

**CITY OF GROTON
ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING
MINUTES**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
JUNE 3, 2013
7:00 PM**

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Galbraith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and presided. She was joined at the dais by City Attorney Matthew Shafner. There were 31 electors present. She asked City Clerk Patrick to read the call of the meeting and the warning to electors.

Mayor Galbraith read the totals of the General Fund Anticipated Revenues and General Fund Proposed Appropriations below.

GENERAL FUND ANTICIPATED REVENUES

Property taxes (at 4.595 mills), Interest and Lien Fees	\$5,921,875
Intergovernmental Revenues	5,554,509
Licenses and Permits	399,700
Intradepartmental Revenues	3,770,347
Miscellaneous Revenues	395,500
Operating Transfers In	57,606
Service Charge	144,800
Utilization of Fund Balance	<u>657,188</u>
Total General Fund Anticipated Revenues	\$16,901,525

GENERAL FUND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$2,091,170
Police Department	4,746,563
Fire Department	2,575,641
Public Works Department	3,127,319
Pollution Abatement	1,772,680
Parks and Recreation Department	1,295,006
Non-Departmental	111,000
Debt Service	1,067,146
Contingency	<u>115,000</u>
Total General Fund Appropriations	\$16,901,525

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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, 2013 to June 30, 2014:

- a. Water and electricity to Fort Griswold Park and Groton Monument House - Approximately \$3,700.00.
- b. Water and electricity to Bill Memorial Library – Approximately \$7,000.00.
- 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 \$23,450.00.
- e. Water and electricity to Avery Copp Carriage House and Museum – Approximately \$1,550.00

Mayor Galbraith read Item 1 and asked for a motion.

Keith Hedrick, 156 Shennecossett Parkway moved Robert Zuliani, 23 Cushman Street seconded a motion to approve Item 1. Motion carried 28-0-0.

Item 2. To appropriate for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 the sum for the accounts and purposes set forth in the proposed annual budget as published in The Day on May 27, 2013 and in full on the City of Groton website at www.cityofgroton.com.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 2 and asked for a motion.

Lorraine Scheetz, 52 Fleming Court moved Juliette Parker, 520 F Shennecossett Road seconded a motion to approve Item 2.

Michael Boucher, 16 Hillside Avenue spoke against this item citing the losses due to TVC he believes the Groton Utilities budget should be included.

Mayor Galbraith said the City Charter dictates the Groton Utilities budget be approved separately.

Mr. Boucher stated again that he objects to the way it is done.

Heather Somers, 67 Ramsdell Street had questions regarding when and by whom the interdepartmental number is set and if there is a limit to the amount.

Finance Director Michael Hillsberg went over the formula used.

Ms. Somers asked how it is set.

Mr. Hillsberg said it is set by Ordinance.

Ms. Somers asked if she could get a copy of the Ordinance. She asked about the licenses and permits, if there were a large number of them for Pfizer and Electric Boat since the City seems to take in a greater amount than the town. She asked what the percentage of the all permits issued are to Pfizer and EB.

Mr. Hillsberg said that information is available through the Building Department.

Ms. Somers asked if the fund balance was still 14%.

Mayor Galbraith said it was 14.3%.

Motion carried 26-3-1.

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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, 2013, and any anticipated revenues from other sources.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 3 and asked for a motion.

Daniel Tompkins, 30 South Prospect Street moved Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street seconded a motion to approve Item 3.

Heather Somers, 76 Ramsdell Street asked if there is a report at the end of the year.

Mr. Hillsberg said it is in the CAFR and budget.

Ms. Somers asked if it could be requested.

Mr. Hillsberg said it could.

Motion carried 27-0-0.

Item 4. To authorize the Water and Electric Departments to transfer to the City of Groton the sum of Three million five hundred twelve thousand four hundred twenty-four dollars and no cents (\$3,512,424.00) to apply to the appropriations approved at this meeting for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, 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.

Daniel Tompkins, 30 South Prospect Street moved Lorraine Scheetz, 52 Fleming Court seconded a motion to approve Item 4.

Robert Zuliani, 23 Cushman Street asked about a figure on page 4 of General Government . He wanted to know if the differential was money from the State of CT.

Mr. Hillsberg said it was.

Motion carried 29-2-0.

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, 2013 to June 30, 2014, said tax to be collected July 1, 2013. 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.

Daniel Tompkins, 30 South Prospect Street moved Hali Keeler, 45 Ramsdell Street seconded a motion to approve Item 5. Motion carried 28-3-0.

Item 6. To authorize the Finance Director of the City of Groton to borrow monies in anticipation of tax receipts, as required, for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 6 and asked for a motion.

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Juliette Parker, 520 F Shennecossett Road moved Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street seconded a motion to approve Item 6. Motion carried 28-3-0.

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, 2013 to June 30, 2014, 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.

Daniel Tompkins, 30 South Prospect Street moved Stella Peruzzotti, 7 Bayberry Lane seconded a motion to approve Item 7.

Bruce Flax, Noank Road Mystic asked if the surplus from the Public Works and Police Departments is identified as such.

Mr. Hillsberg said it was in the budget.

Motion carried 28-3-0.

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

City of Groton Annual Budget meeting minutes of June 4, 2012.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 8 and asked for a motion.

Juliette Parker, 520 F Shennecossett Road moved Lorraine Scheetz, 52 Fleming Court seconded a motion to approve Item 8. Motion carried 26-1-2.

Item 9. To take any action on any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

Mayor Galbraith read Item 9.

There being no other business Mayor Galbraith asked for a motion to adjourn.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Andrew Ilvento, 36 Slocumb Terrace moved Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**