



City of Groton, Connecticut

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

**Committee of the Whole
Minutes**

Council Chambers

6:00 PM

Monday, September 23, 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. Excused: Councilor Rashaad Carter.

II. REFERRALS:

**REFERRAL ITEM # 748 DONATION REQUESTS
GROTON MYSTIC BASKETBALL**

Bonnie Tompkins gave some background on the program for the travel basketball club. She spoke to the Council about the need to provide other options to local recreation programs such as GBA and AAU. She said the AAU program is cost prohibitive for many families. She gave an overview of the program, schedule, purpose and mentoring/coaching collaborations they have set up as well as the projected start up fees.

Mayor Hedrick said there is a request for funding and asked what the Councilors thought.

Deputy Mayor Beckford said he was impressed with the program being developed and that there are 40 kids ready to play.

Ms. Tompkins said this is also to promote community spirit and to keep costs down for families. She said ultimately they want to be able to provide scholarships too.

Councilor Ortiz asked if there were tryouts for the teams.

Ms. Tompkins said there are tryouts since it is a higher level of competition.

Mayor Hedrick asked if they had expended any funds this FY from the account that donations come from.

Finance Director Yuhas said they had given a donation to Groton Mystic Falcons.

Deputy Mayor Beckford suggested matching the donation that was made to Groton Mystic Falcons.

Mr. Yuhas said it was \$450.00.

The Councilors concurred on the amount of \$450.00.

Councilor Depot moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #748 Groton Mystic Basketball to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

CHILDREN FIRST GROTON

Mayor Hedrick said there is a request for \$1,000.00 from Children First Groton.

Deputy Mayor Beckford asked what the past donation to them has been.

Mayor Hedrick said \$1,000.00 but the Council can determine the amount as it is early in the FY.

The Councilors concurred on the amount of \$450.00 to stay consistent with donations to other organizations this FY.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #748 Children First Groton to the October 3, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

REFERRAL ITEM # 761 FIRE TRUCK ENGINE

Chief Tompkins said they had 3 estimates. The estimate from the manufacturer was \$59,498.00 which was too much to consider. The other 2 estimates were significantly lower with Five Star Fire being the lowest at \$36,124.38. While the Courvilles Garage estimate was reasonable at \$37,849.97 they are unable to perform the required testing. Five Star is the recommended vendor based on price and ability to do the required work.

Councilor Stanford asked if the Five Star Fire price included parts and labor.

Chief Tompkins said it did and they are in Hartford.

Mayor Hedrick said once the engine repairs are complete the truck will still have to have the chassis work that was previously approved by the Council.

Councilor Depot moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #761 Fire Truck Engine to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 742 GROTON UTILITES
AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY**

Rick Stevens, Manager Water Operations, GU gave some background on the property and the need to protect it. He said there was a grant awarded to the land conservancy and an MOU with Groton Utilities to allow for signage that the land is watershed property and it is a great opportunity for GU.

There was discussion that this is consistent with GU's commitment to protecting the watershed, any cost to GU including impact to the budget, using retained earnings to cover costs and that it would not impact rates.

Councilor Depot moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742 Avalonia Land Conservancy to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

DATA STORAGE ARRAY

Sue Blanchette, IT General Manager gave some background on the budgeting, research and planning her department did to determine their best options. It was not bid out due to the nature of the equipment and the critical nature of the need for the day to day operations of the systems of the Enterprise network.

There was discussion on the savings and reduction of energy and the requirements to provide secure data for the Police Department.

Councilor Depot moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742 Data Storage Array to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

STANTEC PRESENTATION

Chris Yannoni, Senior Principal, Stantec and Chris Nichols, Senior Project Manager Stantec provided a powerpoint outlining the history, study, preliminary design, bid phase and the ongoing construction of the water treatment facility. He said when the CT DPH recommended a 5% contingency for the project the City determined 10% was a better option. Due to the unexpected discovery of PCB's the costs for remediation and the necessary change orders have depleted the contingency significantly. A spreadsheet detailing all the previously approved change orders and

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the proposed change orders show the contingency will run out. They determined certain aspects of the project can be completed by staff to retain available funds and keep the schedule on time for completion.

There was discussion on the PCB's found not having been identified before funding was approved, soil sampling, disposal costs for the soil, new fill to be brought in, whether having staff complete certain aspects of the project would create overtime or be done as part of maintenance and that the staff would not be exposed to anything harmful.

Mayor Hedrick said it is important to keep the costs within the budgeted amount approved and to ensure the project is completed in the early spring of 2020 so the City and GU can continue to provide quality water to the region.

A copy of the powerpoint presentation is available with the City Clerk.

UNIVAR SOLUTIONS PURCHASE OF CAUSTIC SODA LIQUID

Groton Utilities Director Ron Gaudet said they are switching from the old system to this. It has gone out to bid and Univar was the low bidder. He said it is a budgeted item.

There was discussion on it being comparable in cost to the old system.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742 Univar Solutions Purchase of Caustic Soda Liquid to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT

Director Gaudet said this is a state program that gives a tax credit to GU when the donations are made to a an approved local organization.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742 Neighborhood Assistance Act to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

GAS INSULATED CIRCUIT SWITCHER

Director Gaudet said this not budgeted and must be done due a leak at the Buddington Station. He Said staff is tracking it until repairs can be made.

Councilor Depot moved Deputy Mayor Beckford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #742 Gas Insulated Circuit Switcher to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

REFERRAL ITEM # 561 GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS

Finance Director Yuhas went over the electric, water and sewer financials.

REFERRAL ITEM # 760 VEHICLE PURCHASING

Finance Director Yuhas said bids have gone out on vehicles for the highway and building departments. Once the bids have come in they will bring it to the Council.

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REFERRAL ITEM # 690 CITY BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

Finance Director Yuhas said the auditors have begun going over FY 18-19. He said once they have completed the audit he will report back to the Council.

**REFERRAL ITEM # 1 APPOINTMENTS
EASTERN REGIONAL TOURISM DISTRICT**

Mayor Hedrick said the CGS that governs this allows for the Mayor to be the appointee. Deputy Mayor Beckford asked if this is the first time we have had representation. Mayor Hedrick said no, we had a representative who passed away.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to move Referral Item #1 Appointments to the October 7, 2019 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried

**REFERRAL ITEM # 742 GROTON UTILITIES
ANNUAL REPORT**

Finance Director Yuhas said the GU annual report has been approved, signed and is posted on the website.

III. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**