

**CITY OF GROTON
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MINUTES**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 4, 2012
7:00 PM**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Galbraith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and presided. There were 19 electors present.

Clerk Patrick read the call of the meeting and the warning to electors.

Mayor Galbraith read the following General Fund Anticipated Revenues and Expenditures.

GENERAL FUND ANTICIPATED REVENUES

Property taxes (at 4.595 mills), Interest and Lien Fees	\$6,128,223
Intergovernmental Revenues	5,507,278
Licenses and Permits	444,000
Intradepartmental Revenues	3,722,788
Miscellaneous Revenues	285,500
Operating Transfers In	0
Service Charge	144,800
Utilization of Fund Balance	<u>676,227</u>
Total General Fund Anticipated Revenues	\$16,908,816

GENERAL FUND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$2,014,176
Police Department	4,805,462
Fire Department	2,589,575
Public Works Department	3,505,225
Pollution Abatement	1,738,847
Parks and Recreation Department	1,262,923
Non-Departmental	111,000
Debt Service	766,608
Contingency	<u>115,000</u>
Total General Fund Appropriations	\$16,908,816

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Item 1. To authorize the Water and Electric Departments to provide, at the discretion of the Utilities Commissioners, the following free services from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013:

- a. Water and electricity to Fort Griswold Park and Groton Monument House - Approximately \$3,400.00.
- b. Water and electricity to Bill Memorial Library – Approximately \$6,300.00.
- c. Illumination of the United States Flag during hours of darkness at the Groton Monument – Approximately \$250.00.
- d. Water and electricity to Washington Park – Approximately \$25,500.00.
- e. Water and electricity to Avery Copp Carriage House and Museum – Approximately \$1,500.00

Mayor Galbraith read Item 1 and asked for a motion from the floor.

David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue moved Ken Jones, 771 Shennecossett Road seconded Item 1. Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she asked for a vote. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Item 2. To appropriate for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013 the sum for the accounts and purposes set forth in the proposed annual budget as published in The Day on May 21, 2012 and in full on the City of Groton website at www.cityofgroton.com.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 2 and asked for a motion from the floor.

Bruno Giuliani, 899 Shennecossett Road moved David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue seconded Item 2. Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion.

Robert Zuliani, 23 Cushman Street asked for clarification of how the fund balance of \$676,277,000.00 is utilized and how we have used the fund balance in the past.

Mayor Galbraith said in FY 2012 \$1,014,000.00 was budgeted and they are working to reduce dependency on surplus.

There was discussion that the Contingency Fund is used to cover unbudgeted items that come up during the year.

She said they have a contingency fund item on the Mayor and Council agenda this evening for an appropriation of up to \$40,000.00 from that balance.

Mr. Zuiani asked what happens to the remaining balance at the end of the fiscal year.

Finance Director Hillsberg said the remaining balance goes away.

Kevin Trejo, 536 L Shennecossett Road spoke about the disparity between the City of Groton and Town of Groton Police budgets.

Mayor Galbraith said the City of Groton Police Department budget is not based on the size of the area. The City is more densely populated and the needs are different due to that. It is based on the needs of the community. She said the City of Groton Police budget includes all benefits while the Town of Groton Police budget does not show the benefits. They are in separate cost centers so it is an unfair comparison.

Mr. Trejo asked if the City of Groton will be participating in the police study.

Mayor Galbraith said she met with Town and Groton Long Point officials and chose the firm that will conduct the study.

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Mr. Trejo asked why the budget for the Public Works is so high if the Town pays for this. Mayor Galbraith said the City pays for the portion of the budget pertaining to sanitation and the administrative costs for sanitation. She said the rest of the budget for Public Works comes from the Town and is reflected in the Intergovernmental Revenues. There being no more discussion, she asked for a vote. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Item 3. To authorize the Mayor and Council to apply to the foregoing budget any excess of revenue over expenditures for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, and any anticipated revenues from other sources.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 3 and asked for a motion from the floor. David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue moved George Swift, 808 Eastern Point Road seconded Item 3. Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she asked for a vote. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Item 4. To authorize the Water and Electric Departments to transfer to the City of Groton the sum of Three million six hundred ninety-three thousand two hundred eighty-three dollars and no cents (\$3,693,283.00) to apply to the appropriations approved at this meeting for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, and to provide for the reimbursement for services furnished to the Utilities as set forth in the foregoing budget.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 4 and asked for a motion from the floor. Celeste Duffy, 216 Tyler Avenue moved Robert Zuliani, 23 Cushman Street seconded Item 4. Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she asked for a vote. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Item 5. To levy a tax, based on current list, sufficient when combined with the funds noted in Items 3 and 4 hereof, and other incomes to cover the appropriations approved at this meeting for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, said tax to be collected July 1, 2012. Note: It is the opinion of the Mayor that a four point five nine five (4.595) mills tax would be sufficient, when combined with funds noted in Items 3 and 4 hereof, to finance the appropriations contained in Item 2 of the Call, and said Mayor recommends a **four point five nine five mills tax**.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 5 and asked for a motion from the floor. Celeste Duffy, 216 Tyler Avenue moved David Rose 75 Baker Avenue seconded Item 5. Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion. Robert Zuliani, 23 Cushman Street asked if the assessed values in the City have gone up or down. Mayor Galbraith said the grand list has gone up. There being no more discussion, she asked for a vote. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Item 6. To authorize the Treasurer of the City of Groton to borrow monies in anticipation of tax receipts, as required, for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 6 and asked for a motion from the floor.

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David Rose, 75 Baker Avenue moved Edward Moukawsher, 48 West Elderkin Avenue seconded Item 6.

Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she asked for a vote. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Item 7. To authorize the Mayor and Council to transfer any surplus funds from one account to another as prescribed in Article V, Section 3 of the Charter, as may be warranted in their discretion for the fiscal year July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013, provided that such transfer of funds does not result in exceeding the total amount of the appropriations made at this meeting.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 7 and asked for a motion from the floor.

Robert Zuliani, 23 Cushman Street moved David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue seconded Item 7.

Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she asked for a vote. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Item 8. To approve the minutes of the following meetings:

The City of Groton Annual Budget meeting minutes of June 6, 2011, the Special Freeman's meeting minutes of December 19, 2011 and February 6, 2012.

Robert Zuliani, 23 Cushman Street moved David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue seconded a motion to approve Item 8.

Mayor Galbraith asked if there was any discussion. There being none, she asked for a vote.

Motion carried as follows:

FOR	AGAINST	ABSTENTIONS
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Item 9. To take any action on any other business which may legally come before said meeting. There being no further business she asked for a motion for adjournment.

II. ADJOURNMENT

David Hale, 13 Meech Avenue moved David Rose, 75 Baker Avenue seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried 19-0-0.

Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**