

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on October 19, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:40 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy , Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: David Iglizzo, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Mark Capuano, Finance Director; Joseph Delprete, Police Chief ; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner; John Luszcz, Director Human Services; Melissa bouvier, Senior Center Director; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to please rise to join us in the Pledge.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item to step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Proclamation - #23-03 National Veterans Small Business Week

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Rhode Island District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration to support National Veterans Small Business Week. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk received a consensus of the Council to support and read the Proclamation as follows:

The State of Rhode Island

Town of Gloucester

**Proclamation of the Town of Gloucester
#2023-03 National Veterans Small Business Week**

WHEREAS, nearly one out of ten small businesses across the United States is veteran owned from Main Street store fronts to virtual high-tech startups that advance America, veteran owned small businesses are a pillar of our economy and contribute to the foundation of our nation; and

WHEREAS, veteran and military spouse small business owners are resilient, disciplined, and mission-oriented, thanks to their commitment to serving our country and communities; and

WHEREAS, when we resolve ourselves to strengthen our communities, we must empower and

support the giants that veteran entrepreneurs are in our economy; and

WHEREAS, National Veterans Small Business Week highlights the programs and services available to veteran entrepreneurs through the U.S. Small Business Administration and resource partners; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Gloucester supports and joins in this national effort to help America's veteran owned small businesses start, grow, and recover their businesses after a disaster and help our communities thrive.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Town Council and Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester do hereby proclaim October 30 through November 3, 2023 as

NATIONAL VETERANS SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Councilor William A. Worthy, Jr., President Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk
Councilor Stephen W. Arnold, Vice-President
Councilor Walter M. O. Steere, III
Councilor Jonathan E. Burlingame
Councilor Cheryl A. Greathouse

Dated this 19th day of October 2023

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of October 5, 2023
- B. Pole Grants - Snake Hill Road - Install P300-25, P305-50, P304-50,
 Pray Hill Road - Install P307-50, P308-50, P309-50, P313-50, P314-50
 Potters Lane - Install P306-75
- C. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - September 2023
- D. Finance Director's Report - September 2023

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of October 5, 2023 to APPROVE the POLE GRANTS on Snake Hill Road - Installation of P300-25, P305-50, P304-50; Pray Hill Road - Installation of P307-50, P308-50, P309-50, P313-50, P314-50; Potters Lane - Installation of P306-75; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's ADDITIONS to the 2023 Tax Roll in the amount of \$2,459.74; the ABATEMENTS to the 2023 Tax Roll in the amount of \$664.05 and the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$72.88 and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report of September 2023; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Terms to run concurrent with the Town Council- Discussion and /or Action
 - a. Affordable Housing Advisory Board- two year term to expire 12/2024- 4 positions

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Council may appoint from the Talent Bank listing in their packet or table the appointments.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointments to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board; Positions 2,3,4 and 5; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that he has reached out to a few people and hopes to be able to appoint people at the next meeting. Councilor W. Worthy asked for this item to be tabled.

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Public Hearing - Consideration of Disposition of Town Owned Property:

1. Discussion/Action - Town owned building located at 1272 Putnam Pike (Demolition or rehabilitation)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing is for the purpose of obtaining public input on the building located on town owned property at 1272 Putnam Pike. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on October 12, 2023.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if anyone has any input on the disposition of the structure on that land, you are welcome to speak. Councilor W. Worthy asked anyone coming to speak to please state your name at the microphone when called on.

Discussion:

1. C. Wilson, Chair of the Historic District Commission and resident, stated that this is a historic house and all means should be taken to preserve it. C. Wilson stated that it is a one way street because once it is gone it is gone forever. C. Wilson stated that this house is a piece of history and he would like it preserved.
2. M. Verrier, resident, stated his opinion that this is a beautiful old home and doesn't think it

should be torn down. M. Verrier stated that the building could be split off and sold to someone who would restore it. M. Verrier stated his agreement with C. Wilson that it is a one way street once it is torn down.

3. T. Cash, resident, sees this house as the welcoming gateway to the village and recommends that it not be torn down. T. Cash suggested that perhaps there are grants that may be available.
4. E. Kent, resident and Town Historian, stated that she also feels this building is a gateway building to the community. E. Kent stated that we need these old buildings and that people come to town to see them. E. Kent stated that the old buildings show that our town cares. E. Kent stated her opinion for the Council to consider not destroying the building.
5. G. Steere, resident, stated his opinion that the building should not be torn down. G. Steere described how he preserved his home and that it took time and money but that is what the town is about. G. Steere asked the Council to give it a lot of thought before taking the step to tear down.
6. Councilor W. Steere stated that RI Housing came to investigate the building and they are a third party with no vested interest. Councilor W. Steere read specific parts of the report prepared by RI Housing where it was described as to the poor state of the building.

Councilor w. Steere read as follows from the RI Housing report:

“ Building Exterior:

Windows & Doors: All windows and door frames and sills throughout the building are badly deteriorated in main part of building. Inexpensive vinyl replacement window in poor condition are installed in openings. Require that frames, sills and window sash be replaced.

Roofs & Gutters: Appear to be fairly new. The roof structure itself is bowing due to poor structural support throughout the building. All gutters and downspouts observed were serviceable.

Exterior Walls: All exterior walls are sided with wooden clapboard, with severely peeling paint throughout (assume lead due to age of the building). The walls are out of plumb and are bowed due to settling.

Window casings are wood with peeling paint throughout.

Foundations and Basement: The field stone foundation has many cracks on the exterior walls and shows poor structural integrity The basement is in abhorred condition. The floor joist are infested with powder post beetles, and the center support girders have failed causing a dip in the 1st floor. The dirt floor has many holes and requires replacement. Because of this condition, the structural integrity of the entire first floor has failed and requires complete replacement. The basement appeared to be damp and musty for the most part.

Building Interiors:

Floor coverings: a wide variety of covering in the flooring. The residential floors are sagging due

to basement settling. The walls are a mostly painted plaster of drywall in various color with holes in many of the kitchen walls. The doors and casings are wooden with painted trim, (possible lead hazard due to age of building).

Bathroom Walls: Bathrooms observed in the residential part of the building were ceramic tile and wall board in poor repair.

Sinks, Faucets, Toilets: The sinks and toilets in both bathrooms did not appear to be working for a long period of time. All plumbing throughout this building would require replacement.

Closet Doors & Shelves: Very few closets areas existed in the building. Some that did have suffered water damage and had mold growing on the walls.

Wall & Ceilings Surface & Condition: Walls in the stairwells of the building are in terrible repair.

Building Systems:

Electric Panels: The panel board is fairly new but the wiring is outdated and is not up to building code requirements. It would require complete replacement.

Mechanical Venting & Exhaust: We did not observe any type of bathroom fans to circulate the air.

Lighting & Fixtures: Very old fixtures are in use in this building, most will require replacement to provide adequate lighting for future occupants.

Wall Paint Surfaces: Hallway wall surface in bad repair. Walls have multiple holes throughout the building.

Domestic Hot Water Boilers & Tanks: There is an old oil-fired hydronic boiler in the basement. From its appearance, it is not functioning, requires replacement. The hot water tanks in the basement appears to be fairly old. All equipment is outdated and will require replacement to provide service.

Fire Protection Systems: All smoke detectors were disconnected and did not appear to be working. (Although, not sure).

Common Areas:

Condition of Stairs & Handrails: Stairs are only fair. Stair height appears to be irregular. Needs to be brought up to code.

Fire Exits: Building has no fire escape observed,

OTHER:

Comments: This building has historic significance, and the owners wish to repair it to provide residential housing. While any building can be saved, this desire has to be weighed against the cost of repairing this building. As was stated in the report, many of the building systems have failed and will require complete replacement, most importantly, the entire first floor framing of the floor joist girders and support columns all of which are rotted out and infested with wood boring insects. If this project was to be considered for funding, we would strongly recommend having a contractor prepare an estimate to determine the cost of this complete gut rehab project. “
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Steere stated that one possible use for the building was affordable housing which is why RI Housing was asked to come in as that is what they do. Councilor W. Steere stated that it

would take hundreds of thousands of dollars to fix this building . Councilor W. Steere stated that this house means something to him as it was his great grandmother's house. Councilor W. Steere stated that past owners let the property go . Councilor W. Steere stated he felt it was important for people to hear the serious issues of this building.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he wanted people to understand that the house has serious issues as documented by a third outside party and it would take serious money to fix.

7. P. Henry, resident, asked the Council to think long and hard before this building is torn down as it is an antique and our town is full of antiques which is what draws people to our town. P. Henry stated a suggestion to separate the property, sell the building to someone who would preserve it.

Councilor S. Arnold state that his initial hope was to save the building but after walking through it he does not feel the same. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the estimate of \$500,000 to rehab the building up to the neighborhood of Code would not be a responsible use of taxpayer money in his opinion.

Councilor S. Arnold stated he would be open to tabling this matter to see if there is any other possible solution. Councilor S. Arnold stated the Council has tabled this matter before as they are not rushing to do another plan. Councilor S. Arnold stated again that based on his information and the numbers he can't justify spending that amount of taxpayer money. Councilor S. Arnold stated again that he is not opposed to tabling this matter if there is another option . Councilor S. Arnold also stated he would like to know from the Director of Public Works if the building is safe to let it sit.

G. Trembl, DPW Director, stated that the building is secure. G. Trembl stated that the building also needs a septic system and a well.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that no one spoke tonight in favor of tearing it down and seven spoke in favor of saving. Councilor w. worthy stated his opinion that the building deserves more investigation especially as he has been told by other people of their desire to preserve the building.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the town does not have the money; that it would not be a responsible use of taxpayer money . Councilor S. Arnold stated that he is open to tabling to see if there is a creative solution for this matter especially as the building is secure.

Councilor C. Greathouse suggested subdividing the lot and selling the house so the town would have no expenses except advertising.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he has no problem tabling this matter to see if there are other options. Councilor W. Steere stated that RI Housing also stated the following: "... I don't know that the structure is worth saving from a financial perspective. However, I understand the position of the society in wanting to maintain historic structures in the town. My thought is demo

and then construct on for affordable home ownership....” (End of quote)

Councilor W. Steere stated his appreciation for historic homes and buildings .

Councilor S. Arnold stated that a public hearing for input is exactly what took place tonight. Councilor S. Arnold stated that if anyone has any ideas that they could email the Town Clerk or call a councilor. Councilor S. Arnold stated that if it could be financially responsible to save the building then he would but so far there has not been a solution.

C.Wilson, stated the two examples of the Kent property and a property on Oil Mill Lane where both are being restored as the new owners see the value in old buildings. C. Wilson stated that there are people willing to preserve the old buildings so if the town can't do so then give the public a shot at it to try and save.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

- B. Town Council Discussion and/or Action - Disposition of Town owned Property - 1272 Putnam Pike

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the determination on the disposition of Town owned property located at 1272 Putnam Pike; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- C. Funding of costs relative to disposition of Town owned property - 1272 Putnam Pike - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the funding of costs relative to disposition of town owned structure located at 1272 Putnam Pike; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- D. Discussion and/or Action - Land Swap Offer with Town (Resident Property A.P. 10D - Lot 21)

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that there were questions and concerns raised at the last town council meeting. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are expenses that would be incurred if Council were to go down this road.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Council needs to decide if they want to go down this road as there are limited resources and expenses will be incurred. Councilor W. Steere stated there is a lot involved in something like this so there needs to be a real benefit to the town. Councilor W. Steere stated there is no written proposal and he suggests to not move forward without a written proposal. Councilor W. Steere stated again that there needs to be a compelling reason if the town were to do.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that a written proposal would be a good start. Councilor S. Arnold stated he would like to walk the property to see if there is a benefit. Councilor S. Arnold stated an appraisal and a survey as well as other aspects would be needed. Councilor S. Arnold does not see an immediate benefit to spending taxpayer money and that a lot more details are needed before deciding.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that there needs to be a shown benefit to the town.

C. Shea, resident, stated that he can come back with numbers for appraisal and survey. C. Shea stated that this idea was generated from the talks of the master plan for Gloucester Memorial Park. C. Shea stated that he understands there is a procedure and that the idea of a swap made sense to him when the master plan talk came about.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that a constituent suggested this could enhance a walking trail. C. Shea stated his opinion that the swap could include a walking trail for the town.

No Action Taken

E. Authorization for Signature-

1. NPS Grant Contract amendment (change order) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the following request from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: October 11, 2023
Re: Chepachet Village National Register District Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

Back in late 2019, the National Park Service (NPS) announced a \$250,000 grant to the Town of Gloucester from the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program to launch a local grant program for contributing structures to the Chepachet Village National Register District. In 2021, after a competitive subgrant process, three (3) grant awards were made. A contingency was held to cover the cost of additional repairs that were discovered over the course of the work.

Construction is complete at two (2) of the property locations. The location of 1157 Putnam Pike (Tavern on Main) was originally awarded \$112,353. The granite steps that were reset on the front of the structure require hand railings for the safety of the restaurant patrons, particularly during inclement weather. The additional cost for these necessary repairs totals \$4,270. I am requesting authorization for the Town Council President to sign a contract amendment to allow for these expenses. All expenses will be covered by the federal grant funds. There are no expenses to the Town.

Thank you.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a contract amendment to the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program (HRSP) Grant Agreement P19AP00430: Between the United States Department of Interior National Park Service and the Town of Glocester; for additional work to be completed at a cost of \$4,270, from contingency funds, at 1157 Putnam Pike; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Municipal Resilience Program Grant - Approval to apply and commitment to match - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: K. Scott , Town Planner, stated that last year the town participated in the Municipal Resiliency Program through the RI Infrastructure Bank to which identified projects that can increase municipal resiliency. K. Scott stated that this action grant proposal is now an opportunity for those towns who participated in the grant program last year to apply for grants to address the issues identified.

K. Scott stated that she has been working with G. Treml, DPW Director, and he has identified 5 road projects that are imminent due to being low lying flood sites. K. Scott stated that the total required to fix the 5 projects is \$485,000. K. Scott stated that grant is 75% with a 25% match from the town. K. Scott stated that one half of the 25% match from the town can be in kind services. K. Scott stated that leaves \$60,625 as the required match due from the town for this project. K. Scott stated she has spoken with the finance director.

M. Capuano, Finance Director, stated that there were several road projects completed using ARPA funds and have a balance remaining that could be reallocated to this project as a new ARPA project. D. Iglizzi stated that the projects should be identified. Councilor S. Arnold asked if these were road projects completed by the DPW that received ARPA funds. M. Capuano stated the projects were completed by DPW using ARPA funds. M. Capuano stated that he would recommend reallocating

available ARPA funds from project 10B, road/drainage at Jackson Schoolhouse Road and project 10C, road/drainage at Lake View Drive to new project # 50 with the intent for matching funds for the Municipal Resiliency Grant Program in the amount of \$60,625.

Councilor S. Arnold asked the amount of the overage from the ARPA funds. M. Capuano stated there was about \$74,000. M. Capuano stated his opinion that the reallocation of the \$60,625 should be made to a new project in order to be able to track it.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council and department heads are excellent at being able to take money and turn it into more money through grants. Councilor W. Steere stated this is an opportunity where the town can get a lot of work done that is supposed to be done anyway through a grant with a small portion from the town.

Councilor W. Worthy asked when the work has to be done. K. Scott stated that there is a two year window after the grant is awarded. Councilor W. Worthy asked how this works with ARPA timeline. M. Capuano stated it works within ARPA timeline.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to reallocate \$ 60,625.00 of ARPA funds previously allocated to project 10B and 10C and reclassify to ARPA project 50; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- F. Additional information from Town Solicitor re: a Request for permission to place an easement across a town road - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion:

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that this is a situation where an individual owns two parcels of land separated by the road. D. Igliazzi stated that there is nothing in the Gloucester Code that requires a septic system to be on the same lot. D. Igliazzi stated that this is a situation where the septic system can't be on the same side of the road due to the person's well and the neighbor's well. D. Igliazzi stated that the town can allow this request but there is an expense associated with it. D. Igliazzi stated that the town should get an engineer's report with a metes and bounds description as to the location of the easement and it should be at the landowner's expense. D. Igliazzi stated that he could then draft an easement that specifically cites that exhibit of the location as well as the terms and conditions of installation, repairs, that the road must be brought back up to the standard it is now and any action would need a permit.

Councilor S. Arnold stated his concern of a precedent. D. Igliazzi stated that this decision is up to the council as there is no prohibition in the Code. D. Igliazzi stated that there are utilities under roads in other cities and towns subject to conditions he is talking about. . D. Igliazzi stated that the DPW director has no objection. D. Igliazzi stated it is a council decision and there is no legal prohibition. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that it is not a great planning concept and opens up the town to headaches.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked if this was the landowners only option. D. Igliazzi stated he did not know. Councilor J. Burlingame asked if the resident was present. Councilor S. Arnold stated he would be open to tabling this matter in order to be able to understand more information and be able to make a decision. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he would like the resident present. Councilor W. Steere stated he would like a written proposal and not just the letter that was submitted. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion to table as it could be a slippery slope.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE item F. ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- G. Personnel
 - 1. DPW - Appointment
 - a. Driver/Laborer I - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a memo from the Public Works Director which he read as follows:

October 12,2023

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Gary Trembl

Public Works Director

RE: Driver/Laborer I Position Appointment Request

The Driver Laborer I position was advertised in the Bargain Buyer and on the Town website from August 29,2023 thru September 13, 2023 . We received 9 applications. Of the 9 we interviewed 7 applicants. One applicant was offered the position but declined. The next applicant that was chosen accepted the position. He has experience driving trucks with trailers and all landscape equipment. He holds a Class A Commercial Drivers License with no restrictions or violations.

He passed the BCI and his pre-employment placement physical. He will be a great asset to the department. I am requesting Tyler Martin of 74 Mapleville Main St. Mapleville RI, be appointed to the Driver/Laborer 1 position effective October 23 2023 at the rate of \$27.18/hour per the NAGE Union Contract.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Trembl

(End of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Tyler Martin to the position of Driver/Laborer 1, DPW Department, effective October 23, 2023, at the rate of \$27.18 per hour as

outlined in the NAGE Contract, appointee shall receive all other benefits as outlined in the NAGE Contract and Employee Handbook; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received correspondence. Noted below, no discussion.

1. Corres. from the SOS office regarding an attempt to inspire local communities to form local 250 semiquincentennial committees as the (RI250) Semiquincentennial” Commission works to lead the way in recognizing and honoring the important history that the 2026 Semiquincentennial represents.
2. Corres. from R.I.D.E.M. by its Office of Water Resources has under consideration an application by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – New England District. This is a public notice. The application is to seek a State of Rhode Island Water Quality Certification. Public notice has been posted.
3. Corres. from Governor McKee as he starts to form a Young Adults Advisory Committee which will engage youth aged 17-25 on topics of education, including attendance, health, and workforce, including wealth building. The Governor’s office is encouraging recommendations.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had any comments or discussion. None

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any department heads had anything to report. Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had any question for any department heads.

1. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that there were significant land use regulations passed in the last legislative session that will have a major effect on our zoning and subdivision regulations. K. Scott stated that she plans to apply for a grant for a consultant to help with these changes but a majority of the regulations become effective on January 1, 2024. K. Scott stated that the changes fall into two categories.
K. Scott stated that the first category are things that you have to do by state law and there is no wiggle room. K. Scott stated these changes will be in the town’s phase 2 changes because there is nothing that the town can do.
K. Scott stated that the phase 1 changes are ones that will go into place on January 1, 2024 that could have a detrimental impact on the town unless we do something. K. Scott stated that a lot of these changes are going to involve a lot of detailed discussions. K. Scott stated that there is not enough time to do those discussions and advertising before January 1, 2024. K. Scott stated that she is proposing a temporary measure.

K. Scott stated that as an example: the Zoning Ordinance allows things as permitted, not permitted or permitted by special use permit. K. Scott stated that if something is allowed by special use permit then the new state law says it has to have specific and objective criteria for every single special use. K. Scott stated that if the town does not have these specific and objective criteria already in place before January 1st then the use will be automatically allowed.

K. Scott stated that the town Zoning Ordinance currently has about 100 uses allowed by special use permit and of that 100 uses only about 2-3 have the specific criteria. K. Scott is proposing to make all current uses allowed by special use permit to be temporarily not permitted in order to meet the January 1st deadline. K. Scott stated that this proposal will prevent the uses from being automatically allowed on January 1st. K. Scott stated that the intent is to go back and do the changes thoughtfully and to come up with specific criteria needed to meet the new state law. K. Scott stated she is trying to protect the town from negative impact of the new state laws.

K. Scott is asking for a first reading on November 2 and for a public hearing on the first week of December. K. Scott stated she wants to be clear that this is a temporary stop gap measure to give the town time.

2. Councilor W. Worthy stated that he and the Finance Director went to Providence on October 6, 2023 to accept the approximate \$500,000 award the Town Planner, Karen Scott, received for the town . Councilor W. Worthy thanked K. Scott.
Councilor W. Worthy asked K. Scott when there would be movement on this grant award. K. Scott stated that she has a draft RFP to go out for this \$465,000 project and anticipates releasing it within the next month.
3. D. Iglizzi stated that there is no need for a motion on the first reading request as Council has the right to put agenda items on. Councilor W. Worthy confirmed with C. Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk, a first reading for the November 2nd meeting.
4. G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that he has been informed by RI Emergency Management that FEMA is evaluating the storms of September 11 and 13 to see if anyone may qualify for federal disaster funds. G. Mosca stated he is asking any constituents to contact him at the town email address if they suffered damage , especially flooding damage, from these storms. G. Mosca stated for the email to include the name, phone number and address as well as a description and an estimate if they have one. G. Mosca stated that FEMA is scheduled to be in RI next Wednesday so there is not a lot of time.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any boards and commissions had anything to report or if any Councilor had any questions for board or commission members.

None

XII. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone had anything to discuss on any other subject and if so to please state your name when you come to the microphone

1. B. Brown, Gloucester Historical Cemeteries Commission, stated he was checking to see if the Council had anything to discuss about his proposal that he brought to Council back in August. B. Brown stated he was contacted for interviews and gave them to Channel 10, Valley Breeze and Northern New England News about his group's work. B. Brown stated he has been contacted by the Sons of the Union Civil War Veterans and met with their vice commander. B. Brown stated his opinion is that the group was concerned about the cemeteries being forgotten. B. Brown stated that he contacted the Sons of the American Revolution and they are also concerned about the care of the cemeteries as there are 87 Revolutionary War Veterans.

B. Brown stated that a sit down with Council is needed before anything can move forward. B. Brown stated he realizes it is a lot of taxpayer money. B. Brown stated his proposal is for a town department of employees with salaries and benefits which would cost a ballpark figure of \$280,000.

B. Brown stated that he has all the equipment and tools that were purchased with town money.

Councilor W. Worthy asked how long B. Brown would be available to continue. B. Brown stated as long as he can. Councilor W. Steere asked the type of interest these other organizations stated they would want to do. B. Brown stated that all indicated the work is great and they are please with what is being done but their concern is the cemeteries being forgotten again. Councilor W. Steere asked if any of these organizations offered to help. B. Brown stated no.

B. Brown stated that there are 128 historical cemeteries in town and 65 are under the perpetual care of others. B. Brown stated that his group takes care of 63 cemeteries. Councilor S. Arnold stated how grateful he is for the work done by B. Brown's team. Councilor S. Arnold stated that any discussion about this topic will be open to the public. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the budget is set and the next fiscal year starts July 1, 2024. B. Brown stated he understands the budget concerns but that the first item is to sit down and discuss this proposal in detail with Council.

2. C. Wilson, resident, stated that there are shared septic systems on Tanyard Lane that go across the road for Council's information, when they are discussing the easement request.
3. P. Henry, resident, stated she was asking in her capacity as a member of the school committee, if Council had any questions for the school committee. P. Henry stated that she sat in on a meeting of the Regional School Capital committee when they discussed that buildings are aging and will need work in the future and asked the Council to think about the schools at budget time.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. Discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to Sessions pertaining to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel and (2) potential litigation

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council will now seek to convene into Closed Executive session.

Councilor W. Worthy asked for a Motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Convene to Closed Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel and (2) potential litigation : Discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: D. Iglizzo asked if the employees had been notified. C. Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that the employees that may be discussed in Executive Session, under Personnel, had been notified per Rhode Island General Law.

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to poll the Council.

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye
Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye
Councilor W. Steere- Aye
Councilor S. Arnold - Aye
Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

After Executive session

The Clerk invited any waiting back into the room after the Executive Session.

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

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we will need a motion to reconvene open session.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session - Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to poll the Council.

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye
Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye
Councilor S. Arnold - Aye
Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: D. Igliazzi stated that Item XIV. states Council may discuss and or act.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Human Resources Director, Don Zimmerman, to create a new non union position that will combine the duties and responsibilities of the Building and Grounds Supervisor, which is a town position, with the Director of Facilities, which is a school department position, to a new single position that will be paid with the funds from the present position of Buildings and Grounds Supervisor and a contribution of \$25,000.00 from the school department; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made to AUTHORIZE the HR Director, Mr. Don Zimmerman, to create a new position to merge the present union position, which is administrative aide in the town DPW budget, with a similar position if not the same as an administrative aide in the school department into a new town position that combines those two duties to be funded by the present funds in the administrative aide position with the town and a contribution of \$6800.00 from the school department; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 10:30 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse , J. Burlingame, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

