

**CITY OF GROTON  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2016**

**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 Keith Hedrick, Councilors Andrew Ilvento, Jill Rusk, Stephen Sheffield, Conrad Heede, Lawrence Gerrish, Finance Director Ron Yuhas and City Clerk Debra Patrick.

**II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Led by Jeffrey Erhart.

Councilor Ilvento moved Deputy Mayor Hedrick seconded a motion to suspend the rules to move resolution R-16-11-108 up on the agenda to be read after the pledge to the flag. Motion carried.

**R-16-11-108 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE  
THE APPOINTMENT OF JEFFREY ERHART, AS A  
FIREFIGHTER/EMT IN THE CITY OF GROTON FIRE  
DEPARTMENT EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 8, 2016**

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy exists for a full time firefighter position in the City of Groton Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Jeffrey Erhart, has successfully passed all testing requirements: Written, physical agility, background investigation, personal interviews and medical evaluation; and

**WHEREAS**, Jeffrey Erhart has been recommended by Fire Chief Nicholas Delia and Mayor Galbraith to be appointed to fill this position in the City of Groton Fire Department;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Jeffrey Erhart, as a firefighter/EMT in the City of Groton Fire Department effective November 8, 2016.

Councilor Ilvento moved Councilor Rusk seconded a motion to approve R-16-10-108. Chief Delia recognized the Chiefs from Gales Ferry and Poquonnock Bridge fire departments and the firefighters from numerous departments who were here to support Jeffrey Erhart. He gave some background on Mr. Erhart's certifications, work experience and awards he has received. He said he will be a great fit within the department and is proud to present him to the Council for approval. Motion carried.

City Clerk Patrick administered the oath to Firefighter Erhart as his wife Amy and their daughter stood next to him and then pinned his badge on him.

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Firefighter Erhart said he was grateful for the opportunity and said he would always do his best. He thanked all those who were here to support him. He said they all have been part of helping him along to be where he is.

**III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS**

Councilor Rusk offered her congratulations to Thames River Innovations Place on the \$50,000.00 grant they were awarded to develop businesses along the Thames River.

Mayor Galbraith said with the support they have received from the City of Groton and elsewhere they have about \$80,000.00 including the grant. She said work has begun and City Planner Barbara Goodrich is representing the City with them.

**IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS**

None.

**V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN'S PETITIONS/COMMENTS**

None.

**VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Deputy Mayor Hedrick moved Councilor Rusk seconded a motion to approve the October 17, 2016 Mayor and Council meeting. Motion carried.

Councilor Gerrish moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve the October 24, 2016 Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

Councilor Ilvento moved Deputy Mayor Hedrick seconded a motion to approve the October 31, 2016 Special Mayor and Council.

Mayor Galbraith said there was a correction that was needed.

City Clerk Patrick said they needed to correct the resolution number to read R-16-10-107.

Main motion carried with the correction.

**VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS**

Councilor Ilvento had no report.

Councilor Rusk attended the Youth Advisory Committee meeting November 3<sup>rd</sup> and said there are 3 Friday Nights Out events planned for January, February and March and a babysitting class in February. She highly recommends parents and students be on the lookout for the dates.

Councilor Ilvento said the kids loved the Friday Nights Out and there was a lot of positive feedback on them.

Councilor Sheffield attended the City employee pizza party on October 18<sup>th</sup> and on October 20<sup>th</sup> the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Dinner. He said the students were inspirational as always.

Councilor Heede stopped by the Farmers Market at Washington Park October 18<sup>th</sup> and attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Dinner on October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Gerrish had no report.

Deputy Mayor Hedrick attended the City employee pizza party on October 18<sup>th</sup> and on October 20<sup>th</sup> the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Dinner. He said it is so moving and inspirational listening to the stories of the winners.

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He attended the Trick or Trunk at Eastern Point Beach on October 28<sup>th</sup> and said it was a great time for the kids despite how windy it was.

Finance Director Yuhas had no report.

City Clerk Patrick attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Dinner and as everyone else has already said it was an inspirational event and the young people are amazing.

Mayor Galbraith said she would use her communications to discuss the Highway Arbitration report and a letter of dissent by Town Councilor Dean Antipas which the Councilors have all been given along with the response she has drafted to Town Mayor Flax. She said she wanted to go over the 4 components of the response. The first component is in response to the report saying the City would be awarded the funding they sought and she would like to arrange a meeting with the Town during the week of November 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the funding of the actual amount that has been spent. The second component is asking the Town to apply the key finding of the arbitration to the 2017 funding request and approve it. The third component is to propose the Town and City in consultation with the CT DOT issue an RFP for a consultant to provide a comparative analysis of the “difference in cost structures, standards and levels of efforts” between the City and the Town. The Town and City should share that cost.

The fourth component is while the analysis is underway the 2018 budget needs to be developed and suggests a committee of 3 from both Town and City required by the Charter, begin to meet as soon as possible to work towards a resolution to guide them in the preparation of the 2018 budget. There was a lengthy discussion on the various components of the letter and having open meeting discussions of the budget with the Town.

**VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS**

None.

**IX. NEW BUSINESS**

**R-16-11-109 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF MARK WHALEN, 20 HILLSIDE AVENUE, GROTON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER, BOARD OF ETHICS, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, the City Charter, effective December 6, 2012, creates a Board of Ethics consisting of five (5) members;

**WHEREAS**, Mark Whalen, 20 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut term expired February 1, 2016 and has been recommended and desires to continue to serve as a regular member of the Board of Ethics;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the reappointment of Mark Whalen, 20 Hillside Avenue, Groton, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Board of Ethics, term to expire on February 1, 2020.

Councilor Rusk moved Councilor Sheffield seconded a motion to approve R-16-10-109.  
Motion carried.

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**R-16-11-110 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF LORI KNEELAND HELLUM, 103 BROAD STREET, GROTON, CONNECTICUT AS A REGULAR MEMBER, BOARD OF ETHICS, TERM TO EXPIRE ON FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, the City Charter, effective December 6, 2012, creates a Board of Ethics consisting of five (5) members;

**WHEREAS**, a vacancy exists and Lori Kneeland Hellum, 103 Broad Street, Groton, Connecticut has been recommended and desires to serve as a regular member of the Board of Ethics;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of Lori Kneeland Hellum, 103 Broad Street, Groton, Connecticut, as a regular member of the Board of Ethics, term to expire on February 1, 2020.

Deputy Mayor Hedrick moved Councilor Ilvento seconded a motion to approve R-16-10-110. Motion carried.

**X. POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Mayor Galbraith adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.**

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED:**

**Debra Patrick  
City Clerk**