



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, January 4, 2021

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Zoom

7:30 PM

Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Gweneviere Depot, Councilor Rashaad Carter, Councilor Lisa McCabe, Councilor Minerva Ortiz, Councilor Stephen Sheffield and Councilor Reginald Stanford
City Clerk Debra Patrick

In response to State of Connecticut Executive Order No. 7B "Protection of Public Health and Safety During Covid-19 Pandemic and Response – Further Suspension or Modification of Statutes", dated March 14, 2020, suspending in-person open meeting requirements, all public meetings will be closed to the public at this time. Public Meetings will be available on Groton Municipal Television Channel 2 in real time or via Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/93436576393?pwd=ci9lRHhRGOExXcyttWktaUZRakxNUT09> or with the Meeting ID 934 3657 6393 and Passcode: 939333

I. ROLL CALL

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

Receipt of Citizens' Petitions is the portion of the Council meeting where the Council welcomes comments from citizens. To address the Council, please join via Zoom with the Meeting ID 934 3657 6393 and Passcode: 939333, clearly state your name and address. Each presentation should be limited to five (5) minutes or less, and citizens should, if possible, submit emailed or written comments. Presentations should be related to matters pertinent to the City of Groton. City Councilors will only ask questions in order to clarify the speaker's presentation and can respond during the REPONSES TO CITIZENS' PETITIONS portion of the meeting.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 7, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting and December 28, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

Mural

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-21-1-1 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF VIDYADHAR NOWDURI AS A PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER GRADE "D", IN THE CITY OF GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, WAIVE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND THAT THE APPOINTMENT BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2021

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WHEREAS, the City of Groton Police Department has patrol officer vacancies in the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Vidyadhar Nowduri was selected as an applicant from a Police Officer candidacy list established by the Law Enforcement Council of Southeastern Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Vidyadhar Nowduri has passed an oral interview panel, the background investigation, polygraph, physical agility, psychological and medical testing; and

WHEREAS, Vidyadhar Nowduri has met the required entry standards established by the Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council, for admission to the Police Academy, and it would be beneficial for the City of Groton to hire him; and

WHEREAS, Vidyadhar Nowduri desires to serve as a patrol officer with the City of Groton Police Department;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Vidyadhar Nowduri as a probationary Police Officer Grade “D”, in the City of Groton Police Department, waive the residency requirement and that the appointment be effective January 4, 2021.

R-21-1-2 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ERIC JAY, 30 HILLSIDE AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER, EASTERN POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2022

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance #75, Section 3(e) states, “Appointments shall be made by the Mayor with the approval of the City Council”; and

WHEREAS, Eric Jay, 30 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut, desires to serve as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic Commission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Eric Jay, 30 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission, term to expire on February 1, 2022.

R-21-1-3 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE RETIREMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN TIM UMRYSZ FROM THE CITY OF GROTON PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 11, 2021

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WHEREAS, Public Works Foreman Tim Umrysz has informed the Mayor of his intent to leave his position with the City of Groton Public Works Department by reason of retirement effective February 11, 2021;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council accept and approve the retirement of Public Works Foreman Tim Umrysz from the City of Groton Public Works Department effective February 11, 2021.

R-21-1-4 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PLACEMENT OF A MEMORIAL BENCH AT EASTERN POINT BEACH IN HONOR OF RUTH AND ALLEN B. SLONSKI SR IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF BEACH AND PARKS MEMORIALS, AS APPROVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Nancy Slonski Howard has requested that a memorial bench be placed at Eastern Point Beach to honor her parent's memory; and

WHEREAS, Allen B. Slonski Sr was a sailor stationed in Groton for 19 of his 20 years of service and many fond memories were made as Ruth would bring their seven children out to Eastern Point Beach to watch the submarines go past; and

WHEREAS, the request was made to the Director of Parks and Recreation and has received the approval of the Beach and Parks Committee;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the request for a memorial bench at Eastern Point Beach in honor of Ruth and Allen B. Slonski Sr in accordance with the Procedures for Consideration of Beach and Parks Memorials, as approved by the Mayor and Council.

R-21-1-5 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ENTER INTO A MASTER SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH WRIGHT - PIERCE ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING FIRM, 169 MAIN STREET, 700 PLAZA MIDDLESEX, MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR CONTRACT, AND THAT THIS COMPANY BE RECOGNIZED AS A PREFERRED VENDOR TO AVOID FUTURE BID PROCESS AT AGREED ON PRICES FOR SERVICES, WITH CONSIDERATION GIVEN TO APPROVAL OF FUTURE PURCHASE ORDER AMOUNTS PER POLICY AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE PURCHASING PRACTICES OF GROTON UTILITIES AND THE DIRECTOR OF UTILITIES BE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

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WHEREAS, Management solicited bids for the Master Service Agreement and four (4) bids were received; and recommends entering into agreement with Wright – Pierce as this firm offers the best price with full scope capability; and

WHEREAS, entering into a Master Service Agreement for mostly Water and Wastewater services allows for a long term contract engineering services to do projects cost effectively; and

WHEREAS, entering into a Master Service Agreement gives Management the ability to receive consulting services just in time; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting on December 16,2020, The Groton Utility Commission / Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to enter into a Master Service Agreement with Wright - Pierce, 169 Main Street, 700 Plaza Middlesex, Middletown, Connecticut for a for a five (5) year contract, and that this company be recognized as a preferred vendor to avoid future bid process at agreed on prices for services, with consideration given to approval of future purchase order amounts per Policy No. 1004 Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchasing Practices of Groton Utilities, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur and the Director of Utilities be authorized to execute the agreement

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize Groton Utilities Management to enter into a Master Service Agreement with Wright - Pierce, 169 Main Street, 700 Plaza Middlesex, Middletown, Connecticut for a for a five (5) year contract, and that this company be recognized as a preferred vendor to avoid future bid process at agreed on prices for services, with consideration given to approval of future purchase order amounts per Policy No. 1004 Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchasing Practices of Groton Utilities, and the Director of Utilities be authorized to execute the agreement.

R-21-1-6 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO WOODARD & CURRAN, 35 BROAD STREET, ONE WEYBOSSET HILL, FLOOR 7, PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTY NINE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$69,000.00) FOR THE SCADA SYSTEM UPGRADES AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT TO BE PAID FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE 2020-2021 WATER DIVISION APPROVED NON-BONDED CAPITAL BUDGET, AND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL BE APPRISED OF THIS ACTION WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT IT CONCUR

WHEREAS, the SCADA system communicates to all pump stations; and

WHEREAS, the existing SCADA system is outdated and needs to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, Woodard & Curran is a Sole Source Provider and has provided a Memorandum of Agreement; and

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WHEREAS, at its Regular Meeting on December 16, 2020, the GUC-WPCA authorized Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order to Woodard & Curran, 35 Broad Street, One Weybosset Hill, Floor 7, Providence, Rhode Island for an amount not to exceed Sixty Nine Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$69,000.00) for the SCADA System Upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant to be paid from funds available in the 2020-2021 Water Division Approved Non-Bonded Capital Budget, and that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council authorize Groton Utilities Management to issue a purchase order to Woodard & Curran, 35 Broad Street, One Weybosset Hill, Floor 7, Providence, Rhode Island for an amount not to exceed Sixty Nine Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$69,000.00) for the SCADA System Upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant to be paid from funds available in the 2020-2021 Water Division Approved Non-Bonded Capital Budget.

R-21-1-8 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT THE 2020 PRESERVATION CT VIBRANT COMMUNITIES GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$25,000.00) TO FUND CONSULTANT SERVICES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PLACEMAKING DESIGNS AN IMPLEMENTATION PLANS FOR A SUMMER-FALL 2021 INSTALLMENT IN THAMES CENTER

WHEREAS, The Department of Planning and Economic Development will collaborate with community stakeholders in a series of visioning exercises designed to identify and be implemented as temporary improvements to streetscape and public space within Thames Center. Department staff is committed to developing placemaking designs and implementation plans for a Summer-Fall 2021 installment; and

WHEREAS, Thames Center is the span of Thames Street between Broad Street and Baker Avenue in the City of Groton. Historic, economic, and generational dynamics have caused Thames Center to suffer disinvestment. Key concerns include the number of vacant buildings, underutilized space, consideration of climate change and sea level rise, parking, through traffic safety, and walkability/ bikeability; and

WHEREAS, The 2019 Thames Street Promenade Report, identifies strategies to revitalize Thames Street and maintain its viability. Strategies include leveraging Thames Center by maximizing its value as a walkable historic coastal village; and enhancing the waterfront to become an amenity that will draw people to Thames Street; and

WHEREAS, The 2019 Plan of Conservation and Development, Section 2.3 Improve Placemaking, recommends that the City of Groton use placemaking strategies to project a memorable image. The plan emphasizes the importance of promoting community assets and activities that contribute to the overall “sense of place”; and

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WHEREAS, the 2020 Groton Economic Development Strategy’s overarching goals include shaping Groton’s pockets of economic activity into places where people connect. The strategy looks at the relationship between people and place, encouraging the empowerment of communities to create a future that realizes the full social, economic, and cultural potential of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City applied for, and was awarded, a Vibrant Communities Grant from Preservation CT to undertake community visioning to revitalize the Thames Street neighborhood, part of the Groton Bank National Register District; and

WHEREAS, the acceptance of the Grant requires a match of \$5,000.00 which will be attained through the Economic Development FY 2021 Operating Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Grant Award will be utilized for consultant services to: engage community stakeholders in visioning exercises to ensure that placemaking designs are responsive to community needs; Develop placemaking designs for streetscape and underutilized space in Thames Center; Design vibrant, welcoming public spaces that complement the diversity of the areas land uses; Propose pilot projects/ pop-up events that can be executed and tested to verify criteria for placemaking goals; Develop an action plan and project budget for Summer-Fall 2021 implementation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Mayor and Council accept the 2020 Preservation CT Vibrant Communities Grant in the amount of twenty-five thousand dollars and zero cents (\$25,000.00) to fund consultant services in the development of placemaking designs an implementation plans for a Summer–Fall 2021 installment in Thames Center.

X. ADJOURNMENT