

**CITY OF GROTON  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2014**

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

**Mayor Galbraith called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.**

**I. ROLL CALL**

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

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Led by Mayor Galbraith.

**III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS**

Mayor Galbraith announced a certificate awarded to the City by the Chamber of Commerce for the Summer In The City initiative. She said the Elk's Boogie on The Blacktop event was a great success on Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, the City wide tag sale went well and there will be fireworks for Sail Fest this coming Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**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 June 16, 2014 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve the June 23, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Galbraith introduced Ron Yuhas, the City's new Finance Director.

Mr. Yuhas thanked the Council for the opportunity.

Mayor Galbraith noted the LOPCIP grant for the drainage project has been approved and the City will have to cover the cost of the design work which will be ready by the end of the week. She said the bidding process has already been done and the bid will have to be approved. She asked if the Councilors would like a special meeting to see the design presentation.

There was some discussion on the length of the presentation, whether they would need additional time to think it over and who was doing the design work.

Mayor Galbraith said Milone & Macbroom expect to have it completed this week.

They were in agreement that they could wait until the Mayor & Council meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2014**

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

Councilor Ilvento attended the WSMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion June 17<sup>th</sup>, the YAC June 18<sup>th</sup> where they discussed an end of summer program for families, the police promotion ceremony earlier this evening and the Beach & Parks Committee will meet later this week.

Councilor Dempsey reported a communication from a resident regarding basketball hoops on roads. He asked Deputy Mayor Jervis and Councilors Gerrish and Hedrick if there were any issues related to the hoops in their neighborhood.

Councilor Gerrish said he has seen no real issues in the neighborhood.

Deputy Mayor Jervis thought the City had attempted to prevent this.

There was some discussion as to whether there had once been an ordinance regarding this and playing basketball in the street.

Councilor Hedrick said he hasn't seen any issues with hoops in the road and his concerns would only be that cars unfamiliar in a neighborhood might not be aware of a hoop up ahead or going a little too fast.

There was discussion to send it to the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor Sheffield reported a communication regarding the tennis courts at Washington Park needing some repairs and he attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion at WSMS. He commended Councilor Ilvento for the event and acting as master of ceremonies.

Councilor Hedrick attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion at WSMS and commended Councilor Ilvento on the great job he did. He attended the Joint Highway Task Force meeting and the historical memorabilia presentation by Jim Streeter on June 19<sup>th</sup>. He attended the concert at Washington Park June 27<sup>th</sup> and stopped by a few of the yard sales throughout the City June 28<sup>th</sup>. He said the City wide yard sale event was a great success.

Councilor Gerrish attended the Joint Highway Task Force meeting and the historical memorabilia presentation by Jim Streeter on June 19<sup>th</sup>. He attended the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion and was impressed LT Governor Wyman was there as the speaker and commended Councilor Ilvento for putting it all together. He attended the police promotions earlier this evening.

Deputy Mayor Jervis attended the WSMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion June 17<sup>th</sup>, the Joint Highway Task Force meeting and the historical memorabilia presentation by Jim Streeter on June 19<sup>th</sup>. He had a communication from a neighbor regarding collection of bulky waste and thought maybe a brochure at City Day would be helpful in educating the residents on the procedures to arrange for pickup. Councilor Ilvento said he remembered the Highway Department had magnets with information and phone numbers on it.

Councilor Hedrick agreed it would be a great way to get the information out there for residents.

Finance Director Yuhas had no report.

City Clerk Patrick had no report.

Mayor Galbraith attended the WSMS 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion and the Fitch High School graduation, the Excellence In Public Library Service award June 18<sup>th</sup>, the opening of SEC TV and participated in taping a video for the United Way campaign. She attended the historical memorabilia presentation by Jim Streeter on June 19<sup>th</sup> and said how nice it is that he is allowing us to display the pictures and items in the case. She welcomed the CT State Council of Machinists at their semi annual conference on June 21<sup>st</sup> and participated in the statewide hurricane drill for an exercise on evacuations on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. On June 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> employees volunteered at the United Way food warehouse and to distribute the food at the mobile food pantry here in the City. On June 25<sup>th</sup> she attended the quarterly employee breakfast and the bond pricing and is happy to report the bonds will allow for a savings on 1.375 million over the life of the bonds. On June 26<sup>th</sup> they celebrated Dick Mikna Day to commemorate 50 years as a City/GU employee. She reminded people of the

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2014**

farmers markets on Tuesdays from 12-3 at the Bill Memorial Library and on Fridays at WSMS from 12-5. She said St. Johns is collaborating with other area churches to provide a meal on Monday nights. She noted that Fernando Castillo is establishing a Youth Outreach Center at St John's, Carlo Aguiar built the community garden for the Summer Playground participants as his Eagle Scout project and Jake Tedeschi will do an Eagle Scout project at Birch Plain Creek.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

Public Safety Committee- Roadside Basketball Hoops

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**R-14-7-86 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE DONATION OF A 1989 FORD/REDDING RESCUE TRUCK INCLUDING THE INSTALLED BREATHING AIR CASCADE/REFILLING SYSTEM IN ADDITION TO VARIOUS PIECES OF SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO THE EAST CORINTH FIRE DEPARTMENT, P.O. BOX 294, EAST CORINTH, VERMONT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Groton Fire Department currently owns a 1989 Ford/Redding Rescue Truck including the installed Breathing Air Cascade/Refilling System that does not meet the needs of the department and is no longer in service; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the truck the Fire Department has also declared the items listed as surplus and therefore available for donation:

- 1000' of Old 3" Hose (> 25 Years)
- 1- 4 1/5" Water Manifold
- 1- Hydraulic Rescue Cutter
- 1- Hydraulic Rescue Spreader
- 2- Hydraulic Rescue Rams
- 1- Hydraulic Rescue Block
- 7- 2.2 Spare Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Air Bottles
- 24- 4.5 SCBA Packs & Face Pieces
- 24- Out of Hydrostatic Testing Spare SCBA Cylinders

Outdated protective clothing; and

**WHEREAS**, the East Corinth, Vermont Fire Department has a need and would utilize the Rescue truck and listed equipment to aid in their fire protection services;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the donation of a 1989 Ford/Redding Rescue Truck including the installed Breathing Air Cascade/Refilling System in addition to various pieces of surplus equipment to the East Corinth Fire Department, P.O. Box 294, East Corinth, Vermont.

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Dempsey seconded a motion to approve R-14-7-86.

Chief Delia said they will draft and sign the agreement holding the City harmless for the equipment and the chief from East Corinth can make the arrangements to pick up the equipment.

Motion carried.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2014**

**R-14-7-87 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY EVENTS AND BEAUTIFICATION FUND IN SUPPORT OF THE SUMMER IN THE CITY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the following donations have been received by the City of Groton in support of the planned Summer in the City activities:

**Halloran and Associates, LLC, \$100.00  
Chelsea Groton Bank, \$160.00**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council accept donations for the Community Events and Beautification Fund in support of the Summer in the City activities and events.

Councilor Dempsey moved Deputy Mayor Jervis seconded a motion to approve R-14-8-87. Motion carried.

**R-14-7-88 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AND APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF CONTRACT WITH LINDA SAVITSKY FOR TRANSITION SERVICES IN THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$13,000.00 (THIRTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS)**

**WHEREAS**, Linda Savitsky has served in the capacity of Interim Finance Director since March 25, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has appointed a full time Finance Director to begin on July 7, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to maintain continuity and transition time for the newly appointed Finance Director it is in the best interest of the City for Linda Savitsky to continue through the transition period;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the extension of contract with Linda Savitsky for transition services at a cost not to exceed \$13,000.00 (Thirteen Thousand Dollars and No Cents).

Deputy Mayor Jervis moved Councilor Hedrick seconded a motion to approve R-14-7-88. Mayor Galbraith said this will allow for some transition time. Mr. Yuhas said this will allow Ms. Savitsky to complete the projects she has begun as well. Motion carried.

**R-14-7-89 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINT FERNANDO CASTILLO TO THE ESTABLISHED "YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE"**

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy exists on the Youth Advisory Committee established by the Mayor and Council at its regular meeting of February 4, 2013; and

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2014**

**WHEREAS**, Fernando Castillo wishes to serve and has been recommended for appointment by the Mayor;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council appoint Fernando Castillo to the established "Youth Advisory Committee".

Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve R-14-7-89.

Mayor Galbraith said Mr. Castillo came to her about the youth outreach center they are starting at St. John's Christian Church and will be an asset to the committee.

Councilor Sheffield asked how long the term is.

Mayor Galbraith said there is no term. It is an Ad Hoc committee and once they're charge is completed the committee is disbanded unless they are charged to do more.

Motion carried.

**R-14-7-90 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION FUND FOR THE INTERIOR RENOVATION OF THE ZBIERSKI HOUSE, EASTERN POINT BEACH**

**WHEREAS**, the Friends of the Zbierski House Committee has begun accepting donations to help with the interior renovations and continued beautification of the Zbierski House at Eastern Point Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, the following donations have been received:

**Peter and Laurel Berns, \$20.00**

**Paul and Susan Billing, \$25.00**

**Friends of the Zbierski House, \$2,237.00\***

**Mary and Christine Dickson, \$10.00**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council accept donations for the Community Development and Beautification Fund for the interior renovation of the Zbierski House, Eastern Point Beach.

Councilor Hedrick moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve R-14-7-90.

Mayor Galbraith asked if the maker and seconder of the motion had no objection to making a change in the amount of the donation from the Friends of the Zbierski House to \$2,237.00\* due to another check coming in today. There were no objections to do that.

Mayor Galbraith thanked the individual donors. Motion carried.

**R-14-7-91 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500.00 (FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) FROM STATE FARM COMPANIES FOUNDATION GOOD NEIGHBOR GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION FUND FOR THE INTERIOR RENOVATION OF THE ZBIERSKI HOUSE, EASTERN POINT BEACH**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2014**

**WHEREAS**, a grant request was submitted to State Farm Companies Foundation Good Neighbor Grant Program to help with the interior renovations and continued beautification of the Zbierski House at Eastern Point Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, the Zbierski House project met the criteria of the State Farm Companies Foundation Good Neighbor Grant program;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council accept a grant in the amount of \$500.00 (Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents) from State Farm Companies Foundation Good Neighbor Grant Program for the Community Development and Beautification Fund for the interior renovation of the Zbierski House, Eastern Point Beach.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Hedrick seconded a motion to approve R-14-7-91. Mayor Galbraith said this grant was applied for by someone with a connection to Allstate on our behalf. Motion carried.

**R-14-7-92 RESOLUTION TO THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINT TOM LEWIS, 21 HILLSIDE DRIVE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS AN ALTERNATE MEMBER, EASTERN POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2019**

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy exists as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, Tom Lewis, 21 Hillside Drive, Groton, Connecticut, has been recommended for appointment and desires to serve as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Tom Lewis, 21 Hillside Drive, Groton, Connecticut as an alternate member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission, term to expire on February 1, 2019.

Councilor Ilvento moved Deputy Mayor Jarvis seconded a motion to approve R-14-7-92. Mayor Galbraith said Mr. Lewis brings experience of having served on the Historic District in Vernon and is willing to fill the vacancy. Motion carried.

**X. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
JULY 7, 2014**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**