

**Ordinances & Administration Committee**  
 Monday, September 15, 2014 – 6:00 p.m.  
 1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Council Committee Room – City Hall  
**-Minutes-**

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

**Absent: None.**

**Also Present: Councilor McGeary; Councilor Cox; Linda T. Lowe**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. There was a quorum of the City Council.

**1. Continued business from 08/18/14**

- A. CC2014-032 (LeBlanc) Amend GCO Chapter 22, “Traffic,” Sec. 22-270.1 “Resident Sticker Parking Only,” by adding a definition of “resident parking sticker” and by adding the areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1 to Sec. 22- 176(b) “Penalties for parking violations-in beach district”

**Councilor Steve LeBlanc** reported that after talking to Council President McGeary in whose ward where much of the issue surrounding beach parking is centered, he said he’d asked him to bring forward language to shore up the Code of Ordinances loopholes in resident sticker parking and resident beach sticker parking. He said the language is further simplified because the beach sticker parking system has been working and shouldn’t be disrupted. He noted the motion language is now revised based on his discussions with Councilor McGeary which differed slightly from the recommendation from the Traffic Commission’s September 11 meeting and reviewed that language briefly with the Committee.

In response to an inquiry by **Councilor Theken, Councilor McGeary** said that the original proposal was to make Farrington Avenue (Niles Beach area); Plum Cove Beach area and Witham Street require Beach Parking Stickers. However, the city doesn’t charge for beach parking at Niles and Plum Cove Beaches so it didn’t make sense to require residents to purchase a Beach Parking Sticker in order to park in those areas. The only place it made sense, he noted, was for Witham Street because it is used for parking for Good Harbor Beach, and said that most folks who park there do have Beach Parking Stickers. The proposed ordinance language simply distinguishes between a Resident Parking Sticker and a Beach Parking Sticker by using different shapes which will make it easier for traffic enforcement people to see plainly which stickers are used.

**Councilor Whycott** reconfirmed with **Councilor McGeary** that the parking spaces along Niles Beach and Farrington Avenue don’t require a Beach Parking Sticker, but rather that a resident parking sticker would suffice. He also reconfirmed that in order to park at Stage Fort Park to use the Dog Park that a Beach Parking Sticker would be required to park in the Park’s lot.

**Councilor Theken** also confirmed with **Linda T. Lowe**, City Clerk, that the proposed language changes to the Council Order were close enough to the original intent so that the Committee did not have to require the withdrawal of the Council Order and await a new Council Order to be put through to consider amending the Code of Ordinances.

The Committee unanimously voted to withdraw a proposed motion based on the original Council Order and to accept amended language as proposed by **Councilors LeBlanc and McGeary** which **Councilor LeBlanc** offered for the Committee’s consideration and vote.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whycott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-270.1 “Resident Sticker Parking Only,” by ADDING a definition of “Resident Parking Sticker and Resident Beach Sticker” as follows:**

**“Resident Parking Sticker shall mean a parking sticker for persons who demonstrate proof of Gloucester residency and ownership of the vehicle on which the sticker is to be displayed. Resident Parking Stickers shall be valid for parking on any of the streets or areas listed in Sec. 22-270.1. Resident Parking Stickers shall be good for a period of five years beginning in 2012 and every five years thereafter.**

**Resident Beach Sticker shall mean a parking sticker for persons who demonstrate proof of Gloucester residency and ownership of the vehicle on which the sticker is to be displayed. Resident Beach Stickers shall be valid for a period of one year and permit entry into Good Harbor Beach, Stage Fort Park and**

**Wingaersheek Beach in accordance with Beach and Stage Fort Park Regulations of the Department of Public Works.**

**Further, Resident Beach Stickers and Resident Parking Stickers shall be different in size, shape or color so as to make them easily distinguishable.**

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

- B. CC2014-033 (Cox) Amend GCO Chapter 22 "Traffic" Sec. 22-284 "Service or loading zones re: Overnight parking

**Councilor Cox** said this is to open up service and loading zones to downtown evening and overnight parking after 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. in order to open up as much parking as possible in the downtown by opening up those parking spots to legal parking at specified times. **Councilor Theken** expressed her concern that on occasion deliveries are made to downtown businesses after 6 p.m. and prior to 6 a.m. **Councilor Cox** explained that the service and loading zones would become viable parking spaces between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. only.

**Councilor Whynott** said he was willing to try this to see how this change to the Code of Ordinance works. **Councilor Cox** said she would be passing out notices on Main Street about this potential change to the utilization of the service and loading zones as legal parking overnight and would speak with several possibly affected businesses on Main Street prior to the Council's public hearing.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Theken, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend the following amendments to the Code of Ordinances:**

**Amend Chapter 22, "Traffic," Sec. 22-284 "Service or loading zones," by ADDING "(a)" before the words, "The following locations;"**

**And, to Amend Chapter 22, "Traffic by ADDING a new subsection "(b)" to Sec. 22-284 "Service or loading zones," as follows: "(b) Overnight parking shall be allowed from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. daily in all loading zones designated in this section."**

**And to Amend Chapter 22, "Traffic," by DELETING Sec. 22-155 "Parking Prohibited 12:00 midnight to 6:00 a.m. from December to March 15."**

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

**2. Reappointment:**

**Gloucester Housing Authority**

**Dorothy Martins**

**TTE 09/2018**

**Dorothy Martins**, 23 Concord Street, a lifelong resident, with the exception of her time in service to her country with the U.S. Army in Japan during World War II, said she joined the Gloucester Housing Authority (GHA) as a member in 1984. She highlighted for the Committee some of her accomplishments during her tenure with the GHA:

- Encouraging the building of affordable housing condominiums on Taylor Street;
- As an expression of Ms. Martin's concern for people who are ill and unable to live alone, she worked to create an assisted living floor at the McPherson public housing building and noted there was more need for this kind of space in public housing as witnessed by McPherson's long waiting list.
- Advocacy to create a housing facility for the mentally challenged in the city's population on Washington Street which has become successful city housing asset.

**Ms. Martin** also spoke of her growing concern for the homeless population in the city and to see more help made available for their housing, not just their ability to clothe and feed them. She suggested there may be a way to utilize the Gloucester High School vocational program to build housing for this sector of the population which she expressed she would like to pursue to ensure that everyone has a place to live that is safe and non-discriminating.

**Councilor Whynott** thanked and lauded Ms. Martins for her efforts for the assisted living floor at McPherson Park. He also expressed that he had known Ms. Martins for many years and appreciated all her efforts on behalf of the city.

**Councilor Theken** offered that more assisted living floors are needed in public housing. She recounted that she and Ms. Martins went back to Councilor's time at Gloucester High School and through the years they have been on committees together. She expressed her support for Ms. Martins' continuing tenure with the GHA. She encouraged Ms. Martins to call upon the Council for any support she may need with her future endeavors with that organization.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that Dorothy Martins be reappointed to the Gloucester Housing Authority, TTE 09/23/2019.**

**3. CC2014-036 (McGeary) Amend GCO Sec. 22-287 "Disabled Veteran, handicapped parking" re: Deleting of the listing of handicapped parking spaces from the Code of Ordinances effective with the 2014 Code Supplement**

**Councilor McGeary** reminded the Committee that the Council voted recently to hand over control of the assignment and deletion of handicap parking spaces to the Traffic Commission. There was in the Code of Ordinances there is a listing of handicapped spaces, he pointed out, and this proposed amendment would remove the listing from the GCO to the Traffic Commission's list which now would become the city's official list. **Ms. Lowe** added this is to move the listing of handicapped parking spaces to one place to eliminate any possible confusion between a list in the GCO and that held by the Traffic Commission, responding to an inquiry by **Councilor Theken**.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Theken, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend the following amendments to the Code of Ordinances:**

**To Amend GCO Chapter 22, "Traffic," Sec. 22-287 "Disabled veteran, handicapped parking" by ADDING a second paragraph as follows:**

**"All disabled veteran and handicapped person parking spaces listed and designated by address or location in this section shall be deleted from this section and from this Code of Ordinances effective with the 2014 Code Supplement and shall be added to the City of Gloucester Traffic Commission Regulations known as the "List of Parking Areas Reserved for Handicapped Persons and Disabled Veterans in the City of Gloucester."**

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

**4. CC2014-037 (Cox) Amend GCO Sec. 22-270 "Parking Prohibited at all times" re: intersection of Prospect Street with Friend and Warner Streets**

**Councilor Cox** said this matter went to the Traffic Commission, and pointed out that the Council Order should have been split in two – one part of the Order affecting Prospect and Warner Streets and one part of the Order affecting Prospect Street between Friend and Taylor Streets. For the later, the Traffic Commission decided there was a need for them to conduct a site visit, and so split up the Order. She explained to the Committee that one is on Prospect Street coming from the direction of Flanagan Square, on Prospect Street between Friend and Taylor Streets; with the new sidewalk in that location it has narrowed the street, and reminded the Committee it is illegal for vehicles to park on city sidewalks and is not an option. She pointed out regardless of whether the center line is exactly in the center of the road; the street still wouldn't adequately support two lanes of traffic with on-street parking (on the church side of Prospect Street). She said the area is between Friend and Taylor Streets that would be designated as a no parking area. She further pointed out that those vehicles parking in that particular area are essentially parking in a travel lane. **Councilor Cox** also noted the Traffic Commission's intent to conduct a site visit.

There was a discussion between the Committee and **Councilor Cox** about the Warner Street parking issue. After a discussion on area's traffic issues, **Councilor Cox** asked that this matter be continued as she wished to hold a ward meeting and bring this matter up with her constituents as well as await the results of the Commission's site visit. She also encouraged the Committee to make their own site visit at their convenience in the interim to the affected areas prior to the matter returning to the Committee's agenda.

**These matters are continued to October 20.**

**A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dana C. Jorgensson  
Clerk of Committees**

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