



City of Groton, Connecticut

Mayor and Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 2, 2020

City Municipal Building
295 Meridian Street
Groton, CT 06340

Council Chambers

7:30 PM

In response to State of Connecticut Executive Order No. 7B "Protection of Public Health and Safety During Covid-19 Pandemic and Response – Further Suspension or Modification of Statutes", dated March 14, 2020, suspending in-person open meeting requirements, all public meetings will be closed to the public at this time. Public Meetings will be available on Groton Municipal Television Channel 2 in real time or by calling 860-440-9974.

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Keith Hedrick, Deputy Mayor Jamal Beckford, Councilors Lisa McCabe, Reginald Stanford, Gwenenviere Depot, Rashaad Carter, Finance Director Ron Yuhas and City Clerk Debra Patrick. Excused: Councilor Minerva Ortiz.

II. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Led by Mayor Hedrick

Mayor Hedrick asked for a moment of silence in memory of 26 year Groton Utilities employee Matt Lyon who passed away over the weekend and for Nancy DeMarinis, a founding member of Safe Futures, a former City Councilor, Town Councilor and 40th District State Representative for 4 terms who passed away last week.

III. RECOGNITION, AWARDS AND MEMORIALS

Mayor Hedrick read a proclamation honoring Barbara Frucht for her 35 years of dedicated service to the City of Groton as an elected official for 4 years and a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for 31 years. He noted her time serving on boards for Little League, Farm League and on the Bill Memorial Library Board of Directors as well as working as a crossing guard for the Police Department and gate attendant at Eastern Point Beach.

Mayor Hedrick presented the proclamation to Mrs. Frucht, she thanked him and said she it was her pleasure serving the City of Groton.

Mayor Hedrick asked for a motion to suspend the rules to move resolution R-20-11-117 up on the agenda to follow Recognition, Awards and Memorials.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to suspend the rules to move resolution R-20-11-117 up on the agenda to follow Recognition, Awards and Memorials.
Motion carried.

R-20-11-117 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM J. OGRODOWICZ AS A PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICER GRADE "D", IN THE CITY OF

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**GROTON POLICE DEPARTMENT, WAIVE THE RESIDENCY
REQUIREMENT AND THAT THE APPOINTMENT BE EFFECTIVE
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WHEREAS, the City of Groton Police Department has patrol officer vacancies in the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, William J. Ogrodowicz was selected as an applicant from a Police Officer candidacy list established by the Law Enforcement Council of Southeastern Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, William J. Ogrodowicz has passed an oral interview panel, the background investigation, polygraph, physical agility, psychological and medical testing; and

WHEREAS, William J. Ogrodowicz has met the required entry standards established by the Police Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Council, for admission to the Police Academy, and it would be beneficial for the City of Groton to hire him; and

WHEREAS, William J. Ogrodowicz desires to serve as a patrol officer with the City of Groton Police Department;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council approve the appointment of William J. Ogrodowicz as a probationary Police Officer Grade “D”, in the City of Groton Police Department, waive the residency requirement and that the appointment be effective November 2, 2020.

Councilor McCabe moved Councilor Depot seconded a motion to approve R-20-11-117.

Chief Spellman said Mr. Ogrodowicz is 44 years old, lives in Preston, he has both an associates and bachelor’s degree in computer sciences. He served 4 years in the US Marine Corp, has extensive experience in computer science in the private sector, a 1994 graduate of Stonington High School and was a member of the 1991 championship team. He served with the Wallingford Police Department from 2017 to present and highly regarded by his peers. Motion carried.

City Clerk Patrick administered the oath to Officer Ogrodowicz. His son Gavin presented him with his badge and patches.

IV. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN’S PETITIONS/COMMENTS
None.

V. RESPOND TO CITIZEN’S PETITIONS/COMMENTS
None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Councilor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to approve the October 19, 2020 Mayor and Council Meeting. Motion carried.

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Councilor Depot moved Councilor McCabe seconded a motion to approve the October 26, 2020 Committee of the Whole Meeting. Motion Carried.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

CITY FINANCIALS -Finance Director Ron Yuhas said this is the monthly overview through September 30th. He said we are on track for the year.

GROTON UTILITIES FINANCIALS- Finance Director Ron Yuhas gave an overview for the electric, water and sewer divisions noting all 3 are running favorable to the budget.

Councilor Depot asked where we are with receivables.

Mayor Hedrick said after shutoffs were done some people were able to come in and settle up.

Mr. Yuhas said some assistance funding will be coming in for those who qualify.

Mayor Hedrick said the TVCCA qualified customers will not be shutoff.

Councilor McCabe had no report.

Councilor Stanford had no report.

Councilor Depot attended the PACT meeting October 26th. She said any residents who have concerns or suggestions can email her or the Mayor's office.

Councilor Carter had no report.

Deputy Mayor Beckford had no report.

Mayor Hedrick said tomorrow is election day and stressed the importance of getting out to vote.

He said the polls are open 6:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Councilor Depot said there will be a shuttle for voters.

Mayor Hedrick said there is a shuttle bus provided by the Town of Groton from St. John's to the Zbierski House for those who vote in District 2.

VIII. COMMITTEE REFERRALS

None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

R-20-11-118 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WAIVE THE BID PROCESS AND AUTHORIZE A PURCHASE ORDER TO AXON ENTERPRISE, INC., 17800 N. 85TH STREET, SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, FOR THE AXON ENTERPRISE BODY CAMERA SOFTWARE SUPPORT AND STORAGE IN THE AMOUNT OF NINETEEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIX DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$19,356.00) TO BE PAID FROM FY21 POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATING FUNDS

WHEREAS, the purchase of the Axon body cameras and software was approved on August 5, 2019 under Resolution R-19-8-113; and

WHEREAS, Axon Enterprise, LLC is a sole source expenditure for the software system for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the annual software support is from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021;

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council waive the bid process and authorize a purchase order to Axon Enterprise, Inc., 17800 N. 85th Street, Scottsdale, Arizona, for the Axon Enterprises Body camera software support and storage in the amount of Nineteen Thousand Three Hundred fifty-Six Dollars and Zero Cents (\$19,356.00) to be paid from FY21 Police Department Operating funds.

Councilor Stanford moved Councilor Depot seconded a motion to approve R-20-11-118. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the October COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-20-11-119 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL WAIVE THE BID PROCESS AND AUTHORIZE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TRITECH SOFTWARE SYSTEMS, A CENTRALSQUARE COMPANY, 1000 BUSINESS CENTER DRIVE, LAKE MARY, FLORIDA, FOR THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (IMC) SOFTWARE SUPPORT, IN THE AMOUNT OF FIFTEEN THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-TWO DOLLARS AND ZERO CENTS (\$15,422.00) TO BE PAID FROM FY21 POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATING FUNDS

WHEREAS, the purchase of the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS) software was approved on August 18, 2003 under Resolution R-03-8-57; and

WHEREAS, Tritech Software Systems is a sole source expenditure for the software system for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the annual software support is from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council waive the bid process and authorize a purchase order to Tritech Software Systems, A CentralSquare Company, 1000 Business Center Drive, Lake Mary, Florida, for Information Management Corporation (IMC) software support, in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Two Dollars and Zero Cents (\$15,422.00) to be paid from FY21 Police Department Operating funds.

Deputy Mayor Beckford moved Councilor Depot seconded a motion to approve R-20-11-119. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the October COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-20-11-120 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$500,000.00) TO MYSTIC RIVER HOMES INCORPORATED TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF MYSTIC RIVER HOMES CONGREGATE IN RETURN FOR MATCHING TAX CREDITS AS PART OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT HOUSING TAX CREDIT CONTRIBUTION (HTCC) PROGRAM

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WHEREAS, the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority (CHFA) administers the State's Housing Tax Credit Contribution (HTCC) program to provide funding for housing programs sponsored by non-profit developers in Connecticut. The intent of the HTCC program is to make funding available for the development of affordable rental housing that benefits very low, low and moderate income families in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, under the HTCC program, a non-profit corporation can receive up to \$500,000.00 annually in state tax credits, which can then be sold to state business firms in return for cash contributions to the non-profit corporation's housing program; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on October 21, 2020, the Groton Utilities Commission voted to authorize Management to contribute up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$500,000.00) to the Mystic River Homes Incorporated towards the development of Mystic River Homes Congregate in return for matching tax credits as part of the State of Connecticut's Housing Tax Credit Contribution (HTCC) Program, 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 authorize Groton Utilities to contribute up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$500,000.00) to Mystic River Homes Incorporated towards the development of Mystic River Homes Congregate in return for matching tax credits as part of the State of Connecticut's Housing Tax Credit Contribution (HTCC) Program.

Councilor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to approve R-20-11-120. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the October COW meeting. Motion carried.

R-20-11-121 RESOLUTION THAT THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL AUTHORIZE GROTON UTILITIES MANAGEMENT TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$150,000.00) TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT (NAA) PROGRAM IN RETURN FOR MATCHING TAX CREDITS PENDING APPROVAL FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT

WHEREAS, through the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program, tax credits may be earned by business firms that make cash investments to certain community programs. The cash investment must be made in a community program that is proposed and conducted by a tax exempt or municipal agency and must be approved both by the municipality in which the program is conducted and the Department of Revenue Services (DRS); and

WHEREAS, the total tax credits under the NAA tax credit program are limited to \$150,000.00 annually for each business firm and since the contributions are fully matched with the tax credits, it will benefit the community, while being essentially cost-free to Groton Utilities; and

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WHEREAS, Groton Utilities' Management recommended the approval of a commitment to contribute up to a total of \$150,000.00 for support of Avery Copp House Museum, Bill Memorial Library, and Sacred Heart School; and

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020, the Groton Utilities Commission Water Pollution Control Authority authorized Groton Utilities Management to contribute up to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$150,000.00) to the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program in return for matching tax credits pending approval from the State of Connecticut 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 authorize Groton Utilities Management to contribute up to One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$150,000.00) to the Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program in return for matching tax credits pending approval from the State of Connecticut.

Councilor Carter moved Councilor Depot seconded a motion to approve R-20-11-121. Mayor Hedrick said this was discussed at the October COW meeting. Motion carried.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Depot moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to CGS 1-200 (6)(E), 1-210(9) to discuss Union Negotiations to include the Council and HR Director Linda Avedisian. Motion carried.

Executive Session commenced at 8:06 p.m.

Executive Session ended at 8:22 p.m.

XI. COMMENTS FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor McCabe moved Councilor Stanford seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor Hedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

**Debra Patrick
City Clerk**