

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on December 15, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by W. Steere, Town Council Vice President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice President; Stephen W. Arnold; William A. Worthy, Jr.

Member absent: William E. Reichert , President, (arrived at 6:40 p.m.); David Laplante (arrived at 7:30 p.m)

Also Present: David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor (arrived at 7:00 PM) ; Chief Joseph Delprete; Adam Muccino, Finance Director ; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Sessions pertaining to any discussions of job performance Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
- C. R.I.G.L. 42-46(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council; B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Sessions pertaining to any discussions of job performance, Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council & C. R.I.G.L. 42-46(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

V. Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of Minutes - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose 2 votes were taken in Executive Session; and to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item to please step to the podium and state your name for the record.

1. Bruce Payton, 26 Lake Washington Drive, questioned that each time the public hearing comes up for licensing Cady's Tavern non residents are allowed to speak at length. Mr. Payton asked if all those speaking could state their name and where they are from.

VII. Public Hearings- Discussion and/or Action

A. **CONTINUED FROM NOVEMBER 17, 2022**

SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE RENEWALS - Discussion and/or action

1. Robin Tyo, Tyo Ristaino Corp d/b/a Cadys Tavern
2168 Putnam Pike- Request for 2023 Outdoor Special Events to Include
Outdoor Amplified Vocals and Amplified Guitar

Councilor Reichert stated this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on Nov 3rd, 2022.

Councilor Reichert also stated this public hearing was continued to clarify the notice and a new notice was sent out to abutters and advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on November 23rd, 2022.

Councilor Reichert **DECLARED** the Public Hearing **OPEN** and asked if anyone wished to speak to please state your name for the record when called on.

Discussion:

Bruce Payton questioned the number of events requested (30 events) compared to the last meeting (18 events). Mr. Payton stated if that many events were granted we would have no peace on our lake. Mr. Payton stated some trees have come down opening a vista right across the lake for sound. Mr. Payton reviewed the number of requests over the years.

Mr. Payton referenced the noise inside and outside and stated it was time the residents got a break.

Robin Tyo addressed the Council and stated one tree has fallen and no other trees were removed. R. Tyo stated she does not bring amplified music down to the water. Mr. Payton questioned the trees and handed out pictures which he believes shows less trees. R. Tyo stated everything is within DEM guidelines down to the water.

Councilor Reichert Declared the Public Hearing Closed.

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated the pictures appear to reflect two different times of year for the growing season.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Grant the Special Events for 2023 for Cady's Tavern, location of business: 2168 Putnam Pike:

- 14 Fundraisers (includes Bike Runs/Car Washes
- 10 Acoustic Outside -amplified vocals, and amplified guitar
- 6 Car/bike shows

for a total of 30 Special Events, individually licensed, with the following stipulations:

1. The filing of an application 6 business days prior to each event.
2. Crowd management and parking plan filed with each application.
3. No on-street parking allowed on Route 44.
4. The approval of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.
5. This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause.
6. Alcohol is only allowed in previously approved areas.
7. Compliance with the Special Event Ordinance.
8. Outdoor amplified music is allowed two times per month from May to October, on non consecutive weekends and non consecutive days for a total of twelve events limited between 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.
9. Any use outside that consists of amplification of music or entertainment, shall be considered a special event requiring a license, and shall count against the total number granted.

Seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated that, as any other establishment, if there is a problem this license can come back before Council.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Albert Hill, Jr., Hill's Tavern and Grill, LLC d/b/a Hill's Tavern and Grill
417 Putnam Pike- Request for 2023 Outdoor Special Events To Include
Outdoor Amplified Vocals and Amplified Instruments

Councilor Reichert stated this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on Nov 3rd, 2022 and the public hearing was continued to clarify the notice. Councilor Reichert stated the new notice was sent out to abutters and advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on November 23rd, 2022.

Councilor Reichert Declared the Public Hearing OPEN and asked anyone wishing to speak, to state your name for the record when called up.

Discussion:

Atty. David D'Agostino addressed the Council representing Hill's Tavern for this license.

Atty. D'Agostino restated the request made by Hill's Tavern, on 10/31/2022, for Special Events for 2023 as follows:

10	Motorcycle Runs
8	Car shows
12	Fundraisers
24	Outdoor live music

Total 54 events

Discussion: Councilor Steere questioned the Chief of Police as to complaints regarding this establishment. The Chief stated there is only one complaint filed and no problems to report.

Atty. D'Agostino stated they are aware of stipulations and that Mr. Hill has been following these stipulations. Atty. D'Agostino stated, in regards to increase numbers in their request, the numbers are higher due to scheduling issues and, in fact, most of the events requested will not take place

Discussion: Councilor Steere questioned if an event was cancelled due to the weather would that count towards the numbers allowed. The Clerk stated she would not count it as an event held. Mr. Hill stated it is difficult to manage when one event is cancelled it could effect the scheduling of other events. Mr. Hill explained the need for these events for the success of his business. Councilor Steere questioned why those numbers need to go up if the establishment can't use that number. Mr. Hill stated he needs those numbers he requested for scheduling. Councilor Steere pointed out there cannot be amplified music every weekend. Councilor Laplante stated he is still concerned with the number of events as he doesn't want everyone to ask for the same numbers. Atty. D'Agostino stated asking for this number of events just allows itself to business opportunities that might occur. Councilor Worthy asked how many events occurred last year. Mr. Hill stated there were eleven miscellaneous events.

Councilor Reichert **DECLARED** the Public Hearing **CLOSED**.

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated Mr. Hill has done a good job this year but questioned the high number in this years request. Councilor Steere stated he wouldn't be opposed to the same number as last year. Councilor Worthy advised the applicant to stay in communication with the Town Clerk regarding scheduling problems if they occur. Councilor Worthy stated his opinion that he would like to keep the number at the same as this year.

MOTION to GRANT the Special Events for 2023 for Hill's Tavern, location of business: 417 Putnam Pike:

- 8 Motorcycle Runs
- 4 Car shows
- 8 Fundraisers
- 12 Outdoor live music events

for a total of 32 Special Events, individually licensed allowed, with the following stipulations:

1. **The filing of an application 6 business days prior to each event.**
2. **Crowd management and parking plan filed with each application.**
3. **No on-street parking allowed on Route 44.**
4. **The approval of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.**
5. **This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause.**
6. **Alcohol is only allowed in previously approved areas.**
7. **Compliance with the Special Event Ordinance.**
8. **Outdoor amplified music is allowed two times per month from May to October, on non consecutive weekends and non consecutive days for a total of twelve events limited between 2:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M.**
9. **Any use outside that consist of amplification of music or entertainment, shall be considered a special event requiring a license, and shall count against the total number granted.**

Seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. David Wright, Mulberry Vineyards
 95 Pound Road- Request for 2023 Outdoor Special Events To Include
 Outdoor Amplified Vocals and Amplified Instruments

Councilor Reichert stated this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze/Observer on Nov 3rd , 2022. Councilor Reichert stated the public hearing was continued to clarify the application and a new notice was sent out to abutters and advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on November 23rd, 2022.

Councilor Reichert **DECLARED** the Public Hearing **OPEN**

Councilor Reichert stated anyone wishing to speak, state your name for the record when called up.

Discussion:

1. Atty. David D’Agostino, representing Mulberry Vineyards, spoke regarding their

application and explained their request.

Mulberry Vineyards' application for 29 Special Events for 2023 for the following:

- 4 Private weddings from 4:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.
 - 8 Farmers Markets - 2 per month, July - October
 - 3 Festivals with no music
 - 12 Live music events from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
 - 2 Evening Live music Events (Jazz night from 7:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m)
2. Robert Rogers, questioned the number of events and when they would be.
 3. Harold Winstanley, Country Meadows resident, discussed the problem with weddings is they get loud.
 4. Daniel McFarlane, 78 Emerald Way, stated the music is not loud at all and called this treatment harassment.
 5. Ericka Dauphinais, Gold Mine Road, stated you cannot hear music at Country Meadows.
 6. Mike Sullivan, Paris Irons Road, discussed the police presence.
 7. Mike Martone, Paris Irons Road, spoke in favor of music events.

Councilor Worthy questioned that the original business plan was for a winery. Councilor Worthy questioned the Solicitor about a liquor license, to which the solicitor explained, a winery has a state license.

8. Kevin Lavoie, Pound Road, stated the business is being run like a bar room and that it is a slippery slope. Mr. Lavoie felt weddings should be eliminated and that he had no problem with acoustical music.
9. David Wright, Pound Road, stated it is a vineyard.
10. K. Lavoie, Pound Road, spoke in response to a speaker that referenced he owned a vineyard. Mr. Lavoie stated he did not have a vineyard, he simply rented the property.
11. Melissa Wright, Mulberry Vineyards, stated they do make wine at Mulberry.

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone else wished to speak

DECLARE the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to **GRANT** the Special Events for 2023 for Mulberry Vineyards, location of business: 95 Pound Road:

for a total of 19 Special Events to include:

- 8 Farmers Markets - 2 per month, July - October, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m
- 3 Festivals with no music - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 8 Live music events - non-consecutive weekends from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

with the following stipulations:

- 1. The filing of an application 6 business days prior to each event.**
- 2. Crowd management and parking plan filed with each application.**
- 3. No on-street parking allowed on Pound Road.**
- 4. The approval of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.**
- 5. This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause.**
- 6. Alcohol is only allowed in previously approved areas.**
- 7. Compliance with the Special Event Ordinance.**
- 8. Any use outside that consist of amplification of music or entertainment, shall be considered a special event requiring a license, and shall count against the total number granted.**

Seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-Laplante, Worthy

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of December 1, 2022
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - November 2022
- C. Finance Director's Report - November 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of December 1, 2022; APPROVE the Tax Assessors ADDITIONS to the 2022 Tax Roll in the amount of \$10,594.02 and the ABATEMENTS to the 2022 Tax Roll in the amount of \$39,073.58 and to APPROVE the Finance Director's Report for November 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Political Sign Ordinance- Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated his information was not meant to be an ordinance but a handout to all candidates just to provide guidelines (similar to Burrillville handout). Councilor Arnold stated he felt common sense guidelines was a good idea before the next election. Councilor Steere stated he could have something drafted for Gloucester by the second meeting of January.

Councilor Worthy gave some suggestions regarding time for signs to go up and size of signs.

- X. New Business
 - A. Personnel
 - 1. Police Department
 - a. Appointment - Police Officer II - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated the Police Chief submitted this request last meeting:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
Date: November 23, 2022
Subj: Police Officer Appointment

Dear Council Members:

I would respectfully request to appoint **Mark A. Haddigan of Gloucester** to a police officer position on the Gloucester Police Department.

Mark Haddigan is a highly qualified 14-year veteran of the Barrington Police Department. Mark's transfer from the Barrington Police Department will be considered a lateral transfer to the Gloucester Police Department. A complete police background investigation was conducted with no adverse or disqualifying findings. Mark comes highly recommended and will be an asset to the Gloucester Police Department. The Rhode Island Police Officers Standards and Training Committee is set to approve his qualifications and lateral transfer on December 1, 2022.

I would further request this appointment take effect on **Monday December 12, 2022** at a Patrol Officer II salary of \$66,587.18 and a full benefit package in accordance with the current IBPO 638 collective bargaining agreement. Mark will be on probation until July 1st, 2023 and upon satisfactory completion of the probation period, Mark will advance to the Senior Patrol status position based on the IBPO 638 collective bargaining agreement.

This lateral transfer appointment is needed to fill anticipated police officer retirements in FY- 2023- and FY-2024. I would also request to move up his employment date to December 12, 2022 from the first week of January 2023 to assist with sworn police officer staffing shortages at the police department. The Finance Director has reviewed/approved this appointment time-line and the current police department budget supports this request.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion:

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Mark A. Haddigan to the Gloucester Police Department to the rank of Patrol Officer II at the salary rate of \$66,587.18 and a full benefit package in accordance with the current IBPO 638 Collective Bargaining Agreement; EFFECTIVE December 12, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Senior Center

b. Appointment - On-Call Back up Director - Discussion and/or Action

Council has received a request from the Senior Center Director:

To The Honorable Town Council, 12/12/2022

I am requesting that you consider appointing Joyce Di Giulio as an on-call back-up director to run the senior center temporarily during my absences (roughly 20 days per year, vacation and sick time). Joyce has been volunteering here for months. She greets people, helps them as needed and also helps me with some clerical work such as printing the newsletter and some light filing. She has been a great asset to the center and plans to continue her volunteerism. Recently I realized that with her extensive administrative work history she would be great as an Interim Director.

She is retired, therefore she is not looking for anything more than an "on call basis". I am attaching her application and resume for your review.

If you agree to appoint, I would like to make it effective immediately at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Respectfully,

Melissa Bouvier

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked if this was to fill a current position. A. Muccino stated there are currently two on call staff already. Councilor Laplante questioned the need for three on call people. Councilor Steere stated he needed to recuse himself. Councilor Arnold stated Melissa Bouvier could not be present tonight and perhaps we should table until the Director can be present.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment of Joyce Di Giulio as an on-call back-up Senior Center Director; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, and Reichert
NAYS-0
RECUSAL-Steere

MOTION PASSED

3. Tax Assessor's Clerk – Authorization to change job classification back to date of hire - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Arnold reviewed the circumstances in the Tax Assessor's office. Councilor Arnold stated that two meetings ago the Assessor's Clerk was able to get her job reclassified back to July 1, 2022 but that now they are looking for Council to go back to date of hire with that reclassification. Councilor Steere asked if there is any time Council has done something like this before. The Clerk stated she does not recall that ever happening. Councilor Arnold stated the Clerk has been working on her own for a while due to personal issues with staff in that office. Councilor Reichert asked the Solicitor for his opinion. Atty. Iglizzi questioned if the Clerk was working out of classification and if so it may be cause to file a grievance. Councilor Reichert stated he believes the employee has done a great job but perhaps filing a grievance may be the best approach. After discussion, it was agreed to table until the next Town Council meeting, January 5th, and to seek input from the acting HR Director.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE Item #3 to January 5, 2023; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Vernon Drive- Request for use and/or development of property with non- town road access: Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert referred this item to Atty. Iglizzi. Atty Iglizzi explained documentation was produced by the Planner and DPW Director that this is a non town road. Atty. Iglizzi stated the petitioner is asking the Town to apply on their behalf to DEM as the owner of the road, however, it does not appear the Town owns that road. Atty. Iglizzi stated that the petitioner would have the responsibility to do a title search to try to prove otherwise. The Solicitor recommended the request be denied until further information is provided that proves otherwise.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to DENY the request regarding Vernon Drive; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- C. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Tax Assessor's Board of Review

Position # 2 - 6 year term to expire 12/31/2028

Councilor Reichert stated this appointment is for the expired term of George Kain who wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to REAPPOINT George Kain to the Tax Assessor’s Board of Review, Position #2, for a 6 year term to expire 12/31/2028; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Award of Bid- IFB 2022-06 Road Sand- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated Council has received the following:

To: Honorable Gloucester Town Council, William Reichert, President
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Re: IFB 2022-06 Road Sand
Date: 12/14/2022

The Town advertised IFB 2022-06, Road Sand, in the Valley Breeze Observer on November 10, 2022 as well as on the Gloucester Town website. The Board of Contracts and Purchases met on Monday, November 28, 2022 to publicly open the bids associated with IFB 2022-06. One bid was received from Barnes Concrete (tabulation below). DPW Director Treml has reviewed Barnes’ response and recommended that the bid be awarded to Barnes Concrete. Given that there was one bid received in response to this opportunity, the Board of Contracts and Purchases voted to recommend to the Council that the Council award IFB 2022-06 to Barnes Concrete, 873 Providence Pike, Putnam, CT.

Respectfully,
Adam Muccino
Finance Director

Per Yard Delivered **Per Yard Picked up**
\$27.15 **\$19.65**

Per Ton delivered **Per Ton Picked up**
\$18.10 **\$13.10**

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AWARD IFB 2022-06 Road Sand to Barnes Concrete for the bid price of: Per yard delivered \$27.15, Per yard picked up \$19.65; Per Ton

delivered \$18.10; and Per ton picked up \$13.10. Said bid prices in effect for one year from date of award; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- E. Resident request re: Amendment to Agreement between Town of Gloucester and Frank and Rose Silva re. the parcel between Old Snake Hill Rd. and Cook Estate Way, the "Driftway"- Discussion and/or Action

David Iglizzo updated the Council. D. Iglizzo stated several months ago the resident was before Council to discuss the original agreement of October 9, 2003 which states the residents frontage shall be on Old Snake Hill Road. Atty. Iglizzo stated the agreement, as written, indicates that the existing property must use frontage on Old Snake Hill Road exclusively and may create an obstacle for Mr. Silva acquiring subdivision approval. D. Iglizzo stated at the April 2022 meeting Council discussed and agreed the resident, Frank Silva, could come back to Council for an amendment to the original agreement.

Councilor Reichert gave a history of the suit on the "driftway" that resulted in the agreement. Councilor Arnold asked what the Council now has to do so that Mr. Silva can go to Planning/Zoning. D. Iglizzo stated the Trust Attorneys have suggested adding the following to the original agreement: " nothing therein should be construed as prohibiting the Silva's from subdividing the property provided they maintain frontage, approved by the zoning/planning, on Old Snake Hill Road for both parcels"

Motion was made by Councilor Worthy to amend the Agreement of October 3, 2002 between the Town of Gloucester, and Frank Silva and Rose Silva by adding the following: nothing therein should be construed as prohibiting the Silva's from subdividing the property provided they maintain frontage, approved by the Zoning/Planning, on Old Snake Hill Road for both parcels" seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- F. Request for authorization of signature:
 - 1. Historic District Commission, Certified Local government Annual Report- Discussion and/or Action

Council has received a request from the Town Planner:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: December 8, 2022
Re: Certified Local Government -Annual Report

Each year, the Town must submit an annual report of all activities of the Historic District Commission to the Rhode Island Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission to maintain its status as a Certified Local Government. Status as a Certified Local Government ensures that the Town remains eligible for grants and other programs which can benefit our local historic district, Chepachet Village. I am requesting authorization for the Town Council to sign the annual report. Thank you for your consideration.

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the 2022 Certified Local Government - Annual Report on behalf of the Gloucester Historic District Commission; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Nomination for Employee(s) to attend a Municipal Leadership Academy offered by the League of Cities and Towns - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated the Town Clerk and the Finance Director are requesting a nomination letter for a Municipal Leadership program being conducted by the League of Cities and Towns. Councilor Reichert stated the Council has a letter of nomination for the Deputy Town Clerk, Christine Mathieu prepared by the Town Clerk and Council also has a nomination letter for Adam Muccino.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign nomination letters for employees, Christine Mathieu and Adam Muccino, for consideration for the Municipal Leadership Academy being conducted by the League of Cities and Towns; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion:

3. Request to the Office of Auditor General for an extension to complete the FY22 audit - Discussion and/or Action

A. Muccino explained the request and the need for more time to complete the FY22 Audit.

MOTION Councilor Steere made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a request to the Office of the Auditor General for an extension of time to complete the FY22 audit; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

4. Certificate of Compliance by Agencies & Public Bodies - Public Records Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert state the Town Clerk has completed another virtual training for Public Records and Open Meetings. Councilor Reichert stated Each time the clerk completes a training she sends in a certification to the Attorney Generals Office.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Certificate of Compliance, Access to Public Records, Compliance by Agencies & Public bodies to be dated December 15, 2022 for Jean Fecteau; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

G. Authorization of Letter of Support: Blackstone Valley Tourism Council's Branding Campaign with Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant to fund campaign - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council previously received a request from Bob Billington, President of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council, requesting a letter of support implementing a Branding Campaign for the Blackstone Valley. Councilor Reichert stated Campaign's implemented by the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council benefit tourism in all the communities included in the Valley.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a letter of support to the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council for the implementation of a Branding Campaign in conjunction with an EDA grant; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- D. Ratification of Agreement: Between the Town of Glocester & RI Laborers' District Council on behalf of Local Union 1322, of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, Effective: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025
Police Department Civilian Employees - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the ratification of the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Glocester and the Local Union 1322, Police Department Civilian Employees; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Laplante stated he submitted to the Clerk his notes on the negotiations and included some suggestions.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- E. Police Department: Authorization of Grant proposal - Body Worn Cameras - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: The Chief gave an overview of the grant proposal and the annual expense. The Chief explained that receiving the grant requires the acceptance of a state wide policy. Councilor Laplante discussed the points of wearing body cameras.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to AUTHORIZE a grant proposal titled "Statewide Body-Worn Camera Program" between the Town of Glocester and the RI Dept. of Public Safety, Public Safety Grant Administration Office; said grant is for the cost of a certain number of body worn cameras per year by each City or Town awarded funds; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: The Chief explained that this is a five year program and that he wouldn't use Town funds for this program.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- F. ARPA Funds request - Recreation Director
 - 1. Ponaganset Basketball Association - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert explained that the Council has received a request from the Recreation Director who is seeking ARPA funds for the Ponaganset Basketball Association to supplement their operating budget:

To: Town Council
From: Robert Shields Recreation Director
Date: December 13 2022
RE: ARPA Fund Request

To the Gloucester Town Council:

On behalf of the Ponaganset Basketball Association (PBA), I am seeking to use a portion of the federal funding the town has received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to mitigate the economic impacts resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

To that end, PBA is seeking \$10,000 in funding from the \$50,000 set aside by the Gloucester Town Council for nonprofit groups who serve the Gloucester community.

These funds are intended to supplement PBA's general operating budget, and will be equally divided between both the girls and boys' programs. Specifically, a portion of the requested funds will go toward the continued payment of liability insurance PBA purchased for the first time in 2021. Currently, the liability insurance for both programs cost \$4576.

Additionally, a portion of the requested funds will go towards the rising costs of various pieces of equipment, uniforms and supplies as well as the compensation of game day workers. With more than 325 youths participating in the 2022 PBA season, the addition of basic necessities has increased. Furthermore, to accommodate for the increased number of registered athletes, more games and teams were added to the season. While the increased numbers are a welcome sign that the COVID-19 public health emergency is in the rearview mirror, the compensation for workers has increased to \$7875, placing a financial strain on the leagues.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Robert Shields
Gloucester Recreation Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated the league came before the Council last year with organization problems. Councilor Worthy asked how the league was doing with that problem. R. Shields stated things have improved with new supervision and he went on to explain the current operations. Councilor Arnold stated he supports this league wholeheartedly. Councilor Arnold referred to the previous financial help the league needed in the past and questioned the financial planning going forward. Discussion followed on this allocation helping the league going forward.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the use of ARPA funds, in an amount not to exceed \$10,000, for the Ponaganset Basketball Association; said funds would be used towards insurance costs, various pieces of equipment, uniforms and supplies as well as the compensation of game day workers; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Gloucester Recreation Commission - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated Council has received a request from the Recreation Director seeking ARPA funds for the Recreation Commission to put towards additional expenses of an upcoming ski trip. Councilor Reichert stated the ability to utilize these funds towards outdoor recreational activities contributes to healthy children while keeping costs down for parents.

To: Town Council

From: Robert Shields Recreation Director

Date: December 13 2022

RE: ARPA Fund Request

To the Gloucester Town Council:

On behalf of the Recreation Commission, I am seeking to use a portion of the federal funding the town has received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to mitigate the economic impacts resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. To that end, the Recreation Commission is seeking an amount not to exceed \$3000 in new funding.

These funds are intended to supplement the cost of the Gloucester Recreation Commission's annual ski trip.

Specifically, the funds would cover the cost of transportation which, as it currently stands, is \$2955 from Dattco busing company.

This trip is geared toward serving the youth of Gloucester providing individuals with an opportunity to experience winter recreation activities at a reasonable cost. Currently, the cost for the trip is \$80 per participant, but would increase to well over \$100 without being supplemented.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Robert Shields

Gloucester Recreation Director

(end of memo)

Discussion: R. Shields stated he did request funds from the budget board. Discussion followed on ways to fund the shortfall. Council and the Recreation Director also discussed whether this was an appropriate use of ARPA Funds. Councilor Steere stated his discomfort using ARPA funds for a trip which services a small population and suggest the Council could fund a portion of the shortfall. R. Shields stated if Council could assist with a portion of the funding he would go back to his budget and pay for the rest.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AUTHORIZE the use of Town Council Contingency funds, in the amount of \$1,500 , for the Recreation Departments winter ski trip; said funds would be used towards transportation costs; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0
RECUSAL-Arnold, Worthy

MOTION PASSED

G. Bella Vista Resident request - Use of remaining funds approved for engineering - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated this item is a result of a request by the Bella Vista Estates Condo Association for funding to be used for additional engineering and/or oversight of repair costs. Councilor Reichert stated the Council previously authorized, in April 2022, an amount not to exceed \$1,500 for engineering review.

Discussion: Council discussed the amount of funds that have been used to date was \$925. Councilor Arnold thanked Engineer Provonsil for his work to date and stated he has spent a lot more time and effort than billed at the property. A resident from Bella Vista also got up and spoke on the good work David Provonsil has done.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the use of the remaining funds of \$575, previously authorized, for the continued necessary repairs/work to Bella Vista Estates being done by Engineer David Provonsil; seconded by Councilor Steere .

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Council has received a packet of information from a resident who has appealed a tax bill decision in regards to a home that was rebuilt after a house fire in February 2021. (In packet)

Councilor Worthy stated he has spoken to this resident about his concern with his tax bill. Councilor Laplante stated the resident is paying the tax bill for now, but is seeking an adjustment going forward. In discussion, it was determined the resident is now going before the Tax Assessor Board of Appeal. Councilor Laplante questioned the substantial increase in assessment for a smaller house on the property. Councilor Arnold stated it might also be the amount of the year the house was not inhabitable.

XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. The Town Clerk thanked Councilor Reichert for his many years of service and Councilor Laplante for his service to the town.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None

XIV. Open Forum

1. Councilor Arnold assured resident, Judith Colaluca, that we are still working on ways to address the litter issue in town. Councilor Arnold stated a Code Red went out regarding the unsecured trash issue. J. Colaluca stated that she saw big bags of trash on the road just today.
2. Councilor Steere thanked Councilor Laplante for his work for the town and Councilor Reichert for his many years of service.
Councilor Steere thanked the members of our Boards and Commissions, as well as our Town employees for their service this year.

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to ADJOURN at 10:47 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED