

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 18, 2021:

Councilor Forgue stated that pursuant to current R.I. Executive Orders executed by Governor Gina Raimondo this meeting is being teleconferenced via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Julian (Jay ) Forgue, President; William E. Reichert Vice President; Walter M.O. Steere III; Stephen Arnold; and William Worthy , Jr.

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliozzi, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Ken Johnson, Bldg/Zoning Official; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, Karen Scott, Town Planner and Robert Shields, Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Councilor Worthy reminded the Council that there may be some people joining this meeting by telephone or without video capability, therefore, Council members should identify themselves when speaking, particularly when making or seconding a motion.

Councilor Worthy went on to explain the procedure for the zoom meeting, how participants can be recognized when requesting to speak, and further stated that participants expressing inappropriate behavior or being disruptive may be removed from the meeting by the Council.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Forgue stated that those wishing to speak on agenda items should raise their hand and Christine Mathieu will recognize those that wish to speak.

None

V. Resolution #2021-02 - Discussion and/or Action

Opposition to House Bill #5269 RE: Tax Sales

Councilor Forgue stated that at the Council's last meeting recent proposed legislation was discussed and there was a consensus to submit a Resolution to our legislators and the Governor asking them to not support a bill that would prevent taxing authorities from conducting tax sales to recoup taxes. Councilor Forgue stated that some feel, if passed, any law created could reach out to cities and towns in the future:

Councilor Forgue read the following:

State of Rhode Island  
Town of Glocester  
Resolution #2021-02  
REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
to Join us in Opposition to House Bill #5269 RE: Tax Sales

WHEREAS, the entities managing fire, water, sewer, road, lighting, city or town tax collections are **not** in the business of bringing properties to tax sale, and

WHEREAS, taxing authorities are interested in receiving payments in the form of cash, check or bank card as opposed to property or any other form of payment, and

WHEREAS, non-payment of taxes owed to a given taxing authority has significant negative effects on the budget and general financial condition of said authority, and

WHEREAS, tax sales have historically been successful, as a measure of last resort, for taxing authorities to engage those individuals who owe back taxes, to establish a plan for the future, and

WHEREAS, House Bill 5269 would eliminate the ability of a taxing authority to bring property to tax sale for non-payment of taxes after a period of time, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Glocester Town Council strongly urges the Rhode Island General Assembly and Governor Dan McKee to oppose H5269; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to His Excellency Governor Dan McKee, to the Honorable Representatives and Senator representing the Town of Glocester, and to the Honorable Speaker of the House and Rhode Island Senate President.

Julian P. Fogue  
Glocester Town Council President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021

seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Fogue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Fogue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Public Hearing: Renewal of Earth Removal Licenses- Discussion and/or Action

A. Applicant: Adler Brothers Construction, Inc.

Location of Business: Putnam Pike, further described as AP 14, Lots 18, 19 & 20

Councilor Forgue stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the Valley Breeze Observer and abutters were notified.

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor Forgue stated that anyone wishing to speak, to please raise your hand and we will call on you. Councilor Forgue stated that when called on, please state your name and address for the record.

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue asked again if there is anyone wishing to speak, please raise your hand and state your name and address when you are unmuted.

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to RENEW the Earth Removal License for Applicant: Adler Brothers Construction, Inc., Location of Business: Putnam Pike, further described as AP 14, Lots 18, 19 & 20; said license is for a two year term to expire 3/31/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Applicant: George O. Steere, Jr. et als

Location of Business: Route 102, further described as AP 13, Lot 2

Councilor Forgue stated that this Public Hearing was advertised on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in the Valley Breeze Observer and abutters were notified.

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor Forgue stated that anyone wishing to speak, please raise your hand and we will call on you. Councilor Forgue stated that when called on, please state your name and address for the record.

Discussion: Councilor Steere recused.

Councilor Forgue stated that, anyone wishing to speak, please raise your hand and state your name and address when you are unmuted.

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to RENEW the Earth Removal License for Applicant: George O. Steere, Jr. et als , Location of Business: Route 102, further described as AP 13, Lot 2; said license is for a two year term to expire 3/31/2023; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Recused  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of March 4, 2021
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - February 2021
- C. Finance Director's Report - February 2021

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of March 4, 2021; to APPROVE the Abatement to the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$7,362.47, No Additions; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for February 2021; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

1. Pole Grant - New Road Boards and Commissions

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to GRANT the Pole Grant for: New Rd. “to relocate and replace pole No. 1 & anchor (27' North) or left of existing location” ; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Budget Board

Position # 3 expired term - New term to expire 12/2023

Councilor Forgue asked if there were any recommendations.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT John Lyman to the Budget Board, Position #3, for a term to expire 12/2023;

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Land Trust

Member at Large - Planning Board expired term- New term to Expire 2/2022

Councilor Forgue stated that the Planning Board has voted to recommend the re-appointment of Janine Pitocco as the Member at Large to the Land Trust representing the Planning Board.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Re-appoint Janine Pitocco, Planning Board member, as the Member at Large to the Land Trust for a term to expire 2/2022; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Economic Development Commission - Position # 6 to expire 1/1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the EDC Chair has recommended moving the ad-hoc member William Morin to position #6.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT William Morin to Position #6 on the Economic Development Commission for a term to expire 1/1/2023; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- C. Consideration of the current procedure/requirements for residents to qualify for annual Elderly Exemptions -Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that this item was tabled to allow the Tax Assessors Clerk to have a discussion with the Finance Director and the liaison to the Assessor's office before Council proposes any changes.

A. Muccino, Finance Director requested that this item be tabled to the next meeting as there is a meeting scheduled with Councilor Arnold. Councilor Reichert stated that he is concerned about the current process where the elderly struggle to get into the town hall and he would like to make the process more user friendly.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to table the consideration of the current procedures and requirements for residents to qualify for the annual Elderly Exemptions to the first council meeting in April 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IX. New Business

A. Covid-19 Updates/Discussions/Actions

1. EMA Update - Discussion and/or Action

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the first dose clinics have been completed for residents 65 years and older as well as for teachers and school employees. G. Mosca stated that a representative from the RI Department of Health was at the last clinic as Glocester was dispensing two different vaccines at the same place and time. G. Mosca stated that the representative left the clinic halfway through after stating it was very professional, organized and well done. G. Mosca stated kudos to all the volunteers and staff especially Matt Floor, Matt Fague, the Clerks office and the Senior Center Director. G. Mosca stated that the second dose clinics will begin this coming Saturday and run for the next four weeks. G. Mosca stated that the regional clinics have been pushed back due to a lack of vaccine and he may find out soon the location for the regional clinic. G. Mosca requested all department heads to submit invoices for disaster expenses to the Finance Office. G. Mosca stated he can then submit these invoices for reimbursement from the federal government. G. Mosca stated that he is already reviewing his plans for hurricane season, which begins in June.

Councilor Steere thanked G. Mosca for all his planning because the success experienced starts at the top with him. Councilor Forgue thanked G. Mosca and all volunteers.

2. Emergency Declaration Status, Extension, and/or Amendments

(Currently in place until **April 1, 2021**) - Discussion and/or Action

G. Mosca stated he would like to keep the declaration in place a little longer and noted some communities opening up fully too soon are experiencing waves of increased cases of the virus.

No action taken

3. Senior Center - Phase 2 Opening - Discussion and/or Action

M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, is requesting approval to open up the Senior Center a bit more by increasing the capacity to forty five (45) people in the center at a time. M. Bouvier stated that increasing the capacity would allow for larger meetings. M. Bouvier stated it has been going well and all members have been complying with social distancing and wearing masks. M. Bouvier stated that as this population is getting vaccinated they would like to come back.

Councilor Forgue asked G. Mosca, EMA Director for his opinion. G. Mosca stated that he has looked over M. Bouvier's plan and that it looked good. G. Mosca stated it should be safe especially as it was still within state guidelines and gave his opinion to go forward. M. Bouvier stated that people would still be screened. Councilors agreed that it would be good to get the Senior Center open. Councilor Steere added that this population has been shut in for a long time and opening up would be good for them.

B. Budget FY 2021/2022 - Town Council acknowledges receipt of proposed Budget-Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that in Council's packet is the Budget Board's proposed budget. Councilor Forgue stated that Council just receives at this point and that the next step will be to accept the budget for Public Hearing at the Council's April 1st meeting. Councilor Forgue stated that Council can make changes to the budget before accepting or wait until the public hearing and accept the budget as submitted by Budget Board.

A. Muccino, Finance Director, made a brief presentation of the proposed budget and gave his thanks to the budget board and department heads. A. Muccino reviewed the important dates going forward:

April 1<sup>st</sup>: the budget should be accepted for Public Hearing  
April 8<sup>th</sup>: the public hearing will be advertised  
April 22<sup>nd</sup>: the public hearing will be held  
May 6<sup>th</sup>: Council adopts language for FTR ballot  
May 25<sup>th</sup>: Financial Town Referendum

Councilor's thanked A. Muccino for the presentation.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Acknowledge (with thanks) the receipt of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2021/22 from the Budget Board and Finance Director, per the deadline as stated in the Home Rule Charter; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Forgue stated that the Budget will be on the next agenda to accept for Public Hearing so this gives Council time to decide if they want to accept it as is or make changes.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Discussion and/or Action on the authorization of funding porta johns in the Village  
Councilor Forgue stated that this topic is the funding by the town of a porta john at the request of private business. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated C. Wilson is not present with a proposal. J. Fecteau suggested that the current figures could be obtained for the council and as there are currently no figures in the proposed budget for this item this could be discussed before budget is accepted or at the budget public hearing. A. Muccino confirmed that if approved, the amount for the porta john would need to be added to the proposed budget. Councilor Steere stated his opinion that the town should not be funding another bathroom when it had already spent \$15,000 on a bathroom at the pavilion for the public to use. Councilor Steere stated that the town funding a bathroom at the request of private business would open the door for others to come forward with requests and that if the council did approve then they should be consistent with all requests. Councilor Reichert stated he has already received calls from apple orchard businesses inquiring about funding bathrooms for them



as they currently pay for it themselves. Councilor Forgue stated that it is a unique situation in the center of town with private residences and businesses together and he has received calls about people using yards as bathrooms. Councilor Forgue stated his opinion that the town would be providing a service with the portajohns for people who don't want to walk all the way to the pavilion for a bathroom. Councilor Forgue stated he would like more discussion on this matter and for it to possibly be added to the proposed budget. Councilor Steere stated his opinion that he is not in favor of this proposal. Councilor W. Steere stated that other such requests will come forward if this is approved; and, that we should be ready for complaints in the summer when the porta john smells. Councilor Forgue asked K. Johnson, Building Official, if he had received any complaints last summer. K. Johnson stated he did not. Councilor Steere stated the police did not receive any complaints about people urinating in public either. Councilor Forgue stated that it is difficult for the police to respond in time. Councilor Steere stated that the council needs to be consistent with the decision because he expects it to open the door for others to come forward with similar requests.

Motion was made by Councilor Reichert to table the porta john discussion; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: J. Shira, resident, stated her opinion that due to the pandemic that the ability to use a public restroom had become a huge problem. J. Shira stated that the town providing the service of public restrooms is at a relatively low cost and would bring dignity back to society as well as drawing business to town .

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

- Councilor Arnold -Aye
- Councilor Worthy -Aye
- Councilor Steere -Aye
- Councilor Reichert -Aye
- Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- D. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. Parade Committee
    - a. Resignations
      - Position #4
      - Alternate Position #2

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received the resignation of Cheryl Guertin, Position #4, and Melissa Trunzo, Alternate #2, Parade Committee.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ACCEPT the resignations of Cheryl Guertin and Melissa Trunzo from the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

- Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Appointments

1. Vacant Positions #1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, & 9

Councilor Forgue stated that there are multiple positions to fill on the parade committee. Councilor Forgue stated that Council was given a talent bank listing to choose from and that the Alternate #1 member, Kathy Sorenson, has volunteered to move up to a voting position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPOINT Kathy Sorenson to position #1; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: K. Sorenson, resident, stated that she is currently actively trying to recruit volunteers for the parade committee and is hoping to have some names for the next council meeting.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE Position #3; Position #4; Position #5; Position #6; Position #7; Position #8 and Position #9 to the next meeting ; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Alternate Position #2

Councilor Forgue stated that there is also an alternate position open.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment, to the Parade Committee to the Alternate #2 position; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Tax Assessors Board of Assessment Review  
One 6 yr Term to Expire 12/31/2024

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received the resignation of Tom Cash from the Tax Assessors Board of Assessment Review. Councilor Forgue stated that Mr. Cash has been on the Board since 1995.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Tom Cash from the Tax Assessor's Board of Assessment Review; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Forgue thanked T. Cash for all his hard work and stated it was much appreciated.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Tax Assessors Board of Assessment Review  
Position #3 to expire 12/31/2024

Councilor Forgue asked if there were any recommendations or if this item should be tabled . Councilor Forgue stated the Finance Director and the Tax Assessor Clerk could review the talent bank list and submit possible names.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Assessor's Board of Assessment Review; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Skate Park

1. Town Council President response to media re: skate park- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue gave a statement regarding the incorrect details in an article published in a local paper about the skate park. Councilor Forgue stated that he asked the newspaper to contact the Town Planner and Town Clerk to obtain the minutes in order to correct the story. Councilor Forgue stated he has received numerous calls, many nasty, about the skate park. Councilor Forgue stated and wanted to make clear that the agendas regarding skate park was advertised.

J. Shira, resident, stated that no one was looking for an apology or a correction in the newspaper. J. Shira stated she is looking to determine what could be done to have this particular demographic heard and what could be done moving forward. J. Shira stated all the departments have been working hard. Councilor Forgue thanked J. Shira for her comments and explained he felt the need to make this statement due to the inaccurate story that painted the town and its employees in a bad color; and, also because of the number of nasty phone calls that he has received. Councilor Forgue stated it was not a fair article because the individual that made these statements was told repeatedly the skate park was coming down. Councilor Forgue stated if there is a phase two that perhaps a skate park may be a consideration that is explored.

J. Shira, apologized for any nasty phone calls and stated she had no knowledge of them. J. Shira also stated that she now had a better understanding of the reason for this item on the agenda. J. Shira stated that there was a group of taxpayers who would like to be part of any solution. Councilor Forgue suggested that J. Shira contact the Town Planner. K. Scott, Town Planner.

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that the ideas for the improvements to the park, that are part of the grant, came from the Recreation Commission. K. Scott stated that the Recreation Commission offered their priorities for the park. K. Scott suggested that J. Shira could attend Recreation Commission meetings and to also contact the Recreation Director. K. Scott stated the proposed improvements to the park were intended to span all age groups and further, referenced certain aspects that would be developed that may be of interest to our teens.

Councilor Forgue recommended that J. Shira should contact the Recreation Director. Councilor Arnold raised a question as to whether a fact finding committee should be formed with the Council, Recreation Director and Town Planner. Councilor S. Arnold questioned if the Council would be comfortable with a few Councilors meeting with these department heads. Councilor Forgue stated that perhaps that meeting would be a possibility but only after J. Shira contacts the Recreation

Director and has a discussion. Councilor Forgue stated the Recreation Commission could bring in the liaison and perhaps form a committee. Councilor S. Arnold agreed with the approach.

No action taken

2. Future plans or actions for consideration re: skate park -  
Discussion and/or Action

No action taken- already discussed

F. Personnel

1. Police Department
  - a. Promotion of Senior Patrol Officer to the rank of Sergeant -  
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a request from the Chief Delprete and read the request:

To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police  
Subj: Sergeant Promotion

Dear Council Members:

I would respectfully request that the Town Council authorize and consent to the promotion of Senior Patrol Officer Daniel Lefebvre to the rank Sergeant on the Gloucester Police Department. This promotion will be in accordance with the current IBPO 638 collective bargaining agreement.

This promotion and the recent Lieutenant promotion fill the open vacancies from the retirement of Lieutenant Bertholic in January 2021.

This promotion will become effective on Sunday March 21, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph Delprete  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE and CONSENT to the promotion of Senior Patrol Officer Daniel Lefebvre to the rank of Sergeant on the Gloucester Police Department. This promotion will be in accordance with the current IBPO 638 Collective Bargaining Agreement and is effective March 21, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Zoning Ordinance Amendment Proposal  
Chapter 350, Attachment 2, Table of Dimensional Regulations

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a proposed ordinance amendment from the Building/Zoning Official:

TO: Town Council Members  
FROM : Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official  
RE: Proposal for Amended Lot Coverage Ordinance

At the last Planning Board meeting lot coverage on undersized properties was discussed. I was asked if I could come up with possible alternatives for discussion.

My suggestions for proposed lot coverage %

Conforming Lots of Record

R-2 -2 Acre  
A-3 -3 Acre  
A-4 -4 Acre

Set Back Regulations

75' Front, 50' sides & 100' Rear  
lot coverage - unrestricted  
must meet set back requirements

Non Conforming Lots

1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft  
3/4 acre= 32,670 sq. ft

Set Backs no less than

30' Front, 10' Sides & 10' Rear  
10% lot coverage= 4,356 sq. ft.  
10% lot coverage= 3,267 sq. ft.  
must meet set back requirements

Non Conforming Lots

1/2 acre= 21,780 sq. ft  
1/4 acre = 10,890 sq. ft or less

Set backs no less than

30' Front, 10' Sides & 10' Rear  
15% lot coverage= 3,267 sq. ft.  
15% lot coverage= 1,633 sq. ft.  
must meet set back requirements

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked K. Johnson, Building Official, what the current lot coverage amount was and K. Johnson answered 4% for all residential lots. K. Johnson stated that he has previously addressed this issue with "Buster" Steere when he was his liaison to the Council. K. Johnson went on to explain that the restrictive 4% was initiated in the 1970's or 1980's due to Gloucester having septic systems. K. Johnson stated the amount was directed more towards the smaller non conforming lots. K. Johnson stated that property owners still have to be able to fit mechanics and meet set backs to build. K. Johnson stated that septic designs have advanced significantly so that a smaller , non conforming lot can be buildable but that applicants currently need to seek relief from zoning and planning. Mr. Johnson further explained his proposal and the specifics of each size lot. K. Johnson stated we are looking to send this to Planning for their consideration. K. Johnson stated the proposed amendments, which are only suggestions, would eliminate the need for all applicants, with a substandard lot size, to seek zoning and planning relief. K. Johnson stated he believes it is also an affordability issue and asked Council for their input. Councilor Reichert stated he agrees with K. Johnson but that a former council had this item on an agenda many years ago and no action was taken because of the amount of negative feedback.

Councilor Forgue stated he feels something needs to be done to streamline and organize. K. Johnson again stated these are only suggestions and are based on what we have been seeing and the types of applications we have been sending to Planning and Zoning. K. Johnson reiterated that Planning is looking for some input.

Councilor Forgue stated this has been “smoldering” for a long time.

K. Johnson stated his enforcement of the ordinance is not well received.

1. Discussion of proposal & vote on final proposal to consider at Public Hearing  
- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the Council can discuss the proposal and decide whether to go forward with the recommendation, as is, or an amended version.

Discussion: None

2. Set 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Date for Proposed Zone Change - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that if Council decides to go forward, a 1<sup>st</sup> reading can be set for April 1<sup>st</sup> for the proposed amendment to Chapter 350, Attachment 2, Table of Dimensional Regulations.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to SET a 1<sup>st</sup> reading for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for the proposed amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350, Attachment 2, Table of Dimensional Regulations ; seconded by Councilor Steere-

Second withdrawn

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk suggested that because the council had a consensus to follow the building official’s recommendation that the motion could be amended to include that language.

Councilor Steere withdrew his second.

AMENDED MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to SET a 1<sup>st</sup> reading for April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for the proposed amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350, Attachment 2, Table of Dimensional Regulations as recommended by K. Johnson, Building Official ; seconded by Councilor Steere.

Discussion:

Buster Steere, resident, stated that he is happy to see this item is moving forward and asked K. Johnson if it was possible to include other proposed changes to the ordinance at the same time to save on advertising costs and time as to public hearing. K. Johnson stated that perhaps a couple might be included together once this one amendment is settled.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Refer to Planning Board for Zone Change Opinion - Discussion and/or Action  
Councilor Forgue stated that any proposed amendment to the Zoning Chapter is to be sent to the Planning Board for an advisory opinion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to FORWARD the proposed amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350, Attachment 2, Table of Dimensional Regulations to the Planning Board for an advisory opinion as recommended by the Building Official; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Establishing a procedure and method for issuing public statements on behalf of the Town Council in a form similar to a “Town Council Press Release” or “Town Council Public Statement” - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Steere requested this item on the agenda to have the Council discuss establishing a policy or procedure for the council to use when interacting with the press regarding town matters. Councilor Steere acknowledged that each council person has a first amendment right to speech . Councilor Steere stated that when a council member is speaking to the press they should make it abundantly clear that it is their personal opinion and not the opinion of the entire council. Councilor Steere stated that if the Council does want to make a statement then it should be clear that it is a town council press release or a town council statement. Councilor Steere stated he had a conversation with D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, as to this matter for information. Councilor Steere gave the example that he received a phone call from the press earlier this evening about the Fourth of July parade and he told the reporter that he could not comment on the matter because he did not have any information but also because he did not have authorization to make a statement on behalf of the council. Councilor Steere stated that the press was accepting of his answer. D. Igliazzi stated that the concern is how the statement is presented to the press. D. Igliazzi stated that if the council is making a statement then it should be clearly presented as a statement from the council in some sort of formal fashion. D . Igliazzi stated that it is about how the statement is presented so the press can’t say that an individual is speaking for the whole council. Councilor Forgue stated that when speaking to the press, the council member should be specific as to whether it is a personal opinion or a statement on behalf of the council. Councilor Worthy stated that he received a phone call from the press and the call lasted about three minutes. Councilor Worthy stated that he was surprised by the article and how his words were used because they were not how he meant them. Councilor Worthy agreed that if a statement is from the town then it should be specific that it is from the town.



I. Authorization for Signature: 12/31/2020 Municipal Transparency Report - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a request from the Finance Director to authorize the signing of a Municipal Transparency Report which is due to the state quarterly.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Municipal Transparency Report for the period ending 12/31/2020 to be submitted to the State of Rhode Island; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

J. Governor's Transition Team - Authorize Council President to request input from Dept. Heads (as needed) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that he was asked to be on the Governor's transition team. Councilor Forgue stated that he is looking for authorization from the council to be able to speak or meet with department heads about issues or frustrations they have when dealing with state agencies. Councilor Forgue stated that several transition teams have been formed to bring information back to the governor. Councilor Steere asked about Councilor Forgue's involvement specifically as to whether or not he was representing the town or himself. Councilor Forgue stated that he is not representing the town but only himself. Councilor Forgue stated that he is looking for authorization for K. Johnson, Building Official, to be able to go with him to this meeting which will also include people from different levels facing the same problems. K. Johnson, Building Official, stated that he does see ongoing and time consuming issues with DEM when people are trying to get approvals to build a house. K. Johnson stated his willingness to go to the transition team meeting to speak as to his issues because it may result in improvements.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to allow K. Johnson to represent Gloucester at meetings of the Governor's transition team to discuss issues with state agencies and ways to streamline processes as they relate to businesses; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received two resolutions from the Town of Burrillville. Councilor Forgue stated that one is titled “Resolution of the Town of Burrillville Opposition to Rhode Island 2021 Gun Control Legislation” and the other is “Resolution of the Town of Burrillville Opposition to Rhode Island 2021 H5269 Tax Sale Legislation”. Councilor Worthy stated that he requested this item on the agenda and would like to add this to the next agenda for the council to discuss what if any resolution the council may decide to make.
2. Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received correspondence from a resident, Chris Clark, expressing his interest in being appointed to a town board. Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk will attach the letter to a talent bank application which was filed with her office and when an opening comes up Council will receive both documents.
3. Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received correspondence from resident, Becky Pratt, regarding the skate park. Councilor Worthy read the correspondence from B. Pratt that was sent to Councilor Arnold as follows:

I’m writing about the skate park. I understand the great grant in the space needed a new playground. What I don’t understand is how uninformed the town seems to be on this matter. I live close to the park, visit it at least on a weekly basis weather permitting. Whenever we visit there are more kids utilizing the skate park than the playground. So many kids in town have nothing to do and that the skate park was loved by many. I feel this should at least be replaced. If it isn’t in the budget, I believe the grant was a large sum of money. Is there a way for it to be replaced if the town did a gofundme for a new skate park? Is this something the town would approve? This last year has taken so much from our children. I feel we should try anything to replace their beloved skate park. Thank you for taking the time to read this email. Best regards. Becky Pratt  
(end of email)

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

A. Muccino, Finance Director stated that he wanted to recognize the Budget Board and express his thanks and appreciation for their work and guidance as well as recognize Beth Beltram , Finance Department, for all her efforts and expertise. A. Muccino also wanted to let the Council know that there is a possibility of transitioning to another payroll company which would increase services and save money. A. Muccino stated he would contact his liaison when he has more information.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

1. M. Robinson, Budget Board chair, expressed his thanks to A. Muccino for a great job this year especially as it was his first year. M. Robinson also stated that the board members are a crackerjack team and it was an honor to work with them this year.

2. A. Sarje, Economic Development Commission (EDC) Chair, stated that the EDC has made good strides and she sent Council the board approved roadmap. A. Sarje stated the board sent out an extensive RFP and has narrowed the potential vendors down to two. Councilor Steere asked if any local vendors were considered. A. Sarje stated that of the two vendors, one is a local one and the other is a national one. A. Sarje stated that no final decision has been made but when it is , it will be forwarded to the Council for consideration.

Councilor Steere raised a topic he feels the Council needs to discuss regarding subcommittees in boards and commissions so is requesting it be placed on the next agenda. Councilor Steere stated that he has read some of the minutes from the different boards and commissions and some of the boards are using subcommittees. Councilor Steere stated that subcommittees must still adhere to open meetings laws . Councilor Steere would like the Council to discuss and possibly set a policy for subcommittees for boards and commissions.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she believes subdivisions of a body are covered by the open meetings laws so that she is not sure if the Council should consider setting a policy. J. Fecteau, stated that she may need to advise the town boards and commissions to inquire before they create a subcommittee.

### XIII. Open Forum

Councilor Fogue brought up the issue of unsecured trash from vehicles that lands on the side of the roads and at the transfer station. Councilor Fogue encouraged people to be more responsible when transporting their trash.

### XIV. Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2), Sessions pertaining to Potential Litigation, RE: Wilkinson Plat, Lot #7; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Fogue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Fogue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

### XV. Re-Convene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Re-Convene Open Session; Disclose one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session; and to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session pursuant to Chapter 42-46-7; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to ADJOURN at 10:34 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye  
Councilor Worthy -Aye  
Councilor Steere -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY