

**CITY OF GROTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2005**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:30 PM**

Mayor Dennis Popp called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Dennis Popp, Deputy Mayor Paul Duarte, Councilors David Hale, Marian Galbraith, Michael Street, Finance Director Tony Timpano and City Clerk Debra Patrick.
Excused: Councilor Sharon Schick and Treasurer Terrence O'Hanlon.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Led by Scott Martin.

Councilor Street moved Deputy Mayor Duarte seconded a motion to change the order of business to bring resolutions R-05-1-1 and R-05-1-2 forward on the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

R-05-1-1 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WAIVE THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KEVIN L. PRICE, 60 CINDY LANE, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT, AS A FIREFIGHTER/EMT IN THE CITY OF GROTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for one full time firefighter position in the City of Groton Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Kevin L. Price, 60 Cindy Lane, Mystic, Connecticut, has successfully passed all testing requirements: Written, physical agility, background investigation, personal interviews and medical evaluation; and

WHEREAS, Kevin L. Price has been recommended by Fire Chief Nicholas DeLia and Mayor Popp to be appointed to fill this position in the City of Groton Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, Kevin L. Price will be sworn in on January 3, 2005 with an effective date to start work on January 10, 2005;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council waive the residency requirement and approve the appointment of Kevin L. Price, 60 Cindy Lane, Mystic, Connecticut, as a firefighter/EMT in the City of Groton Fire Department.

Councilor Hale moved Councilor Galbraith seconded a motion to approve R-05-1-1. Motion passed unanimously.

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Mayor Popp administered the oath of service to Firefighter Price and was joined at the podium by Chief Delia, Tina Price and Jakob Price. Mrs. Price pinned the Firefighters badge on her husband at the conclusion of the swearing in.

R-05-1-2 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. TISCHER, 88 BLOOMINGDALE ROAD, OAKDALE, CONNECTICUT, AS A CAPTAIN IN THE CITY OF GROTON FIRE DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE JANUARY 3, 2005

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists within the City of Groton Fire Department due to the retirement of Captain David A. Branche on January 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, William J. Tischer, 88 Bloomingdale Road, Oakdale, Connecticut, is the next senior firefighter to assume the position of Captain in the City of Groton Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, William J. Tischer has been recommended by Fire Chief Nicholas DeLia and Mayor Popp to fill this position;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of William J. Tischer, 88 Bloomingdale Road, Oakdale, Connecticut, as a Captain in the City of Groton Fire Department effective January 3, 2005.

Deputy Mayor Duarte moved Councilor Galbraith seconded a motion to approve **R-05-1-2. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Popp administered the oath of service to Captain Tischer and was joined at the podium by Chief Delia and Cindy Tischer. Mrs. Tischer pinned the Captains badge on her husband at the conclusion of the swearing in.

Chief Delia spoke briefly stating that he was pleased to promote Captain Tischer and welcome Firefighter Price to the City of Groton family. He offered advice to both Captain Tischer and Firefighter Price asking both of them to work together as a team and make the most of this opportunity.

Mayor Popp called a recess at 7:50 p.m. for a reception to honor Captain Tischer and Firefighter Price.

Mayor Popp called the meeting back to order at 8:05 p.m.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

Betsy Gibson, 91 Jupiter Point Road addressed the Council with her concerns regarding the proposed Marine Science Magnet School on Shennecossett Road. She asked the Council if they would be willing to discuss the issue with LEARN to determine if the property is suitable

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for this project. She asked if they would be willing to contact Avery Point-UCONN officials to determine what development is planned for the campus.

Ms. Gibson stated that LEARN should have approached the Mayor and Council when they were formulating these plans. She feels the proposed school has merit but that this property may not be the best site for it. She wished everyone a Happy New Year.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

Mayor Popp stated that he would personally contact Avery Point to gather more information on their development plans. The Council concurred that they should discuss the proposed Marine Science Magnet School and get more information on the site and use restrictions that may apply.

Councilor Galbraith asked for clarification on what role they were to play in determining if the school would be the best use of this site.

Mayor Popp stated that he feels the Community Development Committee should draft a letter to LEARN asking for additional information on the use of the property and how this will fit into and benefit the neighborhood.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Duarte moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve the Mayor and Council minutes of December 6, 2004. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilor Galbraith moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve the Special Mayor and Council minutes of December 13, 2004. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilor Hale moved **Deputy Mayor Duarte** seconded a motion to approve the Special Mayor and Council minutes of December 20, 2004. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilor Galbraith moved **Councilor Street** seconded a motion to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of December 27, 2004. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Hale attended the holiday dinner hosted by Groton Utilities at the Groton Inn and Suites on December 18th and thanked Glenn Wilson and the planning committee for a wonderful evening. He attended the MALTA fundraiser plunge at Eastern Point Beach on January 1st.

Deputy Mayor Duarte attended the holiday dinner for a brief time on December 18th and has had a great deal of positive feedback from those in attendance. He attended the information session for the proposed Marine Science Magnet School on December 13th.

Councilor Galbraith attended the information session on December 13th and the holiday dinner on December 18th.

Councilor Street had no report.

Mayor Popp attended the Legislative Breakfast for Electric boat on December 7th, the SCOG Legislative Breakfast on December 10th and the information session for the proposed Marine

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Science Magnet School on December 13th. He attended the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Dinner on December 14th and their Open House on December 16th. He attended the holiday party on December 18th and congratulated the members of the planning committee for a job well done. He attended the CCM Legislative Committee Breakfast on December 21st.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

Community Development-Proposed Marine Science Magnet School

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-05-1-3 RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY COUNCIL PETITION THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT WATER AUTHORITY AS REQUIRED BY PUBLIC ACT 381, SECTION 18, FOR THE PROVISION OF A FUTURE WATER SUPPLY SOURCE OF FOUR MILLION GALLONS PER DAY OR MORE AND THAT WE COMMUNICATE OUR DESIRE TO FIRST INCREASE THE CAPABILITIES OF OUR EXISTING SUPPLIES AS DETAILED IN THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN AND THAT MAYOR DENNIS L. POPP BE AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THE PETITION LETTER ON BEHALF OF THE CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities has committed to supplying the Regional Water System with 1.93 MGD from its current water supply reserves, and this supply to the region is expected to commence by January, 2006; and

WHEREAS, initial consumption is expected to be 0.700 MGD and is projected to be 1.93 MGD some years out, and these projected demand estimates may be exceeded sooner than expected; and

WHEREAS, throughout the process of planning and implementing the Regional Water Supply Agreement, Groton Utilities made it clear that as soon as the first volume of water flowed to supply the region, the process to develop the next increment of water supply should be initiated; and

WHEREAS, depending upon the source selected, the regulatory requirements to obtain a diversion permit and the physical construction could take between five and ten years; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut Public Act 381, an Act Establishing a Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority (SCWA), passed in 1967, provides in Section 18 that "The authority...shall plan, operate and maintain a water supply system and, where necessary, construct water supply systems for the Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region." It further states "...on the written request of the city council of the city of Groton, for the provision of water, said authority shall immediately proceed to establish a source of water supply for said city which will provide not less than four million gallons of water per day and shall connect such source

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of water supply system of said city, the cost of such establishment and connection to be borne by said authority”; and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities would welcome the opportunity to work closely with SCWA to identify and develop these sources; and

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities has developed alternatives and believes its assistance in this process would prove beneficial for all participants;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council petition the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority as required by Public Act 381, Section 18, for the provision of a future water supply source of four million gallons per day or more and that we communicate our desire to first increase the capabilities of our existing supplies as detailed in the Southeastern Connecticut Regional Water Supply Plan and that Mayor Dennis L. Popp be authorized to sign the petition letter on behalf of the City Council.

Councilor Galbraith moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-1-3**. Mayor Popp said that during a meeting with the SECT Water Authority earlier this evening this matter was discussed and they are in favor of the request.

Motion passed unanimously.

R-05-1-4 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MANAGEMENT TO RETAIN THE LOBBYING SERVICES OF AVALLONE, DIBELLA AND ASSOCIATES, LLC FOR LOBBYING SERVICES PERTAINING TO ELECTRIC, WATER, OR GAS SERVICES AND ANY OTHER UTILITY MATTERS AS NECESSARY NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00 AND THAT MAYOR DENNIS L. POPP BE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, constant monitoring of legislation and lobbying efforts are needed to assure that proper legislation pertaining to electric, water, or gas services is approved by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Management was authorized by the Utility Commission and the City Council to retain the lobbying firm of Avallone, DiBella and Associates, L.L.C. for these services in January, 2001 and again in February, 2003; and

WHEREAS, in addition to lobbying services over the past four years, this firm also provided other services, which included the successful amendment to Statute 7-233ii of the Connecticut General Statutes that allowed Groton Utilities to form a C-Corp resulting in the formation of Thames Valley Communications, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide continuing lobbying services, it is prudent to enter into a new agreement with Avallone, DiBella and Associates, L.L.C. for lobbying services;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize Management to retain the lobbying services of Avallone, DiBella and Associates, L.L.C. for lobbying services pertaining to electric, water, or gas services and any other utility matters as necessary not to exceed \$100,000.00, and that Mayor Dennis L. Popp be authorized to execute the agreement.

Councilor Street moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-1-4**.
Glenn Wilson reiterated the changes in the terms of the contract from previous years.
Motion passed unanimously.

R-05-1-5 RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH ALL STATE BOILER & CONSTRUCTION, INC., 449 COOKE STREET, FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$167,980.00 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) PUMPS AT THE HIGH LIFT PUMP STATION LOCATED AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF \$110,000.00 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TWO (2) VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVES AND TWO (2) TRANSFORMERS AND ASSOCIATED ELECTRICAL CONNECTION WORK TO BE PERFORMED BY GROTON UTILITIES PERSONNEL TO BE PAID FROM THE 1989 WATER BOND FUND, AND THAT MAYOR DENNIS L. POPP BE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND THE CITY CLERK TO AFFIX THE CITY SEAL THERETO

WHEREAS, Management has identified a need to replace Pump No. 7 and Pump No. 8 at the High Lift Pump Station located at the Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the existing pumps, which haven't been used in a couple of years, have a pumping capability of 9 MGD, which is too large for our system; and

WHEREAS, presently, we pump 6-1/2 MGD to 7 MGD; and

WHEREAS, in order to provide greater flexibility and reliability in pumping water to our system, Management recommends replacing the existing pumps; and

WHEREAS, Management solicited bids from five (5) qualified contractors for the purchase and installation of two (2) pumps at the High Lift Pump Station located at the Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, based on the evaluation of the bids received, it is recommended that All State Boiler & Construction, Inc., 449 Cooke Street, Farmington, Connecticut, be awarded the contract based on their low bid submitted in the total amount of \$167,980.00; and

WHEREAS, in conjunction with this project, Groton Utilities will supply and install two (2) Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) and two (2) transformers and make all the electrical connections at an estimated cost of \$110,000.00;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve a contract with All State Boiler & Construction, Inc., 449 Cooke Street, Farmington, Connecticut, in the amount of \$167,980.00 for the purchase and installation of two (2) pumps at the High Lift Pump Station located at the Water Treatment Plant and authorizing the expenditure of \$110,000.00 for the purchase and installation of two (2) Variable Frequency Drives and two (2) transformers and associated electrical connection work to be performed by Groton Utilities personnel to be paid from the 1989 Water Bond Fund, and that Mayor Dennis L. Popp be authorized to execute the contract documents and the City Clerk to affix the City Seal thereto.

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-1-5**. Ray Valentini stated that some of the work for installation would be contracted out.
Motion passed unanimously.

R-05-1-6 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY COUNCIL TO EXTEND THE CURRENT SLUDGE DISPOSAL CONTRACT WITH SYNAGRO NORTHEAST, INCORPORATED INTO A LONG-TERM AGREEMENT THAT PROVIDES FOR A NEW RATE SCHEDULE THAT INCLUDES ANNUAL CPI RATE ADJUSTMENTS AND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE MAYOR DENNIS L. POPP TO EXECUTE THE CONTRACT DOCUMENTS AND THAT THE CITY CLERK AFFIX THE CITY SEAL THERETO

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2004, a Sludge Management Contract was entered into between Synagro Northeast, Inc. and the City of Groton ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton and Synagro Northeast, Incorporated, desires to further amend their contract for a total of three (3) years commencing July 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, under the existing Contract, Article III, CONTRACT PRICE AND PRICE ADJUSTMENTS, Section 2, Change July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) price adjustment for July 1, 2005 shall be waived; these adjustments will resume on July 1, 2006 and again on each anniversary of the effective date for the term of this extension; and

WHEREAS, under the existing Contract, Article VIII, CONTRACT TERM, the term of this Contract shall be extended for a three (3) year term, commencing July 1, 2005 and ending June 30, 2008; unless terminated by either party by written notice given at least six (6) months prior to the expiration of the initial term or any additional contract extension periods;

WHEREAS, the WPCA, at its meeting held on January 3, 2005 concurs with the amendment to this contract;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council extend the current sludge disposal contract with Synagro Northeast, Incorporated, into a long-term agreement that provides for a new rate schedule that includes Annual CPI rate adjustments and that the City Council authorize Mayor Dennis L. Popp to execute the contract documents and that the City Clerk affix the City seal thereto

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Deputy Mayor Duarte moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-1-6**.
Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Popp distributed a letter from Bud Fay asking for support in an “Adopt and Appreciate our Military Program”. He and the Council agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next Mayor and Council meeting.

X. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Popp adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**