

**CITY OF GROTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2005**

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

Mayor Popp called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Led by Mayor Popp.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

None.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Schick** seconded a motion to approve the Mayor and Council minutes of November 21, 2005. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Deputy Mayor Duarte moved **Councilor Schick** seconded a motion to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of November 28, 2005. **Motion passed unanimously.**

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Hale participated in the Holiday lights parade December 3rd. He said it was the best holiday parade they have had so far.

Councilor Poppe participated in the parade with the City Council and marched with his church group also.

Councilor Street had no report.

Councilor Galbraith attended the Board of education meeting November 30th participated in the Holiday lights parade with West Side Middle School. She said it was a wonderful event.

Councilor Schick participated in the parade and thanked her granddaughter Samantha and Tim Hale for carrying the banner. She said the tree lighting after the parade was very nice

Deputy Mayor Duarte attended a dinner hosted by Groton Utilities December 2nd where the Councilors and Utility Commissioners had the opportunity to learn more about one another's work. He participated in the parade on December 3rd

Mayor Popp attended the Sub Vet's Club on Thanksgiving, participated in the Holiday Lights parade December 3rd and attended the Elk's Memorial Service on December 4th.

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He said the flexible spending accounts would be in effect in January. He reported that December 14 would be declared William Sanford Jr. Day in the City of Groton in honor of Mr. Sanford's 80th birthday. Mr. Sanford has volunteered his time at many City sponsored activities over the years and is deserving of this recognition. He reminded the Councilors that December 6th is the City sponsored Holiday Festival at the Municipal Building from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-05-12-114 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF TERRY EAMES, 41 PINE ISLAND ROAD, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER, GROTON UTILITIES COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON MAY 31, 2009

WHEREAS, the term of Terry Eames, 41 Pine Island Road, Groton, Connecticut as a regular member, Groton Utilities Commission expired on May 31, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Terry Eames desires to continue to serve as a regular member of the Groton Utilities Commission and has been recommended for reappointment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Terry Eames, 41 Pine Island Road, Groton, Connecticut, as a regular member, Groton Utilities Commission, term to expire on May 31, 2009.

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-11-114**. The Councilors concurred that Mr. Eames has a good business sense and is an asset to the Utility Commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

R-05-12-115 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MARK WHALEN, 20 HILLSIDE AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER, EASTERN POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2009

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for a regular member to the Eastern Point Historic District Commission; and

WHEREAS, Mark Whalen, 20 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut has requested to serve as a regular member of the Eastern Point Historic District Commission;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Mark Whalen, 20 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut, as a regular member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission, term to expire on February 1, 2009.

Councilor Poppe moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-11-115**. The Councilors extended their thanks to Mr. Whalen for his willingness to serve on the commission.

Motion passed unanimously.

R-05-12-116 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL INITIALLY APPROVE “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO APPROVE INCREASES TO RETIREES PENSIONS WHO RETIRED IN 2002 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY OF GROTON RETIREMENT BOARD”

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROTON:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council, upon recommendation of the Retirement Board, may increase the benefits of retired employees; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have received a qualified cost estimate from an actuary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Retirement Board recommended increasing the benefits of retired employees who retired in 2002 at their meeting held on November 17, 2005:

That is: The COLA increase shall be calculated by multiplying the annualized increase in the Consumer Price Index issued by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor for the last available twelve (12) months by a factor of twenty-five percent (25%); however, in no event shall the adjustments exceed one and one-half (1.5%) per year. This adjustment is intended to provide persons retired before 1990 and those who retired up until December 2002 with the same COLA.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective on or about March 1, 2006.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council **initially** approve “An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Council to approve increases to retirees pensions who retired in 2000 as recommended by the City of Groton Retirement Board”.

Deputy Mayor Duarte moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-11-116**. **Motion passed unanimously.**

R-05-12-117 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE PROCEDURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF BEACH AND PARK MEMORIALS

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WHEREAS, the City of Groton has many parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities that have benches, trees, etc. for the use and enjoyment of City of Groton residents and non-resident City of Groton taxpayers and others; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton receives requests from various individuals and organizations for the placement of memorials on City of Groton property; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Groton to set forth guidelines for the requests of memorials and procedures for submission of such requests; and

WHEREAS, the following procedures for the consideration of Beach and Park Memorials are to be effective upon passage:

I. Submittal Procedure:

1. Any individual or group may submit a request for a memorial (bench or tree) at a City recreational facility to the Director of Parks & Recreation. Written requests outlining the justification of request and type of memorial. Individuals or groups must have had some type of involvement or contribution to the City of Groton Community. This request should be submitted at least 30 days prior to a regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Groton Beach & Parks Committee.

II. Guidelines for Requests:

A. Memorial benches:

1. Written contract with donor responsible for paying cost of the bench plus the cost of the plaque. Bench to be built by the Parks & Recreation staff and the plaque to be 3" X 6" size with wording to be approved by the City of Groton. The cost of the bench to be borne by the applicants
2. Bench and its location must be approved by the City of Groton.

B. Memorial trees:

1. Written contract with requestor responsible for cost of tree and any stone, plus setting for plaque and cost of 3" X 6" size plaque.
2. Tree types and size must be included in the written request with the City of Groton having the final approval.

C. Sidewalk Memorial (around flag pole at the Beach):

1. Written requests outlining the justification of request and type of memorial.

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2. Written contract with donor responsible for paying cost of the memorial plus the cost of the memorial.

D. Other memorials:

1. Written requests outlining the justification of request and type of memorial.
2. Written contract with donor responsible for paying cost of the memorial plus the cost of the memorial.

III. **Length of Process:**

- A. Once the Beach & Parks Committee has approved the request, it will be forwarded to the City of Groton Mayor and Council for final approval.
- B. No request is final until approved in writing by the City of Groton Mayor and Council.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the procedures for the consideration of Beach and Park memorials.

Councilor Schick moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve **R-05-11-117**. Councilor Poppe stated that the Beach and Parks Committee spent more than a year on this to insure that the procedures would be fair and all requests could be given due consideration. **Motion passed unanimously.**

X. **POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Deputy Mayor Duarte moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues to include Lorry Scheetz, Attorney Dave Ryan and Tony Timpano. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Executive Session commenced at 7:56 p.m.

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Schick** seconded a motion to exit Executive Session.

Motion passed unanimously

Executive Session ended at 8:47 p.m.

XI. **COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilor Hale moved **Deputy Mayor Duarte** seconded a motion to change the order of business to act on **R-05-12-118**. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Councilor Poppe moved **Councilor Galbraith** seconded a motion to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement and release between Officer Peter Miller, UE Local 222, CIPU #8 and the City of Groton. **Motion passed unanimously.**

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Mayor Popp read a statement of apology to Officer Miller. New information that was not available until late last week exonerated Officer Miller of any wrong doing. The union brought information regarding a defect in the undercarriage of the vehicle. Mayor Popp stated that it was unfortunate that this information was not known sooner.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Duarte moved **Councilor Poppe** seconded a motion to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Mayor Popp adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**