



City of Groton, Connecticut

**City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340**

**Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Council Chambers

6:00 PM

Monday, October 28, 2019

Mayor Hedrick called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Jamal Beckford, Councilors Lisa McCabe, Reginald Stanford, Gweneviere Depot, Minerva Ortiz, Finance Director Ron Yuhas and City Clerk Debra Patrick. Councilor Rashaad Carter arrived at 6:18 p.m.

II. REFERRALS:

REFERRAL ITEM #762 THAMES RIVER GATEWAY TWIN SCULPTURES

Wendy Bury of the South Eastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition gave a powerpoint presentation outlining the impact and benefits of public art. She went over the design, placement and dimensions of the sculptures. Photos of the sculptures were distributed for the Councilors to look at, one would be placed at Eastern Point Beach in the City of Groton and the other on a private island off the coast of New London.

There was discussion that this could be a good economic boost to the area by attracting people to the area, whether the bronze would discolor over time and develop a patina, who would be responsible for maintenance once installed, that they are mirror images and whether they could be different and the time to create and install once funds were raised by the organization for the project.

There was further discussion that there were approvals to be requested from the Eastern Point Historic District Commission as well as any safety considerations.

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session Pursuant to CGS 1-200(6)(D) to discuss sale of real estate to include Councilors, City Attorney Brian LeClerc and City Planner Dennis Goderre.

Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced at 6:29 p.m. in C8.

Executive Session ended at 6:55 p.m.

IV. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

REFERRAL ITEM #655 DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS

CEDAS

Cierra Patrick, Economic Development Specialist announced they received the 2019 certified Community Award for Best Practices in Economic Development & Land Use Planning. They were chosen along with 24 communities in the state and 1 of 4 locally. She said the application gave them the opportunity to reevaluate their strategies and noted social media has been instrumental in allowing them great reach into the business community. She thanked her partners here in the City

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of Groton departments for the teamwork. She noted City Planner Dennis Goderre has posted a land use development guide on the City's website www.cityofgroton.com

RESILIENCY

Dennis Goderre, City Planner went over the background to get them where they are today with the report. He noted the hazards, areas of concerns and that the hazard mitigation plan is in line with the report. He said they would like to establish an Ad Hoc Committee and went over the members who will participate. He said there is an anticipated 20" rise in the sea level over the next 30 years and they should be prepared with a plan. He noted a grant he applied for that is a great opportunity for non-profits and communities and confirmation of the grant award should come early next week.

Councilor Depot moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #655, Establish an Ad Hoc Committee, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM #728 SPACE NEEDS DISCUSSION
BUILDING AND ZONING**

Mayor Hedrick said this study was done due to space constraints here in the building. When the credit union moved to the shopping plaza it opened up the space they occupied in the building. The space has been cleaned up and is ready for occupancy.

Carlton Smith, Building & Zoning Official said he is going to move his department down there and had solicited quotes from a builder to create offices and from a company that does prefabricated modular offices. He said the quote to have it built was significantly more than the modulares. He went over the drawings provided to the Councilors to provide context to how the space would be used and explained that his department has grown in numbers due to the increase in work at EB.

Councilor Stanford moved Councilor Depot seconded a motion to move Referral Item #728 to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

REFERRAL ITEM #561 GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS

Finance Director, Ron Yuhas went over the electric, water and sewer revenues, operating expenses, income from operations and operation and maintenance costs for the month of September 2019.

Deputy Mayor Beckford asked if they were going to make adjustments due to the changes in industrial usage.

Mr. Yuhas said they will look at the end of the fiscal year.

Mayor Hedrick said we are in the second year and can base it on actual data.

**REFERRAL ITEM #742 GROTON UTILITIES
CHANGE ORDER #8**

Groton Utilities Director, Ron Gaudet said the change orders are evaluated daily. He said this one is to replace a manhole cover that was determined to be necessary.

Deputy Mayor Beckford said at the last discussion they had regarding the contingency there were concerns that they will run out. He hopes that they are ensuring they are being most responsible moving forward particularly with the PCB issues. He asked if there are any other unexpected issues coming.

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Director Gaudet agreed there is a high risk with the PCB issues but the other change orders are small by comparison.

There was continued discussion on the abatement already done and any future abatements for metals., working with DEEP, reaching out to the EPA, concerns about sampling and disposal of dirt and that they are about 1 year away from completion of the project.

Deputy Mayor Beckford suggested that when you have an old building those abatement issues should have been anticipated or detected earlier in the process.

Director Gaudet said they have a 3rd party evaluation of the concerns.

Councilor Depot said they had discussed previously that they could have some of the work that needs to be done completed in-house.

Mayor Hedrick said the true costs will be revealed. He went over some possible ways they are looking at to hold costs for abatement.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Change Order #8, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER #9

Director Gaudet said this is for the manpower costs for the new manhole.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Change Order #9, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

CHANGE ORDER #10

Director Gaudet said during excavation silt was discovered so this is to allow them to create a firm foundation.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Change Order #10, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

TI SALES

Director Gaudet said this is the continuation of the capital project for water meter replacements.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, TI Sales, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

SYNAGRO SLUDGE REMOVAL

Director Gaudet said this is for the company that removes the sludge that remains after the waste has gone through the digester.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Synagro Sludge Removal, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

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AMEND RESOLUTION TO ALTEC

Director Gaudet said this was previously approved. This is just to allow GU to pay Altec for the trucks. Crowley didn't supply the trucks, Altec did.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742, Amend Resolution to Altec, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

REFERRAL ITEM #1 APPOINTMENTS

BARBARA GERRISH (LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT)

Mayor Hedrick said this will reappoint Ms. Gerrish for another 3 years.

There was discussion regarding having 2 appointments rather than 1.

Mayor Hedrick said due to a population increase we are allowed 2 representatives on the board.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #1, Barbara Gerrish, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

ERNEST KOSCHMIEDER (LEDGE LIGHT HEALTH DISTRICT)

Mayor Hedrick said this is a new appointment. When the applications were received he spoke to the LLHD Director and asked if someone in the medical field or a food service background would be a better fit. It was determined they already had several on the board with a medical background.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #1, Ernest Koschmieder, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

REFERRAL ITEM #690 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Mr. Yuhas gave an overview of expenditures to date through September.

There was discussion on the increase for insurance and the possibility of allocating those costs by department to properly budget the costs.

REFERRAL ITEM #748 DONATION REQUESTS

RIVERFRONT CHILDREN'S CENTER

Mayor Hedrick said a number of organizations ask both GU and the City for donations. He said they are trying to get a handle on having donations given by both. GU has already provided a \$1,200.00 donation for this organization and it is his recommendation to not provide more.

Councilor Depot said there are other ways the City can provide support such as what the Mayor does by reading to the kids.

REFERRAL ITEM #763 BEACH AND PARK COMMITTEE

MEMORIAL BENCH FOR AGNES TOMPKINS

Councilor Depot moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #763, Memorial Bench for Agnes Tompkins, to the November 4, 2019 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

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REFERRAL ITEM #764 ELECTRIC BOAT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Mayor Hedrick reported EB will be doing some blasting in the near future. He said immediate property owners will be notified directly. Once the City has a schedule we will post it on the City website and social media. They will contact New London officials as well.

Deputy Mayor Beckford asked if would be happening at night.

Mayor Hedrick said they will drill early in the morning and the blasting will be done later in the afternoon.

Councilor Depot suggested getting the information out to the sources where complaints will come in so they are prepared to answer questions.

Mayor Hedrick said that was part of their plan.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor McCabe moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**