

**CITY OF GROTON
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015**

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

Mayor Galbraith called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Marian Galbraith, Deputy Mayor William Jervis, Councilor 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

Councilor Hedrick wanted to acknowledge the firefighters who were honored at the Elk's First Responder Night. She said Captain Mark Cassidy, Firefighters Christian Grivalsky, Scott Swift, JD Edwards and volunteer Captain Evan Davis were recognized for their efforts to rescue a woman trapped beneath her vehicle in a rollover on Bridge Street. He thanked the Elks for their efforts to recognize and honor our public safety first responders.

He thanked the Fire and Police personnel who responded when the roof to the building he works in at 5 Corners blew off. He said they handled traffic, inspections and safety concerns as well as assisting the employees who were in the building.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Hedrick moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve the March 16, 2015 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to approve the March 23, 2015 Special Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

Councilor Ilvento attended the Easter Egg Hunt April 4th. He thanked Mary Hill, Val Koschmieder and the Parks & Recreation staff and Officer Harris for all they do to put this event together. He attended the School Facilities Task Force meeting last month where they discussed the plan.

Councilor Dempsey had no report.

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Councilor Sheffield attended the Easter Egg Hunt April 4th and the Council Group II Community Development Committee meeting March 23rd.

Councilor Hedrick attended the Council Group II Finance Committee meeting March 23rd with Finance Director Yugas and the public hearing for the TOG March 30th, met with Town Council March 31st, the Thames River Heritage Park presentation April 1st and the Easter Egg Hunt April 4th.

Councilor Gerrish attended the March 30th budget public hearing and the Easter Egg Hunt April 4th.

Deputy Mayor Jervis attended the Easter Egg Hunt April 4th.

City Clerk Patrick had no report.

Finance Director Yugas had no report.

Mayor Galbraith said she was thankful she was able to do a ride along with Meals On Wheels March 17th and was very moved with how caring the drivers are and by how much the clients appreciate not only the meals but the company of the drivers. She said despite the severe cuts to their budget they still strive to provide to their clients. She announced there would be several events in conjunction with the Coast Guard anniversary in August including a presentation by Jim Streeter on the history of the Coast Guard at Avery Point, a full Coast Guard Band concert and an art exhibit. She met with Nick Spera and Susan Froshauer from CURE to discuss an educational component they would like to bring to the schools. She went over some of the key events that would take place this summer including the craft show June 6th and the City wide yard sale June 27th. She said the Police Department had an accreditation inspection March 25th and the team will vote May 14th to determine if the department will be awarded the accreditation. Mayor Galbraith congratulated Chief Davoren and the department for being considered for this. She said the USS Groton Committee is pleased that former commanding officer of the USS Groton, Rear Admiral Emery has agreed to act as chairperson. She said she has spoken to David Little regarding the executive search for the director and will have a conference call on April 10th to shorten the list. On April 1st she attended the Power of Purple luncheon to honor, recognize and promote domestic violence awareness and later that day attended the memorial service for the 2 Coast Guard cadets who died in a car crash in March. She said the service was very moving. She attended the GREAT ceremony at WSMS April 2nd and the Easter Egg Hunt April 4th.

There was some discussion on the very brief and disappointing meeting the City Council had with the Town Council March 31st.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-15-4-43 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT DONATIONS

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

BLP Marine - Community Development and Beautification, to support Summer in the City activities - \$1500.00;

Groton Municipal Employees FCU – Community Development and Beautification, to support Summer in the City activities - \$100.00;

Chelsea Groton Bank – Community Development and Beautification, to support Summer in the City activities - \$250.00;

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

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Dempsey seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-43.
Motion carried.

**R-15-4-44 RESOLUTION TO FINALLY APPROVE “AN ORDINANCE
AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL TO APPROVE
INCREASES TO RETIREES PENSIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING THOSE
WHO RETIRED IN 2011 AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CITY OF
GROTON RETIREMENT BOARD”**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GROTON:

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council, upon recommendation of the Retirement Board, may increase the benefits of retired employees; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have received a qualified cost estimate from an actuary; and

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Retirement Board recommended increasing the benefits of retired employees who retired up to and including those who retired in 2011 at their meeting held on February 26, 2015; and

That is: The COLA increase shall be calculated by multiplying the annualized increase in the Consumer Price Index issued by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor for the last available twelve (12) months by a factor of twenty-five percent (25%); however, in no event shall the adjustments exceed one and one-half (1.5%) per year. This adjustment is intended to provide persons retired before 1990 and those who retired up until December 2011 with the same COLA.

Effective Date This Ordinance shall become effective on or about March 1, 2015.

WHEREAS, this Ordinance was published in The Day, a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Groton on March 7, 2015 and March 8, 2015;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council finally approve “An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor and Council to Approve Increases to Retirees Pensions up to and including those who Retired in 2011 as Recommended by the City of Groton Retirement Board”.

Councilor Dempsey moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-44.
Finance Director Yuhas distributed an actuarial estimate from Hooker & Holcomb that was requested by Councilor Dempsey. He explained the impact and that it is already factored in.
Councilor Dempsey stated he is not in favor of the COLA saying there is too much future liability for the taxpayers. He said the TOG doesn't do this and we should reconsider.
Motion carried 4-1-1 with Councilor Dempsey voting against and Councilor Gerrish abstaining.

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R-15-4-45 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACCEPT AND APPROVE A GRANT AWARD FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT (OPM) AS PART OF THE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FORMULA GRANT (JAG) PROGRAM – VIOLENCE CRIME PREVENTION GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000.00 (TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS) AND THAT MAYOR MARIAN GALBRAITH BE AUTHORIZED TO EXECUTE SAID AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management is providing a grant to assist local departments with violent crime prevent and public safety improvements through the Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) program – Violence Crime Prevention Grant; and

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management as part of the Justice Assistance Formula Grant (JAG) Program has awarded the City of Groton Police \$10,000.00 for the purchase of video and audio recording system for patrol vehicles

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council accept and approve the award from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) as part of the Justice Assistance Grant program – Violence Crime Prevention grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Dollars and No Cents) and that Mayor Marian Galbraith be authorized to execute said agreement

Deputy Mayor Jervis moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-45.
Chief Davoren said it is the first time they have had discretionary use of this funding. He said they will use it for the in vehicle technology for the new cruisers.
Councilor Dempsey asked if it would cover the cost for both.
Chief Davoren said it should cover the cost for one.
Motion carried.

R-15-4-46 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONFIRM GROTON UTILITIES' MANagements' ISSUANCE OF A PURCHASE ORDER TO THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, 107 SELDEN STREET, BERLIN, CONNECTICUT FOR LABOR AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A MOBILE TRANSFORMER UNIT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY BACKUP POWER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$32,000.00) TO BE PAID FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED FISCAL YEAR 2015 ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGET

WHEREAS, due to the 30 MVA transformer failure at Trails Corner Substation, and in accordance with Groton Utilities Policy No. 1004, Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchase and Practices of Groton Utilities, Interim Director Thomas M. Bachey authorized the issuance of a purchase order to The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, Connecticut for labor and equipment for the installation of a Mobile Transformer Unit to provide emergency backup power in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars and No Cents

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(\$32,000.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Electric Division budget; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on March 25, 2015, the City of Groton Utilities Commission voted to confirm Managements' issuance of a a purchase order to The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, Connecticut for labor and equipment for the installation of a Mobile Transformer Unit to provide emergency backup power in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$32,000.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Electric Division budget, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council confirm Groton Utilities' Managements' issuance of a purchase order to The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, Connecticut for labor and equipment for the installation of a Mobile Transformer Unit to provide emergency backup power in an amount not to exceed Thirty-Two Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$32,000.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Electric Division budget.

Councilor Sheffield moved Deputy Mayor Jervis seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-46. Mayor Galbraith explained this is due to the failure of a transformer. Motion carried.

R-15-4-47 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL CONFIRM GROTON UTILITIES' MANAGEMENTS' ISSUANCE OF A PURCHASE ORDER TO THE CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, 107 SELDEN STREET, BERLIN, CONNECTICUT FOR THE LEASE OF A MOBILE TRANSFORMER UNIT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY BACKUP POWER IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED SIXTEEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$16,500.00) TO BE PAID FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED FISCAL YEAR 2015 ELECTRIC DIVISION BUDGET

WHEREAS, due to the 30 MVA transformer failure at Trails Corner Substation, and in accordance with Groton Utilities Policy No. 1004, Policy and Procedures Governing the Purchase and Practices of Groton Utilities, Interim Director Thomas M. Bachey authorized the issuance of a purchase order to The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, Connecticut for the lease of a Mobile Transformer Unit to provide emergency backup power in an amount not to exceed \$16,500.00 to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Electric Division budget; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on March 25, 2015, the City of Groton Utilities Commission voted to confirm Managements' issuance of a purchase order to The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 107 Selden Street, Berlin, Connecticut for the lease of a Mobile Transformer Unit to provide emergency backup power in an amount not to exceed Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$16,500.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Electric Division budget, and furthermore that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur;

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council confirm Groton Utilities' Managements' issuance of a purchase order to The Connecticut Light and Power Company, 107

Selden Street, Berlin, Connecticut for the lease of a Mobile Transformer Unit to provide emergency backup power in an amount not to exceed Sixteen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$16,500.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Electric Division budget.

Councilor Hedrick moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-47. Mayor Galbraith said this is for payment for the same transformer. Motion carried.

R-15-4-48 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES' MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TI SALES, 36 HUDSON ROAD, SUDBURY, MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE PURCHASE OF FOURTEEN (14) COMMERCIAL MASTER METERS AND ONE HUNDRED (100) RESIDENTIAL METERS IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$274,229.00) TO BE PAID FROM FUNDS AVAILABLE IN THE APPROVED FISCAL YEAR 2015 WATER DIVISION NON-BONDED CAPITAL FUND

WHEREAS, as part of the Water Division's Advanced Metering Infrastructure lead free meter replacement project, Management requested approval for the purchase of commercial master meters and residential meters required to continue the project; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on March 25, 2015, the City of Groton Utilities Commission voted to authorize Management to issue a purchase order to Ti Sales, 36 Hudson Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts for the purchase of Fourteen (14) commercial master meters and One Hundred (100) residential meters in the amount of Two Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$274,229.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Water Division Non-Bonded Capital Fund, and furthermore, that the City Council be apprised of this action with the recommendation that it concur;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council authorize Groton Utilities' Management to issue a purchase order to Ti Sales, 36 Hudson Road, Sudbury, Massachusetts for the purchase of Fourteen (14) commercial master meters and One Hundred (100) residential meters in the amount of Two Hundred Seventy-Four Thousand, Two Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars and No Cents (\$274,229.00) to be paid from funds available in the approved Fiscal Year 2015 Water Division Non-Bonded Capital Fund.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Hedrick seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-48. Mayor Galbraith said this is the continuation of the replacement of the meters with lead in them. Councilor Sheffield asked if there would be more. Mayor Galbraith said there probably would be more since they are being replaced in waves. Motion carried.

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R-15-4-49 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE DONATION OF A 2002 FORD F-250 PICKUP TRUCK TO THE GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION. P.O. BOX K, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, SPECIFICALLY FOR USE IN THE FOOD SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Groton Parks and Recreation Department currently owns a 2002 Ford F-250 Pick-up Truck that does not meet the needs of the department and is no longer in service; and

WHEREAS, the Groton Public Schools, Food Services Department, has a need and would utilize the truck to transport and provide meals to students at multiple offsite locations including the City of Groton Summer Recreation programs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the donation of a Ford F-150 Pickup Truck to the Groton Public Schools Board of Education, P.O. Box K, Groton, Connecticut, specifically for use in the Food Services Department.

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Dempsey seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-49. Mayor Galbraith explained that Food Services Director for Groton Public Schools Ernie Koschmieder approached her regarding their need for a truck to transport meals to the 12 sites they will have this summer. She said the Town of Groton will do any required work to the truck. Mr. Koschmieder thanked Mayor Galbraith and the Council for their consideration of this matter. He said with budget cuts it makes it more difficult to provide these meals. He said the donation of the truck will allow him to transport a grill to some sites so they can provide fresh food and he will be able to pick up from local growers who are providing much needed vegetables. Councilor Ilvento noted that Mr. Koschmieder has done an amazing job not just in providing the meals but with educating the students on smart food choices. Councilor Gerrish thanked Mr. Koschmieder as well. Motion carried.

R-15-4-50 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPOINT BERNADETTE KUNKEMOELLER, 218 SHORE AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT, AS A REGULAR MEMBER, EASTERN POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2018

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists as a regular member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission; and

WHEREAS, Bernadette Kunkemoeller, 218 Shore Avenue, Groton, Connecticut, currently serves as an Alternate member and has been recommended for appointment and desires to serve as a regular member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Bernadette Kunkemoeller, 218 Shore Avenue, Groton, Connecticut as a regular member, Eastern Point Historic District Commission, term to expire on February 1, 2018.

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Councilor Dempsey moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve R-15-4-50.
Mayor Galbraith said due to a resignation they will move Ms. Kunkemoeller up from alternate to regular member.
Councilor Dempsey thanked Ms. Kunkemoeller for serving.
Motion carried.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Sheffield moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss legal strategy related to pending litigation to include Finance Director Ron Yuhas, Tim Umrysz and Attorney John Casey and an Executive Session to include Finance Director Ron Yuhas to discuss personnel matters.

Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced at 8:07 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 9:24 p.m.

XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**