

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on October 3, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor ; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; G. Mosca, EMA Director; G. Treml, DPW Director; K. Scott, Town Planner; John Luszcz, Human Services Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to please stand and 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 please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or Action

A. Proposed Comprehensive Community Plan Amendment

Applicant/Owner: DBH West Gloucester, LLC,
Proposing an amendment to the existing Future Land Use Map
Changing the designation of Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221 from Agricultural/Residential (>3 acres) to Commercial

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on August 15th, 22nd, & 29th, 2024. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the hearing was opened on September 5, 2024 and continued to this evening.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that he will be separating from this matter as he has the same attorney.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received an advisory opinion from the Planning Board which he read as follows:

**Request to Amend the Comprehensive Plan Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221
Advisory Opinion of the Planning Board October 1, 2024**

DBH West Gloucester LLC, applicant and owner, is proposing an amendment to the existing Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted on April 19, 2018 and amended May 20, 2021. An amendment is proposed to the Future Land Use Map changing the designation of Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221 from Agricultural/Residential to Commercial.

At their October 1, 2024 meeting, the following motion was made by Planning Board Vice Chairperson David Calderara:

I make a motion to recommend that the Town Council does not adopt Amendment #24-01 to Gloucester 2040, the Town of Gloucester's Comprehensive Community Plan. This amendment proposes to change the designation of Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221 on the Future Land Use Map from Agricultural/Residential (>3 acres) to Commercial. The Planning Board finds that this amendment is not consistent with the following sections of the Comprehensive Plan:

- I. Land Use Goal 1 – Preserve the rural character of Gloucester for future generations while enhancing services and facilities, housing, open space and recreation, natural and cultural resources, circulation and economic development.**
- II. Land Use Policy 1 – Protect, enhance and maintain the unique natural and historical features of Gloucester while allowing for appropriate development to occur.**
- III. Land Use Policy 2 – Encourage responsible land use decisions by public officials and public bodies.**

Information about this plan amendment was made available at Town Hall and has been disseminated to the public on the Town's website and at this public hearing. The public has had the opportunity to provide both written and oral comments on the proposed amendments. A public hearing was held with the Planning Board on October 1, 2024 after it was tabled on September 3, 2024. Notice of the public hearing was given specifying the date, time and place of the hearing, indicating that the adoption of an amendment to the comprehensive plan is under consideration, advised those interested where and when the matter under consideration may be examined or obtained, and stated that the plan may be altered prior to the close of the public hearing without further advertising. The notice was given in the Valley Breeze published on August 15, 2024, August 22, 2024, and August 29, 2024., providing at least 3 weeks of notice.

If the Council determines that the Comprehensive Plan and zone change should be allowed, the Board recommends that they include conditions to limit specific businesses which would not be compatible with the area.

The motion was seconded by Planning Board member Mike Fournier. Ayes (Bart, Calderara, Clifford, Fournier, Furney, Pitocco). Motion approved 6-0.
(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilor C. Greathouse stated her thanks to the Planning Board for their diligence in considering all that was proposed. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that she is in favor of responsible economic

development and that there are a lot of B-2 designated areas in town available for such development. Councilor C. Greathouse stated her concerns as to items such as the potential size of any buildings. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that she takes residents concerns into account when making decisions and believes this could set a precedent for spot zoning.

Councilor S. Arnold stated his agreement with the comments made by Councilor C. Greathouse. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the abutters to this property had a reasonable expectation when they built or bought their property that the zone would not change. Councilor S. Arnold stated he respects the applicant but this would be a precedent and maintaining rural character in town is important.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Planning Board did a great job. Councilor S. Arnold stated that another concern is that the property is currently for sale and anything could fly if a zone change were approved.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he has walked the property and that the front is currently zoned commercial. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that the applicant should work within the area that is currently zoned commercial. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his agreement with the comments made by Councilors C. Greathouse and S. Arnold.

Essam Abdalla, resident and abutter, stated his opinion against the proposal as the change to commercial would be an infringement on the abutters clear and reasonable expectation of peace and quiet.

R. Lavallee, resident, stated that he is a new resident in town and this proposal scared him as it would cause him to move and he does not want to do that. R. Lavallee stated he went to the Planning Board meeting and he was happy to hear the Planning Board recommendation. R. Lavallee stated that the cost to live in a rural town may be high but in his opinion it is worth it.

J. Lowell, resident and abutter, passed out a handout, of information related to the area in question, to Councilors, and stated that she has grave concerns about this proposal. J. Lowell stated that it is scary that one can come in and ask for a zone change without any definite plans. J. Lowell stated a description of the property. J. Lowell stated that she used to own the property in question and sold it to the applicant. J. Lowell stated that she was under the belief that applicant would be moving his company to the property.

J. Lowell described the packet she gave to Council and asked Council to go along with the recommendation of the Planning Board.

M. Paolucci, resident and abutter, stated there are a lot of wetlands on the proposed property and not seasonal wetlands as well as a lot of wildlife. M. Paolucci described his experience in Foster that included a zone change. M. Paolucci stated that he understands the applicant's situation and also does not understand how a zone change can be proposed without a plan. M. Paolucci stated he is not in support of the proposal in his backyard.

Councilor W. Steere thanked all for coming out tonight as well as offered thanks to the Planning Board for their in depth research in their advisory opinion to Council. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the state is changing zoning laws so that a municipality has less control over their own zoning. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that we are responsible to fight spot zoning as it is very poor planning. Councilor W. Steere stated that the town has a Comprehensive Plan as to development and he would like to see business to come into town but not by use of spot zoning as it sets the wrong precedent.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to DENY the application to amend the Comprehensive Community Plan by Applicant/Owner DBH West Gloucester, LLC, and to support the Planning Board's opinion; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Proposed Zoning Map Amendment
Owner and Applicant: DBH West Gloucester, LLC
Location: Putnam Pike, AP 4 lots 50 and 221
Request for a zone change from A-4 Agricultural Residential to B-2 Highway Commercial

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on August 15th, 22nd, & 29th, 2024, declared open on September 5, 2024 and continued to this evening.

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that state law allows a zone map change only if it is consistent with the comprehensive plan. D. Iglizzi stated that the comprehensive plan amendment was denied so therefore the zone map amendment would be inconsistent and should be denied.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received an advisory opinion from the Planning Board which he read as follows:

**Request to Amend the Zoning Map
Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221
Advisory Opinion of the Planning Board
October 1, 2024**

DBH West Gloucester LLC, applicant and owner, requests an advisory opinion for a proposed rezoning for property located on Putnam Pike and Reservoir Road, further described as Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221. Plat 4, Lot 221 is currently zoned A-4 (Agricultural Residential). The first 500 feet of

depth of Plat 4, Lot 50 along Putnam Pike is zoned B-2 (Highway Commercial) and the balance of the property is zoned A-4 (Agricultural Residential). Applicant seeks to rezone all of Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221 to B-2 (Highway Commercial).

At their October 1, 2024 meeting, the following motion was made by Planning Board Member Mike Fournier:

After careful consideration and discussion at the October 1, 2024 regular meeting, the Gloucester Planning Board hereby recommends that the Town Council does not enact revisions to the Gloucester Zoning Map to rezone Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221 from Agricultural Residential (A-4) to Highway Commercial (B-2). The Board's recommendation is based upon the following Findings of Fact Relating to Consistency with the Gloucester Comprehensive Community Plan and Purposes of Zoning per RIGL Title 45 Chapter 24, the Zoning Enabling Act of 1991 as noted below.

Findings of Fact

Consistency with the Comprehensive Community Plan

The proposed amendments are not consistent with the following sections of the Comprehensive Plan:

1. Land Use Goal 1 – Preserve the rural character of Gloucester for future generations while enhancing services and facilities, housing, open space and recreation, natural and cultural resources, circulation and economic development.
2. Land Use Policy 1 – Protect, enhance and maintain the unique natural and historical features of Gloucester while allowing for appropriate development to occur.
3. Land Use Policy 2 – Encourage responsible land use decisions by public officials and public bodies.
4. The Future Land Use Map of the Comprehensive Plan designates this property as Agricultural/Residential.

Consistency with the Purposes of Zoning

The Planning Board finds that the proposed zoning amendments are not consistent with the following general purposes of zoning ordinances per RIGL § 45-24-30:

1. Providing for a range of uses and intensities of use appropriate to the character of the city or town and reflecting current and expected future needs.
2. Providing for orderly growth and development which recognizes:
 - (i) The goals and patterns of land use contained in the comprehensive plan of the city or town adopted pursuant to chapter 22.2 of this title;
 - (ii) The natural characteristics of the land, including its suitability for use based on soil characteristics, topography, and susceptibility to surface or groundwater pollution;
3. The need to shape and balance urban and rural development.

In making this recommendation, the Board has considered the following:

1. Discussions held at the October 1, 2024 regular meeting.
2. The negative recommendation for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment by the Planning Board on October 1, 2024.

Based on the above findings, I hereby make a motion to not recommend approval of the proposed rezoning of Plat 4, Lots 50 & 221 from Agricultural Residential (A-4) to Highway Commercial (B-2).

The motion was seconded by Planning Board member Lynn Furney. Ayes (Bart, Calderara, Clifford, Fournier, Furney, Pitocco). **Motion approved 6-0.**
(End of memo)

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame DENY the application for a Zoning Map Amendment by Owner and Applicant: DBH West Gloucester, LLC, Location: Putnam Pike, AP 4 lots 50 and 221, Request for a zone change from A-4 Agricultural Residential to B-2 Highway Commercial due to the Planning Boards Findings of Fact as stated in their opinion to the Town Council formulated at their hearing of October 1, 2024, seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of September 19, 2024

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of September 19, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

VII. Unfinished Business

A. ARPA Funds

1. Obligate ARPA Funds: Project #53, an additional \$24,000 towards purchase of a first line Police Vehicle - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated that there are several smaller dollar amounts that need to be obligated and several also need to be set before the end of the year. Councilor W. Worthy asked if there were any time constraints with the Chief . Councilor W. Steere recommended tabling to be sure.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the obligation of ARPA Funds: Project

53, an additional \$24,000 towards purchase of a first line Police Vehicle; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Ratification by Town Council- Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointment of Deputy Town Clerk as Interim Deputy Treasurer

Councilor W. Worthy stated that at the Town Council meeting of 9/19/2024 there was a consensus of the Council to authorize the Finance Director to appoint the Deputy Town Clerk as the Interim Deputy Treasurer. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is needed to provide a second signatory for the town, as needed.

Discussion: D. Igliazzi, stated a recommendation to add the word approve and ratify to the motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE and RATIFY the appointment of Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk, as the Interim Deputy Treasurer to assist the Finance Director with signatory obligations, and other duties as may be needed; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Personnel- Discussion and/or Action

1. Resignation- Discussion and/or Action

a. Senior Center- Meal Site Coordinator

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item is for the resignation of Beth Danielson, the part-time Meal Site Coordinator at the Senior Center, effective August 27, 2024.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT the resignation of Beth Danielson, part-time Meal Site Coordinator, Gloucester Senior Center, effective August 27, 2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated his thanks to Beth Danielson.

2. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Senior Center - Meal Site Coordinator

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from Don Zimmerman which he read as follows:

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gloucester Town Council
FROM: Don Zimmerman, Acting Director of Human Resources
SUBJECT: Appointment of Meal Site Coordinator at Senior Center
DATE: September 30, 2024

Senior Center Director Melissa Bouvier and I are recommending the appointment of Jaimee Chase of Mapleville to the position of Meal Site Coordinator at the Gloucester Senior Center at the rate of \$18.00 per hour effective October 7, 2024.

The position is a regular five-day, 27.5-hour part-time position that was vacated by the recent resignation of Beth Danielson.

Twenty-three applicants applied for the job, and Melissa and I interviewed three finalists. Ms. Chase has experience working with senior citizens as an Activity Aide at Bayberry Commons in Pascoag and has food service experience with MVP Pizza in Woonsocket and Ideal Pizza in Blackstone, Massachusetts.

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPOINT Jaimee Chase to the position of Meal Site Coordinator, Gloucester Senior Center at the rate of \$18.00 per hour effective October 7, 2024; said position is a 27.5 hour, part time, position not eligible for employee benefits; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Senior Center- On Call Meal Site Coordinator

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the acting HR Consultant and the Senior Center Director are requesting that newly retired, Beth Danielson, be appointed to the position of “On Call Meal Site

Coordinator”. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is made up of a list of eligible people that may be needed to fill in on an on call basis.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Beth Danielson to the position of Senior Center, On Call Meal Site Coordinator on an as needed basis for the rate of pay of \$18 per hour; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. ARPA funds updates- Discussion and/or Action

1. Deobligation of ARPA funds (funds remaining in completed projects - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the projects listed have balances that can now be transferred back into the unobligated ARPA funds account.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to DEOBLIGATE previously obligated ARPA funds as follows:

Project # 36 - Human Resources- Refrigerator/freezer \$1,500; **Project #37** - Pickle ball \$500; **Project #2** - Virtual meeting retrofit \$8,834; **Project #12** - Mobile Radio Upgrades - \$2,949; **Project #27b** - Hazard Mitigation Plan \$7,500; **Project #50** - Municipal Resilience Match \$14,991; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: Councilor C. Greathouse would like to table the de obligation of \$1500 for the Human Services - Refrigerator/freezer. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that it was her opinion that the Human Services Director agreed to the deobligation as he could find only higher prices but he has since found a quote for one on sale .

Councilor J. Burlingame WITHDREW his MOTION and Councilor S. Arnold WITHDREW his SECOND

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to DEOBLIGATE previously obligated ARPA funds as follows:

Project #37 - Pickle ball \$500; **Project #2** - Virtual meeting retrofit \$8,834; **Project #12** - Mobile Radio Upgrades - \$2,949; **Project #27b** - Hazard Mitigation Plan \$7,500; **Project #50** - Municipal Resilience Match \$14,991; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Obligate ARPA Funds (to existing projects to cover overages)- Discussion and /or Action
 - a. Project #31 Sansoucy Appraisal
 - b. Project #26 Pigeon Property
 - c. Project #49 Recreation Master Plan

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director has identified projects with overruns. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can now obligate unobligated ARPA Funds to cover the overages.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to OBLIGATE ARPA Funds to the following projects: Project #31 - Sansoucy Appraisal - \$3,035; Project #26 - Pigeon Property - \$6,487; Project #49 - Recreation Master Plan - \$465; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Amendment to HR Consultant Contract (Hourly Fee Rate) - Discussion and /or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a memo from the Finance Director regarding a change to the terms of the HR Consultant's contract which he read as follows:

Memo: Honorable Town Council
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director
Re: HR Consulting Services Agreement
Date: October 3, 2024

The Town has an agreement with Mr. Don Zimmerman, an independent HR Consultant, to provide services on an as needed basis. As of July 1, 2024, Mr. Zimmerman implemented a rate increase for these services. His new rates are as follows: \$85 per hour on site (increased from \$75) and \$70 per hour for services performed from his home office (increased from \$65). We receive monthly invoices for these services, which vary based on fluctuating needs from month to month. In FY24 the total cost of these services came to \$32,023.50. The FY25 budget has a budgeted amount of \$30,000.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth A. Beltram
Finance Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated that there is a line item amount in the budget that can't be exceeded. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the HR Consultant's services were required a lot last year. Councilor W. Steere stated that the consultant cannot go over his allotted amount in the budget and recommended the Finance Director monitor closely to insure he does not go over the allotted amount.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AMEND the "Consulting Agreement" between Don Zimmerman and the Town of Gloucester, dated October 6, 2020 (amended April 1, 2021) to reflect the current rates: \$85 per hour on site & \$70 per hour for services performed from his home office; effective July 1, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

D. Authorization for signature

1. Annual Maintenance Contract for Police Department NICE Call Recording Digital Recorder- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Police Department Administration has asked Council to sign the Annual Maintenance Agreement, for the NICE Call Recording Digital Recorder equipment installed at 162 Chopmist Hill Road. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the maintenance agreement is for the period covering 11/2024 to 11/2025.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Maintenance Agreement between Gloucester Police Department and BEI for the maintenance coverage for the NICE Recording Equipment for 11/2024 to 11/2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Grant Agreement - R.I. Dept. of Human Services - Office of Healthy Aging & Town of Gloucester (Senior Center Director representing Town) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the Senior Center grant from the OHA (Office of Healthy Aging) for Council President signature on the grant agreement. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Grant is in the amount of \$11,526.00 and the purpose is "to support older adults in

their communities through senior supportive services, elderly nutrition, home delivered meal service, respite, or housing security.” Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council President now needs to sign the Grant Agreement.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Designated Grant Agreement, between the Dept. of Human Services, Office of Healthy Aging, SDG - 25-18 and the Town of Gloucester; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated his thanks to all for getting these grants and his appreciation for the Senior Center Director’s use of the grants.

- E. Consideration to hold donation drive for/or donate to Hurricane Helene victims - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion:

Councilor C. Greathouse stated her opinion that it would be great to offer support hurricane Helene victims and suggested that monetary donations be submitted to Human Services Director until next Friday. Councilor C. Greathouse stated she would then collect the donations . Councilor C. Greathouse suggested the donations be to Samaritan’s Purse . J.Fecteau stated that the problem is that typically any donations would go to the tax collector’s office and checks would have to be made out to the Town of Gloucester.

Councilor W. Steere stated that people do need help but he had concerns about the handling of the money and who it would go to. Councilor W. Steere stated he believes that there is a list of charities that are accepting donations that can be readily available to anyone interested.

J. Luszcz, Human Services Director, stated that the Samaritan’s Purse is a local group in the area of need and that actual items were not being suggested to collect because then they would have to ship the items.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that she has a packet that lists ways to help . Councilor W. Steere suggested directing people to the list instead of collecting money. J. Fecteau suggested that she could have the link of the list of ways people can help placed on the town website .

No Action Taken by Council

- IX. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone has any legislative news or questions.

None

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilor had any correspondence or a discussion item.

1. Councilor W. Steere suggested possibly postponing or canceling the first meeting of November . J. Fecteau stated the reason for her request is that her office is handling the election that week and it involves a lot more than just one day; the office is short staffed, so that a postponement or cancellation would help the clerk's department at a very busy time. Councilor W. Steere asked for it to be placed on the next agenda.
2. Councilor W. Worthy described a situation that occurred at a store in Smithfield and his concerns that such behavior could or may come to Gloucester.
3. Councilor W. Steere thanked the Gloucester Business Association (GBA) for sponsoring a candidate night and stated that the GBA does a lot in the community.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department heads had anything to report or if any Councilors had any questions for any Department heads.

1. J. Luszc, Human Services Director, stated that the food pantry is in trouble and that he lowered the amount of vouchers from \$30 to \$20. J. Luszc stated that he found a refrigerator to purchase for \$1499, on sale, which is why he wants to not de obligate the ARPA funds that were obligated .
J. Luszc stated that he has had a response to his ad in the Bargain Buyer but he still needs items. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that she and J. Luszc will be doing the annual food drive.
W. Reichert, resident, asked if J. Luszc would be doing the adopt a family fund raiser at Christmas. J. Luszc stated that he would.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards and Commissions have anything to report or if any Councilors have any questions for Boards and commission members.

None

XIII. Open Forum

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

Councilor S. Arnold stated that a varsity player on the girls soccer team scored her 100th point and

offered congratulations to Anna Nerney.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council needs to Adjourn to Closed Executive Session

XIV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session (Closed Session) Discussion by Town Council, Vote, or Other Action Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2): Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation:

- A. Appeal of Zoning Official regarding: J & G Masonry, LLC, owner/applicant, property located at 0 Putnam Pike, further described as Assessor's Plat 14, Lot 5 in a B-2 Highway Commercial (front) and A-4 Agricultural-Residential (rear) zones. Owner seeks an appeal of the Notice of Violation.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session (Closed Session) Discussion by Town Council, Vote, or Other Action Pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2): Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or potential litigation:

- A. Appeal of Zoning Official regarding: J & G Masonry, LLC, owner/applicant, property located at 0 Putnam Pike, further described as Assessor's Plat 14, Lot 5 in a B-2 Highway Commercial (front) and A-4 Agricultural-Residential (rear) zones. Owner seeks an appeal of the Notice of Violation.

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

Executive Session

XV. 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 J. Burlingame to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session and to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

XVI. DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL, VOTE, OR OTHER ACTION RE: Appeal of Zoning Official regarding: J & G Masonry, LLC, owner/applicant, property located at 0 Putnam Pike, further described as Assessor's Plat 14, Lot 5 in a B-2 Highway Commercial (front) and A-4 Agricultural-Residential (rear) zones. Owner seeks an appeal of the Notice of Violation. MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to authorize D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, to retain outside counsel at the municipal rate to represent the Building/Zoning official for the October 24, 2024 hearing before the Board of Appeals; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Adjourn at 9:05 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED