

Ordinances & Administration Committee
Monday, March 14, 2016 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Committee Room – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Steve LeBlanc; Vice Chair, Councilor Jamie O’Hara; Councilor Sean Nolan

Absent: None.

Also Present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. A. *New Appointments:*

Historical Commission

Jude Seminara (Alternate Member)

TTE 02/14/19

Mr. Seminara reviewed that he grew up in Waltham, lived out of state and returned to Massachusetts, moving to Gloucester. He said he now resides on Middle Street in the heart of the city’s historic district. He explained he has become a local history buff having done a great deal of personal research, and has taught history in the Gloucester public schools. He said as a member of the Historical Commission he could contribute to the city he’s grown to enjoy and appreciate.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Jude Seminara to the Historical Commission as an Alternate Member, TTE 02/14/19.

Downtown Development Commission

Paul T. Russo

TTE 02/14/19

Mr. Russo introduced himself to the Committee by saying that he was born and raised in Gloucester, graduating in 2009, received an undergraduate and graduate degree in the financial sector and was going to work the corporate life, but had a personal medical issue that saw him move home from the Boston area. He said that it was the support he received from the community, friends and family that opened his eyes to the assets of the city. He pointed out that with his business background he hopes to work with the DDC to grow local business and to keep their local trust as well as encourage new business start-ups.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Paul T. Russo to the Downtown Development Commission, TTE 02/14/19.

B. *Reappointments:*

Affordable Housing Trust

Mary John Boylan (Cont’d from 2/29/16)

TTE 02/14/19

Ms. Boylan briefly discussed recent Trust business with the Committee, acknowledging that affordable housing is currently a hot topic. She said she’s been an attorney for 40 years and her clients are mostly housing authorities in Essex County. Expressing her personal concern, she said there is a need to create more affordable housing – there isn’t enough and further defined it as there is a need for workforce housing that is affordable. She cautioned that without the creation of workforce housing, Gloucester will become a very different community than it is now and encouraged the retention of the city’s working class.

Councilor LeBlanc asked Ms. Boylan about the 206 Main Street LLC 40B Project. **Ms. Boylan** pointed out that the city doesn’t need affordable three-bedroom units, many of which go empty, but two and one-bedroom units. She said downtown housing adds to its mix and life. **Councilor LeBlanc** asked where the Gloucester resident preference stands with this 40B project. **Ms. Boylan** said it is funding source dependent and that resident preference not allowed in every circumstances. She offered to write a memorandum on the subject which **Councilor LeBlanc** encouraged her to do for the benefit of the Council. **Councilor LeBlanc** said that he would want Gloucester residents to have first preference for any new affordable housing units from the Main Street project, and **Ms. Boylan** expressed her agreement.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Mary John Boylan to the Affordable Housing Trust, TTE 02/14/19.

City Hall Restoration Commission Stephen Pardee (TBC 05/02/16)

TTE 02/14/19

Clean Energy Commission Linda Stout-Saunders (Cont’d from 2/29/16)

TTE 02/14/18

Ms. Saunders expressed her desire to continue to serve on the Clean Energy Commission saying she is enthusiastic about the projects the Commission is planning for in the coming year and that the work reflects her own background in business for the last 30 years. She said the Commission’s focus is now on municipal buildings but also looking outward to what is good for the community and that they are available in an advisory capacity. She noted they work with Mass. Clean Energy.

Councilor O’Hara discussed the city’s overall progress towards more solar energy with **Ms. Stout-Saunders** who said that the residential sector is going well but that there are issues with the commercial sector which is not progressing much in anticipation of pending state legislation. She described several solar programs available for residents and described some of the federal and state credits available to homeowners. **Councilor LeBlanc** suggested the Clean Energy Commission work with the Administration on educating the community on solar panel leasing versus owning. **Ms. Stout-Saunders** briefly described the process to the Committee.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Linda Stout-Saunders to the Clean Energy Commission, TTE 02/14/18.

Conservation Commission Ann-Jo Jackson (Cont’d from 2/29/16)

TTE 02/14/19

Ms. Jackson said that she wishes to continue to serve not only on the Conservation Commission (ConCom) but also on the Shellfish Advisory Commission. She said she finds both roles rewarding and one role helps the other with her knowledge base. She said she was raised to give back to the community and shellfish and environmental issues have always been a great interest for her which coincides with her background. She said that both of the Commissions do good work.

Councilor LeBlanc advised Ms. Jackson that many people come before ConCom who need their hands held through the process as it can be very daunting. **Ms. Jackson** said the ConCom agent and assistant are wonderfully helpful to the applicants and that ConCom is very sensitive to this issue. **Councilor O’Hara** added his agreement to Councilor LeBlanc’s statement. **Ms. Jackson** said that ConCom has many difficult issues that come before it and that the group works very well together to look to have positive outcomes.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Ann-Joe Jackson to the Conservation Commission, TTE 02/14/19.

Planning Board

Joseph Orlando, Sr.

TTE 02/14/21

Mr. Orlando said that after being on the Planning Board for five years that it was his view the Board is improving. He said he volunteered for the Planning Board because he felt that the city is far too difficult for those trying to develop properties, and that there shouldn’t be obstructions to development as long as it is sensible and conforms to the law. Things are improving, he said. He added that the Board is dealing with issues of people trying to build on the ocean and said he found that to be fascinating. He added that it is very important to listen to both sides, and that it was always a learning experience. He encouraged more people to step forward to volunteer on behalf of the city.

Councilor LeBlanc said it is good to know there is someone like Mr. Orlando was on the Board who has an open mind and is there to assist residents who come before the Board. **Councilors Nolan** and **O’Hara** thanked Mr. Orlando for his service.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Joseph Orlando, Sr. to the Planning Board, TTE 02/14/21.

Shellfish Advisory Commission

Ann-Jo Jackson-ConCom Rep (Cont'd from 2/29/16) TTE 02/14/19

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Ann-Joe Jackson to the Shellfish Advisory Commission, TTE 02/14/19.

2. *CC2016-002 (Cox) City Council requests the Traffic Commission to conduct a study of tractor trailer parking on Rogers Street (Cont'd from 02/01/16) TBC 05/16/16*

This matter is continued to May 16, 2016.

3. *CC2016-010 (Cox) Amend GCO Sec. 22-267 "One Way Streets-Generally" re: Derby Court (TBC 04/04/16)*

This matter is continued to April 4, 2016.

4. *CC2016-011 (Ciolino) Election of City Clerk pursuant to City Charter Sec. 2-7(a)*

Councilor LeBlanc said that this matter will be continued to April 4.

This matter is continued to April 4, 2016.

5. *CC2016-013 (O'Hara) Request O&A Committee to consider whether GCO Sec. 22-284(b) "Service or Loading Zones" should be amended to allow additional overnight parking from 7:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. (TBC 04/04/16)*

6. *Resolution to Express the City of Gloucester's Opposition to Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic: To review recommendations of Councilors Memhard & Orlando & General Counsel, Chip Payson*

Councilor LeBlanc said that on the advice of General Counsel through an email that this matter is continued to April 4, 2016.

This matter is continued to April 4, 2016.

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.