

**CITY OF GROTON
SPECIAL
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014**

**MUNICIPAL BUILDING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6:00 PM**

Mayor Galbraith called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Marian Galbraith, Deputy Mayor William Jervis, Councilors Andrew Ilvento, Stephen Sheffield, Lawrence Gerrish, Finance Director Ron Yuhas and City Clerk Debra Patrick.
Excused: Councilors Jay Dempsey and Keith Hedrick.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Led by Mayor Galbraith.

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 Ilvento moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to approve the December 1, 2014 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

There were no Group Committee reports

Councilor Ilvento reported there was no TC/CC/BOE/RTM Liaison meeting December 3rd. He attended the Beach and Parks Committee meeting December 10th where they began a discussion on the Rules & Regulations for 2015. He said they addressed the use of Golf carts in the beach property and said it could be worked into the accepted vehicles allowed. He said the rules for bikes will not be changed due to the amount of traffic in the parking lot. A bike would have to be placed in the bike rack once in the parking lot. He said the issue of buses was addressed with regard to the number allowed on a given day. He said it would remain at 3 with the only exception being for the City Summer Playground that may have more than 3 due to enrollment in the program. There was a question of whether there are any rules with regard to bringing grills into the beach property. He said there is no rule but the grills must be used only in the appropriate area near the Zbierski House.

Mayor Galbraith said she had a beach patron contact her with concerns that at times there are as many as 5 buses and that would be too many children on the beach.

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Councilor Ilvento said the committee will look into it.

Mayor Galbraith said there have also been concerns that walk-ins aren't checking in.

Councilor Ilvento said they discussed some ways to address this with a sign or more supervision at the gate. He said they are discussing a \$5.00 increase in the daily parking rates while the season pass rate will stay the same.

Councilor Sheffield said he sent condolences to officials in Enfield for the loss of life in the recent fire there. He said he met a number of Enfield officials at the CCM Convention.

Mayor Galbraith thanked him for doing that.

Councilor Gerrish had no report.

Deputy Mayor Jervis attended the City Retirement Board meeting December 4th.

Mayor Galbraith attended the SE CT COG Regional Human Services Coordinating Council meeting to discuss how SEAT bus line can serve the community better. She said there is an online survey at www.seatbussurvey.com and encouraged people to do the survey. She has had several meetings with Solar City, attended the Greater Mystic Chamber Annual Dinner and met the newly appointed director of the Bill Memorial Library. On December 7th she attended the Sub Vet's Pearl Harbor observance, the Avery Copp House Open House and the Tree Lighting. She said she has been meeting with a group trying to keep the Art On Groton Bank going and said they are looking for people to serve on a committee to that end. She and David Collard presented a check to the Eastern CT Housing Opportunities.

Utilities Director Yatcko said the check was for approximately \$174,000.00.

Mayor Galbraith said she has met with several executive search committees for a Utilities Director search.

Mayor Galbraith read and distributed a list of names of those she will appoint to the Economic and Community Development Committee. She said they are all either residents of the City or are involved in a business in the City and as a group have a tremendous amount of business and financial acumen to contribute.

Finance Director Yuhás reported that after the last meeting in reviewing the PAF bond an unauthorized expenditure for engineering services was discovered. He said it was never approved by the Council.

Mayor Galbraith agreed the contracts were entered into without Council approval.

Director Yatcko thanked Mr. Yuhás for identifying the oversight and they were taking steps to determine how it occurred.

Mayor Galbraith said they are dealing with it administratively

Councilor Sheffield asked how many contracts were involved.

Mr. Yuhás said there are 3.

Councilor Sheffield asked what the total of the contracts was.

Mr. Yuhás said \$775,000.00 with \$330,000.00 paid out to date.

Councilor Ilvento asked if the City is bound to the contracts.

Mayor Galbraith said they are looking into that now.

Councilor Gerrish said it appears they are handling the matter.

There was further discussion on the matter.

City Clerk Patrick had no report.

Mayor Galbraith said there would not be an update today on the Youth Advisory Committee program recommendation as the person could not be available at this time tonight.

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VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

**R-14-12-141 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT
DONATIONS**

WHEREAS, the following donation has been received by the City of Groton:

**Marian Galbraith - Community Development and Beautification, \$50.00 -
In the name of Lian Obrey (received from Keith and Joyce Hedrick) – Community
Development and Beautification, Thames Street Beautification, \$50.00**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council accept donations.

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to approve R-14-12-141.
Motion carried.

Councilor Gerrish asked for clarification on whom the donation was from.

Mayor Galbraith said Keith and Joyce Hedrick made the donation in the name of Lian Obey as a gift.

**R-14-12-142 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE A
MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT,
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF GROTON,
DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES FOR READJUSTMENT, RELOCATION,
AND/OR REMOVAL OF UTILITY FACILITIES ON HIGHWAY
PROJECTS**

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation has requested the City of Groton, Department of Utilities execute a revised Master Agreement between the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, and the City of Groton, Department of Utilities for Readjustment, Relocation, and/or Removal of Utility Facilities on Highway Projects, and

WHEREAS, due to the State's requirement that this agreement be executed and returned within twenty-one (21) days, the City of Groton Utilities Commission is expected to act on this matter at its meeting scheduled for December 17, 2014,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council approve a Master Agreement between the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation and the City of Groton, Department of Utilities for Readjustment, Relocation, and/or Removal of Utility Facilities on Highway Projects, and furthermore, authorize Mayor Marian K. Galbraith to execute the Agreement and City Clerk Debra Patrick to affix the City Seal thereto.

Deputy Mayor Jervis moved Councilor seconded a motion to approve R-14-12-142.

Director Yatcko said this is a standard agreement and is merely replacing an existing agreement that has been in place for a number of years.

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Mayor Galbraith said the current agreement was signed by former Mayor Geising. She said she has a copy if any of the Councilors would like to look at it.
Motion carried.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following: Pursuant to General Statutes sections 1-200(6)(D), 1-200 (6) (E) and 1-210 (b) (10), to discuss the negotiation and potential lease and/or license of a portion of 1240 Poquonnock Road, Groton, CT and an attorney-client privileged document related to the same to include Director Yatcko.

Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced in C-8 at 6:25 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 6:58 p.m.

XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**