

**CITY OF GROTON
SPECIAL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2018**

MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:00 PM

Mayor Hedrick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. REFERRALS:

REFERRAL # 695 FY19 BUDGET DISCUSSION/REVIEW

Mayor Hedrick asked if there were any questions.

The Councilors felt questions might be generated by the discussion.

Finance Director Yuhas said that in the past the change after BAA was quite small so they haven't had to adjust the proposed mill rate. He went over the short fall of \$90,000.00 in taxes and the impact on the budget or mill rate. He said if we leave the budget as is the proposed mill rate would increase from 4.50 to 4.58 which translates to an increase of \$16.00 on assessed value of \$200,000.00. He said they wanted to have this discussion tonight since the budget will go to the Council for approval May 21st.

Mayor Hedrick read Article VI, Section 2 (c) of the City Charter as it pertains to the budget.

Councilor Rusk asked if the Council did not approve the 4.58 mill rate would they then have to find ways to cut the budget.

Mayor Hedrick went over the various options and his strategy and estimates for FY 20.

There was discussion on the ramifications of leaving the budget with a \$90,000.00 tax revenue shortfall, the reduction of the mill rate from 5.22 to the proposed 4.58 and the savings in dollars to taxpayers.

Councilor Sheffield asked for clarification that the mill rate would drop from 5.22 to 4.58.

Mayor Hedrick said it would.

Councilor Rusk thanked the staff who worked so hard to bring a budget that kept spending controlled but allowed for future planning for equipment and services.

Mayor Hedrick went over his plan to look at future costs for vehicle upkeep and replacement noting he has asked for a data plan for vehicles and would like to forecast 3 and 5 years ahead.

Councilor Carter said it is difficult to gain revenue but feels we need to try and find ways for the City to benefit from the thousands of people who come to the City to work each day who are not residents.

Mayor Hedrick agreed and said he will be meeting with City Planner Barbara Goodrich and Economic Development Specialist Cierra Patrick to tour the City and discuss options for future economic development in the City.

III. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MAY 14, 2018

IV. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**