

Ordinances & Administration Committee  
**Monday, June 2, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.**  
1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Council Committee Room – City Hall  
**-Minutes-**

**Present:** Vice Chair, Councilor Sefatia Romeo Theken; Councilor Jacqueline Hardy; Councilor Steven LeBlanc

**Absent:** Councilor Robert Whynott

**Also Present:** Councilor Greg Verga; Councilor William Fonvielle (6:30 p.m.); Councilor Paul McGeary (6:55 p.m.); Fire Chief Eric Smith; Building Inspector Bill Sanborn

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

At this time, the agenda was taken out of order.

2. *CC2014-017 (Verga/Cox) Request the O&A Standing Committee review an ordinance for Council Enactment re: that the City shall lease no property or structure unless funding is approved by a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> Majority of the members of the City Council (Cont'd from 05/19/14)*

**Councilor Verga** stated that a compromise was discussed at the last O&A meeting and that Councilor McGeary forwarded some suggested changes which Councilor Verga felt did not reflect what was discussed. Councilor Verga sent his own version to the clerk's office, namely that the council must approve by a simple majority any lease with a term of more than one year and in an amount exceeding \$250,000. He believes it is important for this Council and future Councils to have this check and balance over any Mayor, current or future. Since no one has seen the suggested changes, Councilor Verga requested that this matter be continued.

**This matter is continued to June 16, 2014.**

3. *CC2014-018 (Cox) Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" and Sec. 22-291 "Tow-away zones re: Fire Department Personnel Parking (Cont'd from 05/05/14)*

**Chief Eric Smith** stated that he is trying to make some provisions for adequate parking for fire department personnel. He noted that they lease a section of the Trinity Church lot to provide some parking for employees, which is inadequate. He indicated that they tried to secure six spaces in the new library lot. However, the lot is privately owned by the library board, and the board indicated that they would provide two or three spaces for the fire department. Chief Smith is requesting two parking spaces on School Street and two on Proctor Street. **Councilor Theken** stated that the Traffic Commission approved the request and that she has not heard any complaints. **Councilor Hardy** stated that she has not seen any advertisement about making these changes. **Councilor Theken** indicated that she has spoken to many people in the area, including some of the tenants at the Lorraine building, and they do not have a problem with it.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" by adding School Street, westerly side, from a point 95 feet from its intersection with Middle Street for a distance of 40 feet in a northerly direction (removing Meters 1 and 2 and sign to read "No Parking – Fire Personnel Only").

This matter is to be advertised for public hearing.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-291 "Tow-away zones re: Fire Department Personnel Parking" by adding School Street, westerly side, from a point 95 feet from its intersection with Middle Street for a distance of 40 feet in a northerly direction (just before driveway to Trinity Church).

This matter is to be advertised for public hearing.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” by adding Proctor Street, southerly side, from a point 20 feet from its intersection with School Street for a distance of 40 feet in a westerly direction (sign to read “No Parking – Fire Personnel Only”).**

This matter is to be advertised for public hearing.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away zones re: Fire Department Personnel Parking” by adding Proctor Street, southerly side, from a point 20 feet from its intersection with School Street for a distance of 40 feet in a westerly direction (just before driveway at rear of station).**

This matter is to be advertised for public hearing.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-278 “Same-Between Certain Hours” be deleted that refers to two parking spaces on Proctor Street being set aside for exclusive use of the Fire Department from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

This matter is to be advertised for public hearing.

**4. CC2041-021 (Hardy) Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-269 “Stop intersections” re: intersection of River Road and Leonard Street (Cont’d from 05/19/14)**

**Councilor Hardy** stated that a resident of River Road called her and asked for a stop sign to be placed in the designated location. She noted that there was already a stop sign there, but there was no record of it.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-269 “Stop intersections” by adding a stop sign on River Road at its intersection with Leonard Street.**

This matter is to be advertised for public hearing.

**5. CC0214-022 (Verga/Lundberg/LeBlanc) Amend GCO Chapter 15, by Deleting Sections 15-15 and 15-16 and Adding new Sections 15-1, 15-2 and 15-3 creating a Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee**

**Councilor Verga** stated that this proposal originated from the controversy leading up to the Cyclocross event last year. He indicated that the administration wanted to hire a consultant, and the Planning & Development Committee indicated that they would like to see something similar to what was done at Magnolia Woods, i.e. an advisory committee made up of the organizations that have a vested interest in Stage Fort Park. P&D put together its suggestions for the makeup of the membership and sent it back to O&A to compile a list. The suggestions included representatives of Gloucester Little League, Gloucester Rotary Club, Friends of Stage Fort Park, and the Gloucester Dog Park. P&D recommended that the advisory committee should not exceed nine members and a Chair and Vice Chair should be appointed by the Mayor or City Council. P&D is hoping that the advisory committee and the city’s consultant will obtain input from the public and come up with ideas of where we want to get to by 2023. After discussion, it was the consensus of the O&A Committee that the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee should consist of two at-large members from the community and one representative from each of the following groups: Gloucester Rotary Club, Gloucester Dog Park, Friends of Stage Fort Park, Gloucester Little League, neighborhood/abutter, garden/landscape, and recreation. **Councilor Theken** stated that the group could also ask Community Development to send a representative to meetings. There was a discussion about the term of the members of the advisory committee, and it was the consensus of the O&A Committee that the term would be three years.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Chapter 15 "Parks and Recreation" by DELETING Sections 15-15 and 15-16 concerning the Recreation Committee and by ADDING new Sections 15-1, 15-2 and 15-3 creating a Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee as follows:**

**Section 15-1. Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee – Purpose.**

(a) In recognition of the continuing need for oversight in the city's ownership, operation and maintenance of Stage Fort Park so its full recreational utilization can be sustainably realized and its integrity as a natural resource for the entire community can be fully protected, the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee is established.

(b) The committee shall undertake but not be limited to the following activities:

- (1) Recommend an overall and coordinated program for the use of the recreational and other facilities at Stage Fort Park that balances the needs of all parties seeking to use the Park.
- (2) Review and make recommendations upon plans for the proposed maintenance or capital improvements to any of the facilities or property contained within the park and to provide advisory oversight to the execution of such plans.
- (3) Recommend programs and activities which can generate revenue streams that can be dedicated to the maintenance or improvement of the property or facilities within the Park.

**Section 15-2. Composition; requirements; tenure.**

(a) The Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee shall consist of up to nine members, one of whom shall be the DPW Director or his designee and one of whom shall be a City Councilor appointed by the Council President. The remaining members shall be residents of the City who shall be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council under the City Charter to a term of three years. One of the members shall be a resident of the neighborhood abutting the park, and two of the members shall be at-large residents of the City. The other members shall represent the interests of the Gloucester Rotary Club, Gloucester Dog Park, Gloucester Little League, the Friends of Stage Fort Park, recreation, and gardening/landscaping.

**Section 15-3. Assistance of city officials, boards and employees.**

The Committee shall receive regular support from the Department of Public Works, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and the Conservation Commission staff, as well as other support as needed.

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

**1. CC2014-016 (Whynott) Whether the City Council should vote to consolidate the polling places for Wards 3 and 5 (Cont'd from 05/19/14)**

**Councilor Theken** reported that Ward 3 Councilor LeBlanc held a meeting on this matter and no one came to oppose it. **Councilor Theken** stated that she also talked to people in that area and no one had a problem with it.

With respect to voting at the high school, **Councilor LeBlanc** asked if the City Clerk had heard back from Dr. Safier. **Ms. Lowe** stated that she sent him an email and he confirmed that the voting could take place in the fieldhouse. Dr. Safier also stated that he was sending it the School Committee, as well. He indicated that the school calendar for 2014-2015 was set some time ago and that school will be in session on the two voting days. O'Maley teacher Cheryl Olson stated that that was incorrect and that voting day is a half day with parent/teacher conferences in the afternoon. **Councilor Theken** pointed out that that was true for grades K-8 and indicated that Ms. Lowe was talking about the high school. **Ms. Lowe** stated that Dr. Safier indicated that school staff would be happy to work with city staff to section off a certain area of the high school parking lot for voters. It was noted that students pay for parking at the high school.

**Councilor Theken** stated that there is no change for Ward 5, Precinct 1 and that voting will still take place at the Magnolia Library.

With respect to voting at Wellspring, **Councilor Theken** noted that Fire Chief Eric Smith stated earlier that he does not see a traffic impact there. She indicated that DPW Director Mike Hale stated that parking will not be permitted at the water treatment plant. **Councilor Theken** requested that Councilor Fonvielle speak to someone about the possibility of poll workers parking at the West Gloucester train station. **Councilor Fonvielle** indicated that workers would not have to walk under the train bridge because there is a pathway from the lot to the public landing. **Ms. Lowe** stated that she would prefer that the workers park at the public landing because it is safer. **Councilor Theken** stated that the train station could be an option for people who are healthy and want to walk. Building Inspector, **Bill Sanborn**, stated that the room at Wellspring appears to be big enough but will be limited to 50 people at a time because there is only one exit and the doors swing into the building. **Councilor Fonvielle** indicated that he would talk to the board about changing the door. **Mr. Sanborn** also stated that voters will not be able to park within the state highway layout on Essex Avenue. He noted that there are about ten regular parking spaces and one illegal handicap space. **Councilor Theken** suggested asking Senator Tarr and Representative Ferrante to request permission from the state to park on Essex Avenue on voting days (no more than two a year). **Ms. Lowe** indicated that she would email Senator Tarr tomorrow. **Councilor Theken** noted that the Traffic Commission, the Police Chief and the Fire Chief all looked at the Wellspring plan and indicated that there was plenty of parking there. In the alternative, **Councilor Theken** stated that there is an area at Wellspring that is owned by the state and covered with brush. She suggested asking the state to clean out that area to provide more parking. **Ms. Lowe** stated that Chief Campanello indicated that in his opinion, there should be police details at Wellspring, which is a substantial cost that is not budgeted for. **Mr. Sanborn** stated that the state may request a State Police detail. This matter is continued to 6/16/14.

**Councilor McGeary** asked what the fallback plan is in the event the Wellspring plan does not pan out. He noted that he received some calls indicating that people would prefer to vote at the Magnolia Library rather than the high school. **Ms. Lowe** stated that she votes at the Magnolia Library and that it will not work for two precincts because there is no parking. **Councilor McGeary** stated that there seems to be enough open issues about Wellspring that other options should be vetted. **Councilor Theken** asked Mr. Sanborn to check out the West Gloucester Trinitarian Congregational Church. **Ms. Lowe** noted that the church is on the same state highway as Wellspring, and **Councilor Fonvielle** stated that there are two parking lots at the church. **Councilor McGeary** requested that Mr. Sanborn look at the square footage of the Magnolia Library because he does not believe the parking there is a big issue.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 0 in favor, 3 opposed, to recommend that the City Council move the polling place for Ward 5, Precinct 1 from the Magnolia Library to the Gloucester High School Fieldhouse located on Leslie O. Johnson Road to become effective beginning with the State Primary Election to be held on September 9, 2014.**

**A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Maria C. Puglisi  
Substitute Recorder**

**DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None**