

**CITY OF GROTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009**

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

Mayor 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, Hubert Poppe, Celeste Duffy, Michael Street, Treasurer Janice Waller-Brett, Finance Director Michael Hillsberg and City Clerk Debra Patrick. Excused: Councilor Marian Galbraith.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Led by Mayor Popp.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

Paul Yatchko, Director of Utilities announced that effective this week Herb Cummings would take over as Deputy Director of Water Operations. He said Mr. Cummings had been the General Manager, Energy Services at Groton Utilities and cited the extensive experience he brings to his new position.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Duffy** seconded a motion to approve the Mayor and Council minutes of February 2, 2009. **Motion carried.**

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Hale had no report.

Councilor Poppe had no report.

Councilor Street had no report.

Councilor Duffy attended the Costa Property Committee meeting February 10th.

Deputy Mayor Duarte attended the Costa Property Committee meeting February 10th.

Mayor Popp attended the annual Pack 41 Blue & Gold banquet, the monthly meeting of the Eastern Regional Tourism Board, the Costa Property Committee meeting February 10th, the Beach & Parks Committee meeting February 11th, the STEPS/Community Conversations meeting February 12th and the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Benjamin Estep. He spoke at the Council of Government Executive Committee meeting to identify important projects to be completed with

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the stimulus money earmarked for South Eastern Connecticut. There was some discussion about whether or not Route 11 would ever be completed.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

Environment & Health- No Smoking Policy at Washington Park
Finance- Review of Management Study

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-09-2-7 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL GRANT AN EXTENSION OF LICENSE AND WAIVE THE SECURITY DEPOSIT TO ROBERT AND PATRICIA GARCIA, DBA EASTERN POINT BEACH CONCESSION, 11 AVON PLACE, MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT, TO OPERATE A REFRESHMENT FACILITY AT EASTERN POINT BEACH FOR THE 2009 SEASON

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the Eastern Point Beach Agreement states that said term may be extended each one (1) year if the licensee gives written notice of said extension and all financial and/or other obligations from the prior year have been satisfied; and

WHEREAS, Robert and Patricia Garcia, dba Eastern Point Beach Concession, have notified the City of Groton that they wish to extend their license and waive the \$1,500.00 security deposit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council grant an extension and waive the security deposit to Robert and Patricia Garcia, dba Eastern Point Beach Concession, 11 Avon Place, Mystic, Connecticut, to operate a refreshment facility at Eastern Point Beach for the 2009 season.

Councilor Hale moved **Deputy Mayor Duarte** seconded a motion to approve **R-09-2-7**.
Motion carried.

R-09-2-8 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE 308-LINE UPGRADE PROJECT FOR A TOTAL PROJECT COST OF THREE MILLION, ONE HUNDRED THREE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED NINETEEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTY-SEVEN CENTS (\$3,103,519.77), WITH ONE MILLION, THREE HUNDRED TWENTY-SIX THOUSAND, NINE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN DOLLARS AND SEVENTEEN CENTS (\$1,326,977.17) TO BE PAID FROM UNEXPENDED FUNDS FROM THE APPROVED 1992 ELECTRIC BOND FUND, AND THE REMAINING ONE MILLION, SEVEN HUNDRED SEVENTY-SIX THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED FORTY-TWO DOLLARS AND SIXTY CENTS (\$1,776,542.60) TO BE PAID FROM UNEXPENDED FUNDS FROM THE APPROVED 2001 ELECTRIC BOND FUND, IN ORDER TO INCREASE CAPACITY AND RELIABILITY TO PFIZER, ELECTRIC BOAT, AND OTHER GROTON UTILITIES' CUSTOMERS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF ITS SERVICE TERRITORY AND AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES' MANAGEMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY AND PROCEDURES GOVERNING THE PURCHASING PRACTICES OF GROTON UTILITIES

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WHEREAS, the 308-Line is one (1) of three (3) 35kV lines that supply power to Pfizer's Eastern Point Road Substation; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 308-Line Upgrade Project consists of replacing the overhead and underground cables from the Poquonnock Road Substation to the 35kV riser pole located on Shennecossett Road, replacing the overhead conductors with 636 MCM steel supported aluminum cable, and replacing the existing 350 MCM copper underground cable with 750 MCM steel supported aluminum cable; and

WHEREAS, the proposed 308-Line Upgrade Project will increase the 308-Line capacity from 22.6 MW to 60 MW; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Utility Commission at its special meeting held January 28, 2009 voted to approve the 308-Line Upgrade Project for a total project cost of \$3,103,519.77, with \$1,326,977.17 to be paid from unexpended funds from the approved 1992 Electric Bond Fund, and the remaining \$1,776,542.60 to be paid from unexpended funds from the approved 2001 Electric Bond Fund, in order to increase capacity and reliability to Pfizer, Electric Boat, and other Groton Utilities' customers located in the southern portion of its service territory and authorize Groton Utilities' Management to proceed with the Request for Proposals in accordance with the Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchasing Practices of Groton Utilities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council Approve the 308-Line Upgrade Project for a Total Project Cost of Three Million, One Hundred Three Thousand, Five Hundred Nineteen Dollars and Seventy-Seven Cents (\$3,103,519.77), with One Million, Three Hundred Twenty-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred Seventy-Seven Dollars and Seventeen Cents (\$1,326,977.17) to be Paid from Unexpended Funds from the Approved 1992 Electric Bond Fund, and the Remaining One Million, Seven Hundred Seventy-Six Thousand, Five Hundred Forty-Two Dollars and Sixty Cents (\$1,776,542.60) to be Paid from Unexpended Funds from the Approved 2001 Electric Bond Fund, in Order to Increase Capacity and Reliability to Pfizer, Electric Boat, and other Groton Utilities' Customers Located in the Southern Portion of its Service Territory and Authorize Groton Utilities' Management to Proceed with the Request for Proposals in Accordance with the Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchasing Practices of Groton Utilities.

Councilor Poppe moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve **R-09-2-8**.

Randy Surprenant, General Manager, Electric Division gave a presentation outlining the 308-Line upgrade. He went over the proposed upgrade that will include asbestos abatement, lead cable removal and the installation of underground feeders. He said the upgrade will support future growth and would, in the event of a failure at 300 and 305 Lines, sustain the system. He showed some aerial photos of the path of the 308-Line.

There was some discussion on how to prevent power outages due to animals.

Mr. Surprenant said he will implement the use of Animal Guards on the lines. They are environmentally friendly and should do the job.

He went over the history of the upgrades that have been done from 2001-2008.

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Mr. Surprenant said they would like to go out to bid now to set the prices. He said they would like to begin the work by September 1st of this year and expect to complete it by January 31, 2010. He said they have rough estimates of approximately \$3,000,000.00 (Three Million). Councilor Poppe asked if he thought given the economy they might get more competitive bids. Mr. Surprenant said that it is possible that if they use contactors who are looking for work bids may come in lower than anticipated.

Utilities Director Yatchko concurred that the costs of copper and aluminum have gone down. Deputy Mayor Duarte asked when the whole system will be upgraded.

Mr. Surprenant said that once this is done and they complete voltage conversions all that will remain are the 95 crossings.

There was some discussion on how many lines cross 95.

Mayor Popp asked if the application to the DOT was made.

Mr. Surprenant said an application was submitted and approved last year but it has expired so a new application will have to be submitted.

Motion carried.

**R-09-2-9 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE
THE APPOINTMENT OF GAIL KELLY, 167 MIRRA DRIVE,
GROTON, CONNECTICUT TO THE COSTA PROPERTY
COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists for a member of the Beach and Parks Committee to serve on the Costa Property Committee due to the resignation of Arthur Callahan; and

WHEREAS, Gail Kelly, 167 Mirra Drive, Groton, Connecticut has expressed a desire to serve and has been recommended for appointment;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Gail Kelly, 167 Mirra Drive, Groton, Connecticut to the Costa Property Committee.

Deputy Mayor Duarte moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve **R-09-2-9**. **Motion carried.**

X. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

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XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Duffy** seconded a motion to adjourn. **Motion carried.**

Mayor Popp adjourned the meeting at **8:01 p.m.**

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**