

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 7, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 5:34 P.M. by Councilor S. Arnold, Town Council Vice 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 (arrived at 7:30 P.M.)

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Jessica Parker, Tax Assessor

Arrived for 7:30 P.M. meeting: G. Trembl, Director Public Works; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; Robert Shields , Recreation Director

D.Igliazzi, Town Solicitor asked Council to make an amendment to the agenda.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to add to the agenda at Executive Session Item XIV an executive session item pursuant to 42-46-5, Acquisition of Property, a portion of AP 14 lot 92, for Discussion only; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor S. Arnold asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Arnold- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

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

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Any discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to Sessions pertaining to potential litigation or work sessions pertaining to litigation - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that first on our agenda is to Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Any discussions, considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to Sessions pertaining to potential litigation or work sessions pertaining to litigation;

seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor S. Arnold asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Arnold- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session:

IV. 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 W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-7.c; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

Councilor S. Arnold asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Arnold- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Abstain

MOTION PASSED

V. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked everyone to please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

VI. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to add to the agenda as the next item discussion, only, with the RI League of Cities and Towns; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: E. Almonte, Executive Director and David Bodah, Associate Director, of the RI League of Cities and Towns, were present to discuss the resources the League has available to all member cities and towns. Director Almonte gave a summary of what membership in the RI League of Cities and Towns means and does for member cities and towns. E. Almonte stated that League works with cities and towns and collaborates on various problems and issues. E. Almonte stressed the importance of communication between the cities and towns and the League in order for the League to know the communities concerns and viewpoints.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the town did not feel it had a voice when all the zoning legislation was passed last year. Councilor Worthy stressed that all cities and towns are not equal and that we need assistance to address our infrastructure issues. E. Almonte agreed that the state is not one size fits all but individual towns and cities and the League works on that premise.

Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that he would like a louder voice from the League to help the town. E. Almonte stated that the League provides legislative updates and has virtual workshops for the cities and towns each Wednesday. E. Almonte stated the need for communication to know where the town stands on any proposed legislation.

The Town Council thanked the Director and Associate Director for attending this meeting and expressed their agreement that mutual communication is important.

No Action Taken by Council

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of February 15, 2024

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the Town Council minutes of February 15, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Creation of a charge for a “Glocester 250th” Commission- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has not received any further information.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE to a future Town Council meeting when a charge, for a Glocester 250th Commission, is proposed for Town Council review, amendment, and possible adoption; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Mobile Food Establishments - Parking - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief was to bring forward more information about MFE's relating to parking safety issues.

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that he spoke with the safety director at the Department of Transportation (DOT) and was informed that the police could regulate or prohibit locations on Route 44. Chief Delprete stated that he did a traffic study and noted that there have been two accidents at the intersection of Douglas Hook Road and Route 44 in the past two years. Chief Delprete stated that there were a twelve total accidents between CVS and the Rotary. Councilor W. Steere asked if any of those accidents involved food trucks. Chief Delprete stated he could not answer that question. Chief Delprete stated that the state did take out one spot of parking to the corner at Douglas Hook. Chief Delprete stated that it is a line of sight problem that can occur at different points on Route 44 especially when there is a lot of traffic. Councilor W. Steere stated that the line of sight problem could also be a truck .Councilor J. Burlingame asked if there had been a lot of complaints. Chief Delprete stated that there were not a lot of complaints.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if Chief Delprete could assign regular spots to the food trucks. Chief Delprete stated that would be up to the Council. Chief Delprete stated that he does not feel it is the food truck only issue as it would occur with trucks.

No Action Taken by Council

C. Charging of Usage Fees for use of Town owned property - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that at our last meeting, Council asked the G. Trembl, Director of Public Works, and R. Shields, Recreation Director, to provide the Council with the cost of maintenance for the town fields. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received the following memo from Mr. Shields, Recreation Director which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council
From: Robert Shields Recreation Director
Date: March 3, 2024
Subject: Use of Town Facilities by Ponaganset Regional School System

The Ponaganset Regional School System's new policy regarding the use of their facilities has had a detrimental effect on Gloucester Recreation activities. They have decided to allow Gloucester Youth Activities to use the Region's facilities without paying rental or cleaning fees. However, for adult activities, they are waiving the usage fee for this year, but charging a cleaning fee of \$75 per day. This is a departure from their previous policy, where the Town of Gloucester, as a tax-contributing member of the region, had a long history of running adult activities at the region's facilities without being charged fees.

The Region's decision to charge fees for adult activities disregards the fact that Gloucester taxpayer dollars contribute to the Region's funding. It also overlooks the shared goal of providing the community with the best possible activities and opportunities. In response, there has been discussion

of altering the field use policy for Gloucester Town facilities, which would specifically affect the Ponaganset Middle School baseball team.

While I strongly disagree with the Region's new policy and consider it short-sighted, I do not recommend potentially charging fees for the use of town facilities. Lowering ourselves to the same level as the Region's actions would be an unproductive approach. Instead, we should maintain a higher standard and continue to advocate for a more cooperative and community-oriented policy from the Ponaganset Regional School System.

Thus far, my efforts to change the Region's stance, including attending several meetings, along with the letter that was sent by the Gloucester Town Council have been ineffective. To make more substantial progress, I recommend that the Town Council and School Committee arrange a face-to-face meeting to come to an understanding that serves the best interests of our community. A unified approach from our town's leadership may be more effective in resolving this issue cooperatively.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he spoke with the Superintendent, and the Athletic Director and that the Region's policy has not changed but rather is now being enforced. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the Region is charging groups that are not from Gloucester for cleaning. Councilor J. Burlingame stated he does not feel the town should charge for the use of Leja field. Councilor W. Steere stated he wanted to go through this exercise as he wanted to know what the maintenance of town fields cost and that he is of the opinion that the Region is charging the taxpayers twice for using the facilities.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there are already employees at the school to sweep the floor. Councilor W. Steere stated he wanted to know the maintenance cost in case there was a point in time to consider charging the school for the use of the field. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that the town can either accept the Region's policy or not use the school. Councilor W. Steere stressed his viewpoint that the Region should not charge. G. Trembl, DPW Director, stated that the cost was \$460 at least one time per week to take care of Leja Field. Councilor W. Steere stated he felt it was important for people to know about the policy and that the Region simply gives the town a bill in the budget.

No Action Taken by Council.

D. Police Station Renovation/Replacement Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that there was a great discussion at the meeting last night regarding the police station and the discussion included costs for renovation or for new build. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is a 2.4 million dollar gap between the two projects and that there is federal money that could bring the cost down as well as other possible ideas such as selling the land the current station sits on. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the majority of speakers from last night seemed to be in favor of a new build but that all are concerned with the costs.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Saccoccio and Associates stated it is hard to predict accurate numbers in this time and it won't be cheap. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council wants to make the best decision for the town and do what the town wants. Councilor W. Worthy stated the police have outgrown the current building. Councilor W. Worthy stated one aspect to decide is trying to figure out if the decision is to be made for 10 years down the road or 40 years. Councilor W. Worthy

stated his opinion that he favors a decision that leaves the town in a better place than he started. Councilor W. Worthy stated that he would like to continue to get updates as to the numbers.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that no one on the Council is trying to sneak anything around. Councilor W. Worthy stated the town owns the land that was purchased at an incredible price and it can be used in different ways and that it is a good location. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council is trying to make the best decision to present to the town but they need the best information as to details and pricing.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that there were good take aways from the meeting . Councilor S. Arnold stated he even received feedback from people who were not at the meeting today. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he is on the fence as to a decision because he wants more exact numbers especially as to the cost of borrowing. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he is hopeful that more grant money may be awarded in the next few weeks .Councilor S. Arnold raised the point of having a point person oversee the project to make sure the town is not being overcharged. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Council will do everything to make the best decision to present to the public to vote on.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council needs to do more research in order to be able to provide best information to the public.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked about the cost of site development for both projects. Councilor S. Arnold and W. Worthy stated that site work was a line item in both proposals last night.

Councilor W. Steere sated there are different ways to fund and we need to investigate the best option to present to the public. Councilor W. Steere stated that if the new location is chosen then there is a need to get a real estimate for the possible sale of the old building. Councilor W. Steere stated the charter requires a building committee to form and he supports the suggestion for a manager to advocate for the town . Councilor W. Steere stated that Council needs to get facts buttoned down before they can present to the public. Councilor W. Steere stated there are two options-to renovate or to build at a new site. Councilor W. Steere stated that the current site , if renovated, would have no more room for expansion. Councilor W. Steere stated that building at a new site will be viable for many years but price is important and the price is only going to go up. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Chief stated that if nothing is done then 2-3 million will be needed to fix the current building. Councilor W. Steere stated that if nothing is done then the town will most likely be in the same position in 5-10 years.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked if it would be beneficial to change the zoning to commercial and get an appraisal. Councilor W. Steere stated that was something that could be considered.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone had any comments and if so to come to the microphone and state your name.

1. L. Saran, 1226 Putnam Pike, asked if any study on the hardscape of the land had been done because she has concerns about the effect to her adjoining property and to her well. Councilor W. Worthy stated that site work will be done and will include a look at the water table and the drainage. Chief Delprete stated that site work will be done before any final decision . The resident asked about the development if a zone change was to be made as she did not want to

live next to a fire station. Chief Delprete stated that the new build would take 2 acres from the 10 acre parcel. The resident stated her concern about fire sirens. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that fire departments are separate. Councilor W. Steere stated that he was glad she came instead of listening to others in the form of gossip. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that Council would present the proposal to the public to vote on and they would not be making the sole decision.

2. Justin Brzoza , 1252 Putnam Pike, asked as to how and why the current station got to its present condition and how to prevent the town from repeating history in another 30 years. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that this comment from last night was saying to get the project right this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the current location is limited as to expansion while the new site has plenty of room to expand.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the issue is more space at the current station rather than having let it go. Councilor S. Arnold stated , as an example, that 30 years ago there was no need for 30 monitors in a room which is needed now. Councilor S. Arnold stated there are other issues that are challenges but it is not a maintenance reason. Chief Delprete stated that administration has tripled over the years. Captain Fague stated that if there is a new build then part of the concept would include buffers, lighting, fencing that can be considered and that the police are sensitive to residents living near the station and take certain measures to be a good neighbor.

3. K. Shea, resident, asked for the land of the proposal to be referred to as 1272 Putnam Pike and not Adelaide Road. K. Shea stated that it was mentioned that the residents voices would be listened to but that was not the case, in her opinion, when GMP was built and their property was taken. K. Shea stated that when Gloucester Memorial Park (GMP) was built that the right to use Adelaide Road was taken by eminent domain by the town without compensation. K. Shea stated it is time to make the taking right by making access to GMP on the proposed building site from Putnam Pike and to abandon the right to use on Adelaide Road.

Councilor W. Worthy thanked K. Shea and stated it will be taken into consideration.

IX. New Business

- A. Resolutions Authorizing the Town Council President to enter into agreement for the purchase and the subdivision of property located at Plat 14, lot 92 (P&S previously authorized 7/21/2022) - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Resolution #2024-01 to Execute Sale documents
 - 2. Resolution #2024-02 to Execute Administrative Subdivision documents

Councilor W. Worthy read the Resolutions as follow:

TOWN OF GLOCESTER
RESOLUTION #2024- 01 Sale of Property
RESOLUTION #2024-02 Administrative Subdivision

WHEREAS; the Town of Gloucester, is a Rhode Island municipal corporation; and

WHEREAS; on August 5, 2022, the Town of Gloucester entered into a purchase and sale agreement (“Agreement”) by and between RLM II LLC, with a mailing address of 137 Kane Avenue,

Middletown, RI 02842 (“Seller”), and the Town of Gloucester, a Rhode Island Municipal Corporation (“Buyer”) with a mailing address 1145 Putnam Pike, P.O. Box B, Chepachet, RI 02814; and

WHEREAS; the Agreement provided that the Seller agrees to SELL AND CONVEY, and the Buyer agrees to BUY that certain lot or parcel of land, adjacent to 162 Chopmist Hill Road, known as a portion of assessor’s plat 14 lot 92 consisting of 21,668 square feet; and

WHEREAS; the Buyer has appropriated \$125,000 (plus \$5,000 for expenses) for the purchase of this Property from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds distributed to the Town of Gloucester, by a unanimous vote of the Town Council on August 4, 2022; and

WHEREAS; the Agreement further provided that in consideration of the executed Deed, the Buyer will pay to the Sellers the sum of payable as follows: \$125,000 due and payable at closing by cash, certified check, and/or bank check, and

WHEREAS; Seller and Buyer are bound by all contingencies included in said Purchase & Sales Agreement; and

NOW THEREFORE: William A. Worthy, Jr., Town Council President, shall be authorized, empowered, and directed to:

Execute, acknowledge and deliver on behalf of the Town of Gloucester any and all deeds, settlement statements, affidavits, documents or other instruments required to purchase that certain lot or parcel land being a portion of that parcel of land described as assessor’s plat 14 lot 92 and consisting of 21,668 square feet and identified as “Parcel “A” on the attached Plot Plan prepared by Norbert Therien, Land Surveyor and dated 8/21/2019, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A for the sum of \$125,000.00. (Any and all documents or instruments that may be required will be in such form and content as the town solicitor shall deem necessary or advisable).

Execute, acknowledge, and deliver on behalf of the Town of Gloucester any and all deeds, settlement statements, affidavits, documents or other instruments required to complete the administrative subdivision to divide the above described “Parcel A” as shown on Exhibit A from Assessors Plat 14 Lot 92 and add “Parcel A” to Assessors Plat 14 Lot 94. Seller will cooperate with Buyer and execute all necessary applications and documents required by the Planner to complete the Administrative Subdivision. (Attach copy of Exhibit A and Plot Plan). (Any and all documents or instruments that may be required will be in such form and content as the town solicitor shall deem necessary or advisable).

Pay expenses (not to exceed \$5000) due and payable at closing by cash, certified check, and/or bank check as required to complete the purchase of that certain lot or parcel land being a portion of that parcel of land described as assessor’s plat 14 lot 92 and consisting of 21,668 square feet and identified as “Parcel “A” on the attached Plot Plan prepared by Norbert Therien, Land Surveyor and dated 8/21/2019, a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A

Take all other actions as required to effectuate the purposes of these resolutions and are hereby in all respects ratified, confirmed, and approved as the act or acts of the Town of Gloucester.

The undersigned, the duly elected Town Council of the Town of Gloucester, have hereunto set their hands and caused this resolution to be adopted.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Passed by the Town Council this date: March 7, 2024

Jean Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Approved as to form:

David V. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor

GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

William A. Worthy, Jr., Town Council President
Stephen W. Arnold, Town Council Vice-President
Jonathan E. Burlingame, Town Council Member
Cheryl A. Greathouse, Town Council Member
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Town Council Member

seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Arnold- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

- B. Authorization to Sign - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Gloucester School Deficit Corrective Action Plan

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Council has asked the Gloucester School Committee and the Superintendent to prepare a more detailed plan to address a budgetary deficit in the current budget. Councilor W. Worthy stated that a letter was approved to be forwarded to the R.I. Chief of Municipal Finance with a remediation plan, prepared by the Superintendent of Gloucester Schools, to correct the deficit in the current School Department budget; at the Town Council meeting of 2/15/24 but the plan was not sufficient.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President and

the Assistant Interim Finance Director to sign the Solicitors correspondence to the R.I. Chief of Municipal Finance that will be forwarded with an improved remediation plan, prepared by the Superintendent of Gloucester Schools, to correct a deficit in the current School Department budget; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. STRIPE Administration Access Authorization correspondence
Councilor W. Worthy stated that Matt Floor, IT Director, is requesting the Town Council President sign an authorization letter . Councilor W. Worthy stated that the letter is to gain administrative access to the Town’s epermitting account. Councilor W. Worthy stated that prior authorization was held by the former Finance Director only, therefore, transactions cannot be made.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign an administrative request for the Town of Gloucester’s Stripe Account with OpenGov which would allow the IT Director to replace the former Finance Director as the management/ownership designee for this account; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. ARPA Funds - Transfer of Outstanding Balances - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Interim Finance Director has prepared a list of outstanding ARPA funds which she recommends for transfer to another project in process which he read as follows:

DATE: 3/1/24
TO: Honorable Town Council
FROM: Jane A Steere, Tax Collector/Interim Finance Dir
RE: ARPA Funds

I have been in the process of updating the ARPA Funds spreadsheet. I have checked with each department and the following projects have been completed:

Project #3- Medical Transport Van- project complete-balance \$12,904.00

Project #5-Light Towers-project complete-balance \$71.00

Project #6-Ipad Loaners-Sr Center-Balance \$6,336.00-per Matt Floor, leave \$2000 for cell service and move \$4,336.00.

Project #21 – Gator & Trailer-project complete-balance \$698.00

Project # 39 – Loader Tires-project complete-balance \$6,047.00

The above finished projects total \$24,056.00. I am suggesting that the balances be moved to **Project # 31** Sansoucy Appraisal. Total spent to date for this project so far is \$259,928.02 and I expect other invoices may be forthcoming.

(End of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to Transfer balances from completed projects: #3 Medical Transport Van; #5 Light Towers; #6 Ipad Loaners; #21 Gator & Trailer; & #39 Loader Tires for a total of \$24,056.00 to project #31 Sansoucy Appraisal; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

D. Appt. Town Council Representatives - EMS & Fire District Meetings - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received notification back from the three fire districts with names of their board members that we can contact for a meeting. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can chose two Councilors to meet with these representatives, as previously discussed.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated he would like to be considered as did Councilor W. Worthy

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE Councilor W. Worthy and Councilor W. Steere to meet with representatives of Gloucester Fire Districts regarding the future of EMS; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointments
Police Dept: 1 Part Time Dispatcher & 1 Full Time Dispatcher

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

TO: Honorable Town Council Members
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: February 22, 2024

Subject: Police Department Part-Time Dispatcher Appointment

Dear Council Members,

I would respectfully request to make the following employment appointment to the Gloucester Police Department.

Appoint Taylor Malone of Cranston, Rhode Island to a permanent part-time dispatcher position with the Gloucester Police Department at a training rate of \$16.00 per hour starting the week of Sunday February 25, 2024. Once Taylor Malone satisfactorily completes her training her salary will increase to \$22.00 per hour.

She must complete a police background investigation as a condition of her employment. This part-time position fills a 16 to 24-hour void in the full-time dispatcher schedule. There will be no fringe benefits with this position.

Ms. Malone has police and fire dispatcher experience with the North Kingstown Police Department and will easily transition to the permanent part-time position.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Taylor Malone to the position of part time dispatcher with the Gloucester Police Department effective February 25, 2024 contingent upon a successful police background investigation. Said position includes no fringe benefits, and starts with a rate of \$16 per hour, once training is complete the rate of salary increases to \$22 per hour; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has also submitted the following request which he read as follows:

TO: Don Zimmerman, Human Resource
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: February 22, 2024

Subject: Police Department Full Time Dispatcher Appointment

Dear Mr. Zimmerman:

I would respectfully request to make the following employment appointment to the Gloucester Police Department.

Appoint Eric McLaughlin of North Smithfield, Rhode Island to a permanent full-time dispatcher position within the Gloucester Police Department. **Mr. McLaughlin is currently employed as a**

permanent part-time dispatcher at the Gloucester Police Department. He has extensive dispatching experience and will be elevated to the full-time position with the vacancy of Mr. Jeffrey Medeiros.

Mr. McLaughlin will be afforded the first step salary and fringe benefits under the Laborers International Union Local 1322 full-time dispatchers' collective bargaining agreement. He will further be placed on six months probations according to the Dispatcher Union collective bargaining agreement. I would further request that Eric McLaughlin be appointed and start his full-time position schedule after March 7, 2024.

Once again, this full-time dispatcher appointment will fill the vacancy and resignation of Mr. Jeffrey Medeiros effective on February 25, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Eric McLaughlin to the position of Full time Police Dispatcher with the Gloucester Police Department. Said appointment will start with the first step salary and fringe benefits under the Laborers International Union Local 1322 full-time dispatchers' Collective Bargaining Agreement. The appointee will be placed on six months probation according to said agreement and will have an effective date of March 7, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Senior Center: Authorization to post for Substitute Meal Site Coordinators
Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the following request which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Members of the Gloucester Town Council

FROM: Don Zimmerman, Acting Director of Human Resources

SUBJECT: Substitute Meal Site Coordinators

DATE: February 14, 2024

Melissa Bouvier, Director of the Gloucester Senior Center, is seeking Council approval to post for one or two additional substitute Meal Site Coordinators to add to her list of on-call workers. I recommend that Council approve.

The regular Meal Site Coordinator is a part-time position responsible for serving the catered lunches at the Center, assuring food safety and maintaining a clean and safe kitchen. Because of the small staff at the Center (only Melissa and Beth Danielson, the Meal Site Coordinator) Melissa maintains

a small group of on-call employees who typically are regular Center attendees. They are trained to fill in temporarily for Melissa or Beth if they are absent for any reason. Melissa periodically reviews the Center's needs and the availability of substitute workers, and she is seeking to add one or two substitute Meal Site Coordinators to the pool.

There is no fiscal impact for adding the on-call workers as their use is based on the number of absences of the Meal Site Coordinator rather than the number of substitutes available. The job will be posted internally. Substitute Meal Site Coordinators earn \$16 per hour and are not eligible for employee benefits.

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the HR Director to post the position, and send recommendations to the Town Council for appointment, of on call part time substitute Meal Site Coordinators for the purpose of adding successful candidates to a list of substitutes. Said substitutes, when called upon, earn \$16 per hour and are not eligible for employee benefits; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Consideration of Observation of Juneteenth Holiday (6/19/2024) - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the HR Director has asked for this matter to be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the consideration of the Juneteenth holiday; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Boards & Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Board of Canvassers - Expired Term

Position #2, 6 year term to expire 2/28/2030

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this appointment is for the expired term of Board of Canvassers member Wayne Farrington. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Mr. Farrington and the Chairman of the Board both request the reappointment of Mr. Farrington.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT Wayne Farrington to the Gloucester Board of Canvassers, Position #2, for a six year term to expire 2/28/2030; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Planning Board - Expired Term
Position #5, 5 year term to expire 2/28/2029

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this appointment is for the expired term of Janine Pitocco and that Ms. Pitocco wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to REAPPOINT Janine Pitocco to the Planning Board, Position #5, for a 5 year term to expire 2/28/2029; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- H. Board of Canvassers - Authorization to utilize Alternate Member for March, 2024 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has had to call an unexpected meeting of the Board of Canvassers, to certify the “No Labels RI Party” nomination papers. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk continues to need to utilize the alternate member Council appointed last month.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to NOMINATE Roy Najecki to serve as a Republican, alternate member of the Gloucester Board of Canvassers, as needed for any potential meetings of the board to be held in March 2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- I. Authorization for IT Director to assist Interim Finance Director with restoration & renewal of accounts - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the IT Director and the Interim Finance Director have been working towards the restoration and renewal of our on line accounts, particularly all .GOV accounts. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the IT Director and the Interim Finance Director are asking for authorization for the IT Director to gain administrative access to these accounts retroactive back to the date our previous Finance Director left the Town’s employ, January 5, 2024. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the IT Director will create a plan going forward so there are no future gaps in administrative access.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE Administrative access of all .GOV accounts to the Gloucester IT Director, Matthew Floor, effective January 5, 2024; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

J. Political Signage/Campaigning - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item was discussed last election season and there was council consensus that Gloucester may need to establish some guidelines for candidates. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion to keep the streets clean. Councilor S. Arnold stated he has looked at the Burrillville policy and stated his opinion that he likes a lot in it. Councilor S. Arnold stated that adopting a policy would not hurt. Councilor W. Steere stated that is good to have something available for candidates to know the do’s and don’t’s. J. Fecteau stated that Burrillville also posts the policy in the Bargain Buyer. Councilor W. Worthy asked for this item to be placed on the next agenda. J. Fecteau stated she would send the Burrillville policy to each Councilor .

K. Special Event Applications - Sprint Enduro Bike Races - Discussion and/or Action

- 1. App. #1: Consideration to Waive Public Hearing for future Consideration of Application

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received an application for an Enduro Bike Race from Hans Neff, under the name Future Aces by Hans, to be held on April 6th. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Mr. Neff has assured the Clerk, in writing, that this event is the same as the event held at 104 Bungy Road on 4/8/2023. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk feels because it is the same, pursuant to the Code of Ordinance, Chapter 175.4.B., Council can consider this application without a public hearing. Councilor W. Worthy stated that if Council agrees we would need a motion to waive the public hearing and the application could be considered at the next Town Council meeting, March 21, 2024.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy asked Chief Delprete if any issues occurred at last year’s event. Chief Delprete stated all was good last year.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to WAIVE a Public Hearing for an application submitted by Hans Neff, Future Aces by Hans, for an Enduro Bike Race proposed to be held on April 6th, 2024. Said application will be considered by Town Council on March 21st, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. App. #2: Consideration to Set Public Hearing

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the second application is for a race proposed for May 25, 2024 at a location not previously used, noted as 0 Putnam Pike, AP 4, Lot 50. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the applicant was notified that this application would require a public hearing per Chapter 175 of the Code of Ordinance. Councilor W. Worthy stated that an abutter's list has been received and a public hearing needs to be set. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council needs to determine when to set public hearing, April 4th or April 18th .

Discussion: J.Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she included both possible dates in case the Council wished to have the hearing after the first event because the applicant has not held an event at this location. Councilor S. Arnold asked for the location. J.Fecteau stated that the location was in West Gloucester and a map is in Council's paperwork. Councilor W.Steere suggested the earlier date.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to SET a Public Hearing, with abutters notice, for consideration of the application submitted by Hans Neff, Future Aces by Hans, for an Enduro Bike Race proposed to be held on May 25th, 2024. Said application will be set for Public Hearing on April 4, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

L. Economic Development Commission - Authorization to Re-bid "Place Branding" -
 Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Chair of the Economic Development Commission has communicated the following message to the Clerk which he read as follows:

To summarize where the EDC stands with the RFP for a Place Branding Firm:

The initial version of the RFP that was brought to the Town Council and approved by the solicitor noted a limit of \$25,000 for the project. After it was approved, but before it was posted, there was careful consideration about whether or not to include the dollar amount in the document and ultimately the dollar amount was not included in the posted RFP.

The RFP was published and 4 proposals were received. One proposal did not meet the requested qualifications, leaving three qualified proposals. The EDC reviewed the proposals of all three highly qualified firms. Each of the firms' proposed fees were widely outside of the \$25,000 limit that constitutes the potential (though not yet allocated) available funds for the project.

The EDC would like the opportunity to re-publish the RFP, this time noting the limit of \$25,000 to try to obtain qualified proposals within the \$25,000 limit. We would propose using wording similar to "Proposals over \$25,000 will not be considered" as a means of not committing a budget, but at the same time receiving proposals that may be realistically considered.

If this is something that the council would approve of, we can work to re-publish the RFP asap so as to not further draw out the project.

Thank you again for your help with this!
Berni
(end of correspondence to Clerk)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair and the Clerk are asking Council to authorize the EDC to re-bid the Place Branding initiative so that they can move forward.

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold asked if there are set aside ARPA funds for this project. J.Fecteau stated the funds have not been committed. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he would like to look at the list of ARPA funds before committing to anything. J.Fecteau stated that EDC had asked for ARPA funds and was told to seek bids. J.Fecteau stated that the Chair of EDC spoke with the Board of Contracts and the Finance Director and was instructed to not include the amount in the bid. J.Fecteau stated that the bid specs were excellent and had been reviewed by the solicitor. J.Fecteau stated EDC is in limbo. Councilor J. Burlingame asked why the suggestion was to pull back now. Councilor S. Arnold stated he would like to see the ARPA ledger to insure adequate funds were available. J.Fecteau asked if the Council would consider earmarking funds before EDC goes out to bid again if that is approved.

Councilor W. Worthy asked for this item to be on the next agenda. J.Fecteau asked if the agenda item for consideration was for committing funds and authorizing the EDC to go out to bid again. Councilor W. Worthy stated yes.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the Economic Development Commission to re-bid the Place Branding initiative; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- M. Disposition of Memorandum of Agreements relative to certain maintenance and clerical services related to school maintenance for the Gloucester School Department:
 1. Between DPW (NAGE) ("the Union") and the Town of Gloucester approved by Town Council on 1/18/2024 - Discussion and/or Action
 2. Between the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 1322, ("the Union), and the Town of Gloucester approved by Town Council on 1/18/2024 - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated that he requested this item. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Gloucester School Committee is getting together next week to figure out the direction they want to go. Councilor S. Arnold would like to table this item till after the meeting in case the school committee comes back to the town .

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE, to the Town Council meeting of March 21, 2024, the Disposition of Memorandum of Agreements relative to certain maintenance and clerical services related to school maintenance for the Gloucester 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

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors have a discussion item or correspondence to share.

1. Council has received a request for Financial Support from Blackstone Valley Tourism, forwarded to Interim Finance Director.
2. Council has received FEMA correspondence regarding the 90 day appeal period for flood determinations. To Bldg/Zoning Official
3. Correspondence from Burrillville Clerk asking for support of legislation that allows for public notices to be on website, instead of advertising, and advertising to be in Bargain Buyer, instead of Woonsocket Call, for Glocester and Burrillville.
4. Harmony Fire Department and Improvement Association celebrating 100th anniversary donation and invitation.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any department heads have anything to report or if any Councilors have any questions for department heads.

J.Fecteau stated that she wanted to let the Council know that antique licenses have been eliminated in a state law passed this year. J.Fecteau stated that she will let the antique license holders in town know that there is no need to renew at the time of renewal. J.Fecteau suggested that Council may want to consider a simple general business license as that would insure the fire department can make an annual inspection.

J. Fecteau stated that a gentleman came to see her to ask if the Council would let him pick up wood from the town owned property on Stone Dam Road. Councilor S. Arnold stated that there is an issue of liability. Councilor W. Steere stated the point of if one person is allowed then all have to be allowed and suggested the individual put the request in writing. J. Fecteau stated that the individual may also be interested in asking if the Council would consider selling the town owned property to him. Councilor W. Worthy stated for the individual to put the request in writing.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any boards and commissions had anything to report or if Council had any questions.

None

XIII. 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. Haley Baccari, resident, asked Council about the budget for the elementary school. Councilor J. Burlingame stated those questions would be for the school department.
2. Walter Steere, resident, stated his opinion that the town is challenged economically and it would

be a waste of money, in his opinion to spend it on branding. W. Steere stated there are better ways to spend money.

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

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation- Discussion, consideration, vote or other action by Town Council

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we now need a motion to seek to convene to executive session.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation- Discussion, consideration, vote or other action by Town Council; and R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) 5 any discussion or consideration related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes or disposition of publicly held property wherein advance public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public with regard to AP 14 lot 92; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

- Councilor Greathouse- Aye
- Councilor Steere- Aye
- Councilor Burlingame- Aye
- Councilor Arnold- Aye
- Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

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

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we now need a motion to reconvene Open Session.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to RECONVENE Open Session, Disclose One (1) vote was taken in Executive Session & to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-7; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

- Councilor Greathouse- Aye
- Councilor Steere- Aye
- Councilor Burlingame- Aye
- Councilor Arnold- Aye
- Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 10:46 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