2,000.00 after the CURE donation they just moved.

Councilor Rusk asked what the date is that the funding runs through.

Finance Director Yuhas said June 30, 2017.

There was discussion on donating \$300.00 to \$500.00.

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After some discussion there was a consensus to donate \$500.00.

Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor Heede seconded a motion to move Referral Item #624, a donation of \$500.00 to the Brian C. O’Friel Golf Tournament through Sacred Heart School to the June 5, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 634 CITY COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Mayor Hedrick said these are the rules along with Robert’s Rules of Order that the Council follows. Councilor Heede asked if there was anything in particular that had not worked well.

There was discussion on the various sections within the rules.

Councilor Sheffield asked who was on the Rules Committee previously.

There was discussion on whether there had been a formal committee previously, whether they wanted to discuss this all tonight or set up a Rules Committee to do it prior to the June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and who would volunteer to do it.

Mayor Hedrick said they would have to address the necessary changes to Rule 12 regarding the names of the Mayor and Councilors.

Councilor Rusk said she is willing to do it, Councilors Heede and Sheffield also agreed to sit on the committee.

There was discussion on whether this would have to come back to the COW or go directly to the Mayor & Council for approval.

City Clerk Patrick said it can be placed on the M&C agenda without going back to a COW meeting if that is what they wished to do.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 635 GROUP COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

Mayor Hedrick went over the current set up of the 2 groups, 6 committees.

There was discussion to leave the committees in the groups they are in and determine whom to appoint as chairperson for each committee and make up the members of each group.

Mayor Hedrick asked each Councilor if they had a preference.

There was some discussion and the following decisions were made:

Group I

Economic Development-Councilor Beckford

Public Safety-Deputy Mayor Gerrish

Public Works- Councilor Heede

Group II

Community Development-Councilor Rusk

Finance- Councilor Sheffield

Parks & Recreation –Councilor Carter

Councilor Rusk moved Councilor Heede seconded a motion to move Referral Item #635 to the June 5, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 636 EPB CONCESSION VENDOR**

Mayor Hedrick said due to Robert Garcia not being able to continue an RFP was posted and one proposal came in. The representative for Groton Public Schools, Food Services Director Ernie Koschmieder is here to answer any questions the Council may have. Mary Hill, P&R Director is here as well if you have any questions for her.

Councilor Carter said he looked at the menu and prices provided to the Council and asked if these are the set prices and will it be profitable at these prices.

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Mr. Koschmieder said the prices will stay as they are on the menu and that he wanted to keep things in line with how they were before.

Councilor Heede thanked Mr. Koschmieder for stepping up and doing this.

Councilor Rusk asked Mr. Koschmieder to tell the Council and the audience watching a little bit about himself.

Mr. Koschmieder congratulated the Mayor and Councilors on their election and thanked them for having him there. He said he is a lifelong resident of the City of Groton and couldn't imagine living anywhere else. He said he is the Food Services Director for Groton and Montville Public Schools. He said when this opportunity came up it fell in line with his educational and culinary program at Fitch. He said any profits after expenses and wages will go back to the schools in some form. He said there will be some culinary and special needs students working the concession at times.

Councilor Beckford asked if he has toured the concession.

Mr. Koschmieder said he has and it is certainly adequate equipment and he has some ideas for the space.

Mayor Hedrick said there was a walk through and some equipment will be moved and they are bringing in a company to give it a complete cleaning.

Councilor Gerrish asked what the hours of operation would be.

Mr. Koschmieder said in the RFP proposal he stated his intention was to open at 10:30 a.m. and stay open until 7:00-7:30 p.m.. He said he would be willing to stay open later for events such as fireworks night and any other special events.

Councilor Gerrish said the food program at Groton Public Schools has been very helpful with the Elk's Christmas party for special needs students and he thanked Mr. Koschmieder for all they do.

Councilor Rusk asked Mr. Koschmieder to tell them about the Summer Meals program he oversees as well.

Mr. Koschmieder said there is greater food insecurity over the summer months when the students are out of school so they serve free breakfast and lunch to anyone age 18 and under at all their locations. He said they have a goal of 45,000 free meals in 8 weeks. He said he and his staff consider it a privilege to be able to feed the children.

There was further discussion on the hours of operation and that the students working there would be paid.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Rusk seconded a motion to move Referral Item #636 to the June 5, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 637 TAX COLLECTOR SUSPENSE LIST**

Mayor Hedrick said the taxes are still collectible in the future.

Councilor Heede asked if there was any recourse from the companies that appear to owe larger sums.

Finance Director Yuhas said most of them are probably businesses that have closed which means there is nothing that can be collected.

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Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor Heede seconded a motion to move Referral Item #637 to the June 5, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 638 GROTON UTILITIES WATER AND ELECTRIC BUDGET**

Groton Utilities Director Ron Gaudet distributed copies of the power point General Manager, Utilities Finance David Collard would be going over.

Mr. Collard said the power point is a summarization of the budgets the Council had previously been given. He went through the summarization beginning with comparisons of GU rates with other local providers for both electric and water. He went over the budget drivers for both electric and water noting revenue and O&M expenses. He noted areas where increases are necessary and areas where there have been decreases in expenses. He gave an overview of the Capitol Projects that are bonded and non- bonded and the cash flow for electric and water.

He concluded with the following:

- The proposed FY 2018 budget will afford GU to become compliant with NERC and other cyber security requirements
- Meet debt service and fund growing infrastructure and technology needs
- Allow for efficient operation and maintenance of the utility distribution systems
- Support compensation plans sufficient to attract and retain skilled high-tech workers
- Continue to provide highly reliable and responsive service that the customers expect and at rates that are fair, competitive and viewed as providing value to the customer
- Provide for an increased return to the City to the maximum allowed.

Mayor Hedrick said he would like to move this to the June 19, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Rusk seconded a motion to move Referral Item #638 to the June 19, 2017 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**II. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Rusk moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to CGS 1-200(6)(A) to discuss personnel to include Finance Director Ron Yuhas in. Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced at 8:35 p.m.in C8.

Executive Session ended at 9:05 p.m.

**III. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

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**IV. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**