



City of Groton, Connecticut

Annual Budget Meeting
Minutes

Monday, June 7, 2021

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Auditorium

7:00PM

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Keith Hedrick called the meeting to order at 7:06pm.

Clerk Megan Peters read the posting of the Warning to Electors and the Notice of the Meeting. There were 41 electors present.

Warning to Electors-

In accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended, only an elector of the City of Groton or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more, who jointly or severally is liable to the City for taxes assessed against him/her on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the City of Groton, or who would be so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person, a veteran, a widow or parent of a veteran, would be entitled to vote at this meeting.

Notice of the Meeting-

All electors and citizens qualified to vote in the City of Groton Annual Budget Meeting are hereby notified and warned to assemble at the Annual Budget Meeting, City Municipal Building, 295 Meridian Street, Groton, Connecticut on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. prevailing time, for the purpose of acting on the following matters:

Mayor Keith Hedrick continued by reading the below budgets to the public.

GENERAL FUND ANTICIPATED REVENUES

Property taxes (at 4.3 mills), Interest and Lien Fees	\$4,938,625
Intergovernmental Revenues	6,112,383
Licenses and Permits	1,037,600
Interdepartmental Revenues	4,946,381
Miscellaneous Revenues	147,500
Operating Transfers In	15,000
Service Charge	195,000
Utilization of Fund Balance	<u>2,600,00</u>
Total General Fund Anticipated Revenues	\$19,992,489

GENERAL FUND PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS

General Government	\$3,391,660
Police Department	5,540,302
Fire Department	3,473,323
Civil Preparedness	11,459

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Highway Maintenance	2,972,720
Sanitation	1,381,580
Public Buildings	180,013
Parks and Recreation Department	1,430,094
Non-Departmental	140,000
Debt Service	356,338
Contingency	<u>1,115,000</u>
Total General Fund Appropriations	\$19,992,489

Item 1. To appropriate for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 the sum for the accounts and purposes set forth in the proposed annual budget as published on the City of Groton website on May 18, 2021 and in full at www.cityofgroton.com and levy a tax and other incomes to cover the appropriations approved at this meeting for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, said tax to be collected July 1, 2021.

Jean-Claude Amboise, 169 Shennecossett Parkway, moved, Gweneviere Depot, 162 Shennecossett Parkway, seconded a motion to approve Item 1.

Mayor Keith Hedrick opened the floor to the Public to speak.

Debra Patrick, 8 Mellow Ave - Debra spoke against the current salary in the budget for the new City Clerk. Debra Patrick questioned the salary of the new Clerk versus the salary that the past Clerk and inquired on the reasoning for the comparable salary without specific Clerk experience. Debra Patrick also questioned the 5% salary increase for another staff position. Debra Patrick lastly questioned the salaries in the budget and whether the salaries are estimates or actuals, and if they are estimates, where does the rest of the money go at the end of the year?

Mayor Keith Hedrick asked if there are any further comments. There were none.

Mayor Keith Hedrick addressed the 5% increase in salary for the staff position mentioned. He mentioned that this increase was due to the added responsibilities that this position took on during the Covid year with additional meetings, assisting necessary persons with Virtual Meetings and other duties.

Mayor Keith Hedrick addressed the reasoning behind the comparable salary for the new Clerk versus the old Clerk. Although the new Clerk does not have Clerk specific experience, the position was hired for the first time in a business manner by resume and interview rather than choosing the Clerk position in a partisan manner. He then continued by stating that the new Clerk has a management background with extensive customer service skills suited to the needs of the position. He lastly mentioned that the new Clerk would be taking on additional responsibilities that the past Clerk had not had within their assigned duties which was also a factor in the decided salary.

Lastly Mayor Keith Hedrick spoke to the estimate versus actual questioned and stated that any money that is not used for the salary at the end of the year would go back to the General Fund.

Debra Patrick spoke again and questioned the additional responsibilities that the staff member had during Covid as she stated that everyone had additional duties during that time.

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Rashaad Carter, 132 Thames Street - spoke to Debra Patrick's comments and stated that he would not want to take anything away from the current Clerk but would like more transparency moving forward with the salaries. Lastly he thanked Debra Patrick for her service to the city as the former Clerk.

Mayor Keith Hedrick then asked if anyone else would like to speak to the proposed budget. No further residents spoke.

Mayor Keith Hedrick then began the vote to approve the proposed budget.

Joseph Mingoia, 64 Godfrey Street - requested clarification on the voting, what the majority is and the definition of abstention.

Mayor Keith Hedrick responded to Joseph Mingoia's questions.

Voting occurred, 36 in favor, 2 opposed, 3 abstentions, and motion carried.

Item 2. To approve the minutes of the following meetings:

Mayor Keith Hedrick moved on to Item 2. A motion was requested from the floor to approve the following minutes-

City of Groton Annual Budget Meeting Minutes - June 3, 2019

Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street, moved, Hali Keeler, 45 Ramsdell Street, seconded, motion carried.

City of Groton Freeman Meeting Minutes - March 1, 2021

Gretchen Gauthier, 166 Tyler Avenue, moved, Debra Patrick, 8 Mellow Avenue, seconded, motion carried.

30 votes in favor, 0 opposed and 10 abstentions.

Item 3. To take any action on any other business which may legally come before said meeting.

Mayor Keith Hedrick asked if there was any additional business to bring to the floor. None was brought to the floor. Mayor Keith Hedrick requested a motion from the floor.

Paul Duarte, 54 Cottage Street, moved, Juliette Parker, 520 F Shennecossett Road, seconded, motion carried.

II. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.