

Ordinances & Administration Committee

Monday, August 4, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.

1st Fl. Council Committee Room – City Hall**-Minutes-**

Present: Chair, Councilor Robert Whycott; Vice Chair, Councilor Theken; Councilor Steve LeBlanc (Alternate)

Absent: Councilor Hardy

Also Present: Councilor McGeary; Councilor Cox (entered at 6:12 p.m.); Salvatore DiStefano; Jonathan Pope; Linda Lowe; Police Chief Leonard Campanello; Suzanne Egan; John Dunn; James Pope

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. There was a quorum of the City Council upon the arrival of **Councilor Cox**. Matters were taken out of order.

1. Continued Business from 07/14/14:

- A) CC2014-024 (Cox) Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” and Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away zones” re: Pleasant Street

The Committee noted that at its previous Committee meeting after a discussion with Councilor Cox, the Committee had continued the matter in order to determine whether the situation could be remedied by having the Department of Public Works paint lines in the roadway in the area between the exit and entrance of Sheedy Park indicating two parking spaces. **Councilor Cox** reported that the line painting had yet to occur and asked that the matter be continued.

This matter was continued to August 18, 2014.

- B) CC2014-030 (LeBlanc) Amend GCO c. 22 Sec. 22-289 “Parking meter zones-On Street” and Sec. 22-216 “Hours of operation re: Washington Street in front of #8

Councilor LeBlanc informed the Committee that he was asked by the American Legion to have parking meters installed on the Middle Street side of the Legion Building at #8 Washington Street. At the Traffic Commission meeting of July 24 the Commission was unable to support parking meters being installed in that location. He said that area neighbors were also not in favor of meters being installed due to area vehicular congestion and lack of residential parking. He noted as did **Councilor Theken** that people who live in the Square have no driveways. This is in front of the Joan of Arc statue where spaces are on the Middle Street side of Washington Street, he noted.

Councilor Theken expressed she would not support the ordinance amendment.

After a brief discussion with the Committee, **Councilor LeBlanc** asked that his Council Order be withdrawn without prejudice.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Theken, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council permit the withdrawal of CC2014-003 to Amend GCO c. 22 Sec. 22-289 “Parking meter zones-On Street” and Sec. 22-216 “Hours of operation re: Washington Street in front of #8, without prejudice.

- C) CC2014-028 (Cox) Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 265 “Turning movements-Generally” & Sec. 22-159 “Same-Between certain hours and on certain days,” Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times,” Sec. 22-283 “Bus stops and taxi stands” re: Pleasant Street & Smith Street

Councilor Cox, reviewing proposed ordinance amendments for traffic patterns and parking related to the West Parish School Swing Space at St. Ann’s School, said that there are already ordinances on the books to cover parking from the beginning of Pleasant Street at its corner with Prospect Street to Liberty Street from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and again in the afternoon. With the proposed ordinance amendments this will now extend to Prospect Street and Smith Street on the same side of the street. Smith Street, she pointed out, is left alone except for the no left turn and lines being painted where parking is not allowed 20 feet from the corners. The side of Pleasant Street away from the

St. Ann's School will be reviewed and dealt with through another Council Order to come forward having to do with time limits. The current proposed ordinance amendments will only be on the St. Ann's side of the streets, she said.

Councilor Theken noted the changes being proposed and questioned how school buses would be staged.

Councilor Cox said that school buses will go onto Smith Street two at a time and not stage on the resident side of Maplewood Avenue. There will be solid lines painted in that area, she said, to make sure that vehicles do not park 20 feet from the curb of the intersection. She pointed out that bus drivers will not leave their buses so that the buses can be moved immediately if there is an emergency. The situation will be reevaluated several months into the new school year, she noted, and highlighted that times of no parking are: 8:30 to 9:15 and 2:30 to 3:15 p.m.

Councilor Whycott agreed that the Committee should review the ordinance changes within several months after school starts. **Councilor Cox** said that she is working with the Traffic Commission to examine the non-school side of the street in order to evaluate what possible changes need to be put in place as to parking restrictions. It was noted a tow zone is being added during the times of no parking. **Councilor LeBlanc** agreed that it was a good idea to revisit the ordinances affecting the St. Ann's School area noting the changes made for the East Gloucester Elementary School as a good example.

Concern was expressed for parking in the area all day by workers of businesses in the surrounding area by a Pleasant Street business owner, **Renee Nicastro**. **Councilor Cox** offered her assurance reiterating that she will be working with the Traffic Commission to evaluate the parking situation on the non-school side of Pleasant Street as well as surrounding feeder streets.

Jonathan Pope, School Committee Chair, expressed a concern for ordinance enforcement. He observed that signage needs to be clear for things such as no idling of vehicles. **Councilor Theken** noted that pick up for children is on Pleasant Street in the afternoon. **Councilor Cox** suggested that a having a police officer on site in the first month of school would be helpful in order to keep traffic flowing and to keep cars from idling at the curb.

1) MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements-Generally" by ADDING as follows:

"Pleasant Street. While school is in session in a northerly direction, no left turn onto Smith Street between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m."

2) MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-159 "Same-Between certain hours and on school days" by ADDING:

"Pleasant Street. While school is in session, Pleasant Street from a point beginning at its intersection with Prospect Street, westerly side, in a northerly direction to Smith Street, no parking between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on school days."

3) MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-291 "Tow-away zone" by ADDING as follows:

"Pleasant Street. While school is in session, Pleasant Street from a point beginning at its intersection with Prospect Street, westerly side, in a northerly direction to Smith Street, no parking between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. on school days."

4) MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" by DELETING as follows:

"Pleasant Street, westerly side from Smith Street in a southerly direction for a distance of 200 feet."

5) MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-283 "Bus stops and taxi stands" by DELETING as follows:

“Pleasant Street, westerly side, beginning at the point 50 feet north of its intersection with Prospect Street, for a distance of 120 feet in a northerly direction effective from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 .m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. weekdays, excluding the months of July and August.”

The preceding five proposed ordinance amendments are to be advertised for public hearing.

2. *New Appointment:*

Salvatore DiStefano, Sr. Chief Administrative Officer TTE 02/14/2015

Suzanne Egan, General Counsel, said that the Mayor had a prior family commitment and was unable to attend, and then introduced Salvatore DiStefano as the city’s new Chief Administrative Officer who previously was employed for 10 years by the City of Boston at the Boston Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Investment Corp as the Industrial and Commercial Sector Senior Manager. In particular it was the extensive municipal economic development experience and management leadership, she said, that put Mr. DiStefano in the forefront as a finalist for the position. She noted Mr. DiStefano will start working for the city on August 18. She said he will assist with the Fuller School redevelopment, the West Parish School, as liaison with the Council and Administration, and work with department heads.

Mr. DiStefano, introducing his wife Maria, noted he and his family is moving into a home he and his wife had purchased several years ago on Cape Ann, and so was quite familiar with the area. He said he is coming from East Boston, which he noted was a similar community, proud of its immigrant heritage with people who work hard for their living. His noted his father was a fisherman from Sicily who went into the restaurant business now has three locations in the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, area. He said he learned the values of honesty, hard work, loyalty and ethics from his parents and growing up in his family’s business, managing people at a young age. He pointed out he was the first member of his family to attend college, and during that time he traveled to India for missionary work helping Mother Teresa’s missionaries in Agra.

He reviewed he was the youngest person to ever be hired as a financial auditor for New England Financial/MetLife to audit brokerage houses countrywide and commercial real estate holdings, analyzing financial data including budget reports, and generating reports to be forwarded to the CEO of MetLife. He observed he was given much responsibility at a young age.

Mr. DiStefano said as his career progressed he became interested in city government because being involved in a small business, he said he felt the city wasn’t always responsive to its needs. He noted he had a great opportunity when Boston’s Mayor Menino asked him to oversee the entire industrial area of that city. This involved everything from real estate to permitting, Licensing and Zoning Boards, everything that was involved in bring new business to Boston. He observed there were 100,000 jobs in his sector, and he was responsible for dealing with all areas of municipal government. He highlighted that he drafted an industrial retention policy to protect industrial areas from conversion, keeping jobs in the city. He said he had difficult conversations with companies and had been able to keep those businesses in Boston as well as bringing more business to Boston, more than anyone who held that position prior. He pointed out he was involved with the seafood show in Boston for 10 years representing Boston, helping seafood companies, such as Connolly’s Seafood, a company with a presence in Gloucester. As part of that city’s budget process he advocated for \$2.3 million in Boston’s capital budget to be put into the Newmarket industrial area to rebuild it to support industrial businesses. As a result, this area went from a very run down and depressed area to being revitalized as a vibrant industrial area. He said he put 30 businesses together for a full reclamation of the area and to keep jobs there.

Mr. DiStefano briefly touched on his speaking engagements throughout the country and Canada about his accomplishments through Mayor Menino’s Backstreets Program, and his work as Chairman of the East Boston YMCA. In that role he highlighted that YMCA’s successful youth and senior programs he helped to develop to assist the most vulnerable in the community there. He said he works hard to create relationships so that it is a win/win situation. He added that he served with pride in Boston, but wanted to give his children a more suburban upbringing and so was looking forward to moving permanently to Cape Ann and to taking up the position of Chief Administrative Officer

Police Chief Campanello informed the Committee he had met with Mr. DiStefano for several hours in the past few weeks and said he believes that Mr. DiStefano is the right fit for Gloucester. He said he guaranteed that Mr. DiStefano will work out the same way he did for the city, adding that he had trust in Mr. DiStefano taking up the reins as CAO for the city.

Councilor Theken expressed her understanding that Mr. DiStefano will be actively involved in all the city's processes. She said she appreciated his family is moving closer to Gloucester and that she liked his qualifications and the boards that he serves on. She highlighted her experience with the former Gloucester seafood show briefly for Mr. DiStefano.

Councilor LeBlanc expressed his support of Mr. DiStefano's appointment as CAO. **Councilor Whynott** also added his approbation for Mr. DiStefano's appointment.

Councilor McGeary, indicating he was impressed with Mr. DiStefano's credentials, noted that Mr. DiStefano trained as an auditor and had not held a financial position since early in his career. **Mr. DiStefano** confirmed he did not work directly in municipal finance but would have to review budgets in order to obtain funds for his constituents for things like sidewalk repairs, for redevelopment projects. He pointed out he has a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting. He said he worked for Loomis, Sayles & Company, a division of MetLife, as a Portfolio Manager Assistant preparing financial data for clients and had full responsibility for the reconciliation of \$50 million in assets. He noted that he and his wife own and manage rental properties and had experience with bank financing. Boston, he observed, is essentially a large corporation and said he was in and around budgets and expressed confidence that anything he doesn't know he can learn quickly. **John Dunn**, CFO, said that he and Mr. DiStefano would work together to smooth out any gaps in Mr. DiStefano's municipal budget knowledge.

Councilor McGeary noted the fact that Mr. DiStefano has a great deal of business development experience with the Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) which is very attractive, but as Chief Administrative Officer he has the role of supervision of department heads. **Mr. DiStefano** pointed out that he had been the Director of Development at Dom Savio Preparatory High School in Boston and supervised a staff that reported to him and did evaluations. He said the BRA is a flat organization where there is more collaboration rather than direct oversight. With the Newmarket project, he said he had to supervise some people who had a higher rank than he, which, he said, took great management skill. He said he is Chair of the East Boston YMCA Board of Directors managing a board of 30 volunteers, and has run successful fundraising projects. He observed that management of staff is about focusing on one-on-one relationships, adding that staff management is about building relationships and focusing on strengths.

Councilor McGeary mentioned Mr. DiStefano's drafting an industrial retention policy and highlighted the some of the pressures that Gloucester's Marine/Industrial (MI) areas were under. **Mr. DiStefano** reviewed that there was a "no conversion" policy or "no net loss" policy that wasn't enforceable when he joined the BRA and explained then how that city determined what industrial areas were in need of protection. A policy was drafted so that he would be notified if a project was coming forward for conversion and could move to protect industrial areas if need be. He noted Designated Port Areas are difficult to manage and understands those issues.

Councilor McGeary made note of several Boston Globe reports regarding the BRA oversight of its finances, which was criticized in an audit by the firm KPMG. He asked if Mr. DiStefano had any direct responsibility for making sure that developers made payments or carried out other obligations they had agreed to with the BRA. **Mr. DiStefano** said that he did not have direct responsibility in that area.

Councilor McGeary inquired about the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as an incentive to attract businesses to relocate and stay in communities' long term. **Mr. DiStefano** said TIF's were used sparingly under the Menino administration and were reserved for very large companies that had 600 employees or more noting that the economy of scale is lacking for smaller companies. He added that he is looking forward to keeping the lines of communication open between himself and the Council.

Councilor Whynott said that the role of CAO is the one position that is the Mayor's person with whom she decides the division of labor, a unique relationship of all the management positions in the city, adding he was impressed with Mr. DiStefano's background.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Theken, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Salvatore DiStefano as Chief Administrative Officer, TTE 02/14/2015 pursuant to City Charter Sections 2-10, 3-3 and 3-7.

3. Memo from Shellfish Constable re: Amendments to Shellfish Management Plan

Dave Sargent, Shellfish Constable, introduced Shellfish Advisory Commission (SAC) members Dan Molloy and David Roach, and Shep Means, a commercial fisherman. He noted that at the SAC meeting of July 1 meeting the Commission voted unanimously to amend the Gloucester Shellfish Management Plan for the cove section of the High Flat within Shellfish Growing Area N9.7. He explained that this area is presently closed to harvesting of shellfish as part of a volunteer shellfish stock enhancement project, and that after protective netting has been removed this section

will be open for shellfish harvesting one day per week – Saturday's only. **Mr. Sargent** described the area to be allowed for use (on file). It was noted that this matter is before the Committee due to GCO Sec. 20-2(d) that the City Council would need to approve the management plan amendment, but that this amendment does not precipitate a public hearing.

Councilor Theken expressed her support of the acceptance of the Shellfish Warden's memo. **Councilor LeBlanc** said he, too, was in support of the Shellfish Warden's recommendations.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Theken, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve an amendment to the Gloucester Shellfish Management Plan as voted unanimously by the Shellfish Advisory Commission at its July 1, 2014 meeting and as put forward by the Shellfish Constable submitted in a memorandum dated July 8, 2014 related to the cove section of the High Flat within Shellfish Growing Area N9.7.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None