

**CITY OF GROTON
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 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 Marian Galbraith, Councilors David Hale, Lisa M. Luck, Celeste Duffy, James Streeter, William Jervis, Finance Director Michael Hillsberg and City Clerk Debra Patrick. Excused: Treasurer Janice Waller-Brett.

REFERRAL ITEM #1 APPOINTMENTS

**APPOINTMENT OF BETSY GIBSON, 91 JUPITER POINT ROAD,
GROTON, CONNECTICUT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE ADVISORY
BOARD TO THE SOUTHEASTERN CONNECTICUT WATER
AUTHORITY (SCWA)**

Mayor Popp said that the City is entitled to have 2 representatives on the board. We currently have no one due to the resignation of Barbara Franciosi to serve on the Water Authority. He said Ms. Gibson is interested in serving on this board. He said each municipality in Southeastern Connecticut can appoint 2 people. He also said one of the Councilors could sit on the board if anyone is interested in becoming involved. He said they meet quarterly at different locations. Deputy Mayor Galbraith said she would get back to him on the possibility of her doing so.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith moved **Councilor Duffy** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM # 1** to the November 2, 2009 Mayor and Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith said she was pleased to be able to make the motion. She said she appeared on Ms. Gibson's show to talk about the Thames Street Project. She said they talked about why it is needed and how extensive the project will be. She said it will air Tuesday, October 27th on Channel 2.

Councilor Duffy asked how someone can apply to serve on a commission.

Mayor Popp said there is an application form.

Clerk Patrick said the forms are available in her office and they can be returned to her with a resume attached.

Mayor Popp said it is an informal process.

Councilor Hale thanked Ms. Gibson for her willingness to serve.

Motion carried.

REFERRAL ITEM # 343 TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM CONTINGENCY TO PARKS AND RECREATION OPERATIONS

Mary Hill, Director of Parks and Recreation said the first area where they are over budget is with the Summer Playground program. She said that after the 2008-2009 budget had been approved she found out the Town of Groton would not be offering a summer program at West Side Middle

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School. Due to the need for such a program, the City decided to expand their program to the school. The overage includes staffing, supplies, additional buses and field trip costs for July/August 2008 session and 1½ weeks in the June 2009 session.

She said there were additional costs with beach staff to have a monitor for the Zbierski House to open and lock up for parties. She said due to damages it became necessary to have someone monitor the comings and goings of the people renting the house.

She said lifeguards and a supervisor for the Family Swim at Avery Point were an additional expense. She said the cost of renting special equipment to dig the trenches at Lake George in Washington Park in the hopes of improving the drainage for upkeep were an additional expense. Repairs to the seawall by the Zbierski House lawn at Eastern Point Beach, billing for personnel issues, seasonal help, vehicle repairs to the Explorer and repair costs and eventual replacement of the mower were all contributing factors as well.

She said she is trying to maintain services while finding ways to trim seasonal staff. She explained that seasonal staff can only work 120 calendar days in a year. She went on to say each time they hire they must go through the whole process of advertising and sending the candidates to Pequot Medical Center for required screening.

Finance Director Hillsberg said the attendance for the Summer Playground program was up 25%. There was discussion on how the program has grown over the past couple of years.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked for a breakdown of what the items cost.

Ms. Hill said the additional expenditures are as follows:

Summer Playground-\$8,200.00

Beach Operations-\$11,318.00

Dredging Lake George-\$16,000.00

Seawall repairs-\$14,800.00

Vehicle/equipment repair-\$8,322.00

Seasonal employees-\$15,936.00

Contractual services, attorneys fees-\$15,620.00

Mr. Hillsberg said there are miscellaneous expenses for FICA, materials and supplies also.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked if they are paying more to have the monitors than for the costs for the damages to the Zbierski House.

Ms. Hill said that the costs for the carpet cleaning, painting and replacement of seat cushions are down due to having more supervision.

Councilor Streeter asked if the costs of dredging include the costs to dispose of the dirt that was removed.

Ms. Hill said it did not.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith asked why they went over budget for seasonal employees.

Ms. Hill said when she first came on board she went with the way things had been done in the past but realized that having the additional seasonal employees caused her to go over budget. By making a few changes she has been able to maintain the services needed while cutting back on the number of seasonal employees hired each time.

Councilor Streeter asked if this would be coming from the contingency fund and which budget year.

Mr. Hillsberg said it would come from contingency and it would be out of the 2008-2009 budget year.

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Councilor Streeter asked how much would remain in the fund.

Mr. Hillsberg said about \$5,000.00 but there is still \$115,000.00 in the current budget year contingency fund.

There was discussion on the need for the contingency fund and where any remaining fund balance would go and unexpected expenses.

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Jervis** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM # 343** to the November 2, 2009 Mayor and Council meeting. **Motion carried.**

REFERRAL ITEM # 344 PFIZER WASTEWATER DISCHARGE AGREEMENT

Mayor Popp said the Pfizer attorneys are happy with the terms of the agreement.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith said she read and compared the initial agreement with the final and asked if the intent was the same.

Mayor Popp said that it is the same with all the legal terms added. He said the City attorney and Lead Operator Cini are both pleased with the terms. He said that the staff at the PAF worked hard to determine what they would need in order to cover all the additional costs associated with the agreement..

Councilor Hale moved **Deputy Mayor Galbraith** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM # 344** to the November 2, 2009 Mayor and Council meeting. **Motion carried.**

REFERRAL ITEM # 345 PURCHASE ONE (1) ELGIN PELICAN NP THREE WHEEL BROOM STREET SWEEPER FOR THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT FROM C. N. WOOD OF CONNECTICUT, LLC, 25A BERNARD ROAD, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT FOR THE TOTAL PRICE OF \$154,982.00 (ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-TWO DOLLARS AND NO CENTS)

Purchasing Agent David McCord said the sweeper the Highway Department has is a combination sweeper/catch basin pump and is broken down. He said while it does perform both functions it does not do either one very well. He said they do not want to replace it with another combination vehicle. He said they went out to bid and only 2 bids were received. He said the lowest bid did not meet all of the specs and therefore asks the Council to approve the higher bid.

Councilor Streeter asked if the old equipment will be traded in.

Highway Foreman Tim Umrysz said it will be repaired and they will continue to use it to pump the catch basins.

There was discussion on the current vehicle and how it operates, the life span and the noise level of the machine. They said the new machine would operate more quietly.

Councilor Streeter asked if the City is contracted to sweep the roads in Groton Long Point.

Mr. Umrysz said we have for 3 years although we did not in 2008.

Councilor Streeter asked if the contract is sufficient to offset the cost of this new equipment.

Mayor Popp asked Mr. Umrysz what they paid the City.

Mr. Umrysz said between \$1,800.00 -\$2,000.

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Councilor moved **Councilor** seconded a motion to move **REFERRAL ITEM # 345** to the November 2, 2009 Mayor and Council meeting. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Umrysz said the sweeper is in stock and ready to be shipped.
There was discussion on participating in the White Lights Parade, Saturday, December 5th.
There was discussion of the City Halloween Party this past Saturday night with the numbers of participants and how cute all the young children's costumes were.

II. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

III. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Popp adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**