

**CITY OF GROTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011**

**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, Keith Hedrick, William Jervis, Treasurer Janice Waller-Brett, Finance Director Michael Hillsberg and City Clerk Debra Patrick. Excused: Councilor Celeste Duffy.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Led by Mayor Popp.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

Mayor Popp read the following from a letter from CIRMA, the City's insurance carrier.

We are very pleased to inform you that the City of Groton has been selected as a 2011 CIRMA Risk Management Achievement Award Recipient.

The City of Groton is being recognized in the category Substantial Impact on Loss Cost Factors for the success in the risk management initiatives implemented under the direction of executive leadership, which have reduced the overall loss costs of Workers' Compensation by 45% and Liability- Auto-Property by 42% over the past 2 policy years.

Your award is testament to your dedication to improving safety, lowering losses and ultimately saving taxpayer dollars.

Mayor Popp praised the staff and employees who have worked so diligently to achieve this success.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Hale moved **Councilor Jervis** seconded a motion to approve the January 18, 2011 Special Mayor and Council/Utilities Commission minutes. **Motion carried.**

Councilor Hedrick moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve the January 18, 2011 Mayor and Council minutes. **Motion carried.**

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Councilor Jervis moved **Deputy Mayor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve the January 24, 2011 Committee of the Whole minutes. **Motion carried.**

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Herb Cummings, Deputy Director, Electric Division gave a brief report on the plans to accept an EPA grant to extend the water line into “lower Bel-Aire”. He said there would be benefits to the residents in the way of better fire protection, close off loops that cause lower water pressure and improved water quality. He said they are negotiating to possibly add a permanent connection to Aquarion Water Company territory also.

Councilor Hale asked how that project would be paid for.

Mr. Cummings said Aquarion would pay half of the costs and GU the other half. He said it could produce enough revenue for GU to pay for itself within a year.

Councilor Hedrick asked if there was a way to tie in the remaining dead ends.

Mr. Cummings said there wasn't and those do not have the same severity of the issues as the ones targeted for connection.

Councilor Hale had no report.

Councilor Luck commended the Highway Department for the job they have done with all the snow storms and keeping our streets clean. She urged residents to do all they can to remove remaining snow so cars can be safely parked on the streets. She said there are some areas where emergency vehicles might not be able to get through due to the way cars are parked.

Mayor Popp said the Highway Department has done a great job and put in a lot of overtime to ensure our streets are cleared.

Councilor Jervis said he heard from residents regarding the snow piles and cars parked on the road as well.

Councilor Hedrick said he was asked what the process is to create a charter review. He attended the DARE graduation at Sacred Heart January 19th.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith said she has looked at the required timeline and determined that if a committee is appointed in early summer they would have ample time to be ready to have a charter question on the May 2013 ballot. She said that when it went to referenda in 2002 it did not pass due to the requirement to have 20% of the qualified electors vote. If it is on a regular election ballot just a majority is required for passage.

Deputy Mayor Galbraith encouraged residents to go online to take the Groton Heights Re-Use survey and to become involved in the Thames Street rehabilitation. She attended the Sacred Heart DARE graduation January 19th and went to Newington to meet with DOT representatives regarding rebuilding the walls on Thames Street. Mayor Popp, Mr. Hillsberg, Chief Giuliani and Lt Martin were there as well. She announced the next STEPS Community Conversation would be April 30th and the subject will be bullying.

There was some discussion on what STEPS stands for and what the organization does.

Mayor Popp attended the Sacred Heart DARE graduation January 19th and went to Newington to meet with DOT representatives regarding rebuilding the walls on Thames Street. He also attended the 90th birthday celebration for Emily Higgins, a long time former resident of the City of Groton, on January 29th.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

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IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-11-2-1 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$37,136.80 (THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX DOLLARS AND EIGHTY CENTS) FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) DATA911 MOBILE DIGITAL VIDEO SYSTEMS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BE PAID FROM CAPITAL FUNDS

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Police Department has identified the need to purchase eight (8) Data911 Mobile Digital Video Systems to be installed in police cruisers; and

WHEREAS, the systems will improve officer safety in addition to documenting officer activity for future case research; and

WHEREAS, the addition of Mobile Digital Video Systems will operate in conjunction with the current Data911 Mobile Data Systems currently installed in the vehicles which already allow for the ability to download records to cruisers, permit report writing in the cruisers and uploading completed reports to the Records Management System;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council authorize and approve the expenditure of \$37,136.80 (Thirty-Seven Thousand One Hundred Thirty-Six Dollars and Eighty Cents) for the purchase of eight (8) Data911 Mobile Digital Video Systems in the Police Department to be paid from Capital Funds.

Councilor Hale moved **Deputy Mayor Galbraith** seconded a motion to approve **R-11-2-1**. There was discussion on how this was reviewed at the Committee of the Whole meeting and that it is a good expenditure.

Motion carried.

R-11-2-2 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES TO ACCEPT THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) STATE AND TRIBAL GRANT (STAG) PROGRAM GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF THREE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$336,000.00), FOR THE EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING WATER MAIN AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE LOWER BEL AIRE SERVICE AREA AND FURTHERMORE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL BE APPRISED OF THIS ACTION WITH THE RECOMMENDATION THAT IT CONCUR AND THAT MAYOR DENNIS L. POPP BE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE THE GRANT DOCUMENTS

WHEREAS, Groton Utilities has completed an application for a United States, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State and Tribal Grant (STAG) Program grant in the amount of \$336,000 to extend our water main 2,600 feet toward Mystic. The purpose for this water line extension is to provide redundancy and reliability, reduce the number of customers out of service when repairs

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need to be performed, improve fire protection, improve some water quality parameters, and to provide the possible ability for a permanent interconnection to the Aquarion Water Company service territory; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on January 26, 2011, the City of Groton Utilities Commission voted to accept the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State and Tribal Grant (STAG) Program grant in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$336,000.00), for the extension of the existing water main and improvements to the lower Bel-Aire service area and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur and that Mayor Dennis L. Popp be authorized to execute the grant documents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council authorize Groton Utilities to accept the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) State and Tribal Grant (STAG) Program grant in the amount of Three Hundred Thirty-Six Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$336,000.00), for the extension of the existing water main and improvements to the lower Bel-Aire service area and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur and that Mayor Dennis L. Popp be authorized to execute the grant documents.

Councilor Luck moved **Councilor Hale** seconded a motion to approve **R-11-2-2**.
Mayor Popp said it was approved at the Utilities Commission meeting and is a good first step.
Motion carried.

X. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION

XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Popp adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**