

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

-MINUTES-

Present: Chair, Councilor Paul Lundberg; Vice Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc, Jr.; Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Valerie Gilman; Councilor Kenneth Hecht; Councilor Jennifer Holmgren; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor James O’Hara

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mayor Theken; Joanne Senos; Jim Destino; Chip Payson; John Dunn; Dr. Richard Safier; Vanessa Krawczyk

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Council President announced that this meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law.

Flag Salute & Moment of Silence. Council President Lundberg dedicated the Moment of Silence in memory of Beth Coolidge who recently passed away. He highlighted that Mrs. Coolidge was a friend of the city in so many ways, known through her work with many non-profit organizations dear to the community such as the Open Door Food Pantry, the Addison Gilbert Hospital, and the Gloucester Dog Park. Her generosity of spirit represents the best of our city.

Presentations/Commendations:

1. Rachel M. Rex, M.Ed.; Gloucester High School Science Department: Environmental Issues Class presentation on sea level rise

Rachel Rex, Gloucester High School science teacher introduced her students, **Thad Fulmer**, 24 Atlantic Road; **Ryan Argentino**, 21 Prospect Square, and **Sydney McKay**, 8 Coggs Hall Road, who gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled, “Climate Change Risks to Gloucester: Rising Sea-Level and Storm Surges by Liz Duff and the GHS Environmental Issues Class,” which is based on their work developed in Ms. Rex’s class duly enrolled with Endicott College with the assistance of Liz Duff:

COUNCILOR COMMENT:

Councilor Gilman noted a previous June 2018 workshop on sea rise, and asked if Ms. Rex to speak about what the city has done for action plans and its priorities. **Ms. Rex** advised that the Mayor was at their presentation and briefly elaborated on the many different city programs under way and plans for the future. She expressed her hope to establish a way in which to talk about global climate change and what actions they can take for the future.

Councilor Holmgren extended her of thanks to Ms. Rex, Ms. Duff and the GHS students.

Councilor Cox asked that Ms. Rex forward the presentation to the City Clerk’s office for the Councilors to review.

Councilor O’Hara asked about the GHS campus and sea rise. **Mr. Argentino** recounted the GHS parking lot flooded during an exceptionally high storm surge, saying they didn’t have a lot of notice that the storm would rise so much. He indicated that storm surge is problematic noting that the GHS campus is particularly vulnerable.

Councilor Gilman highlighted that the Administration has a plan for the GHS seawall which is up for review and approval for a capital expense to shore the seawall up so storm surge will be diverted. She added that the city is trying to tackle the problem, although they have to wait for grants and other funding to begin the work.

Council President Lundberg noted several Councilors were present for this student presentation several months ago, explaining that he wanted to bring to the Council for a broader public audience. He thanked the students for their comprehensive information.

Oral Communications:

The following residents of Gloucester spoke out against the location of a new consolidated East Gloucester and Veterans’ Memorial Elementary Schools on Green Street on a property owned by the city of Gloucester that is currently a neighborhood park.

Name: Caitlin Pszenny

Address: 27 & 30 Dodge Street
Written statement placed on file.

Name: **Linda McDonald**
Address: 18 Ledgemont Avenue
Written statement placed on file.

Name: **Mary Ann Albert Bouche**
Address: 93 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
Written statement placed on file.

Name: **Lara Jardullo**
Address: 2 Ocean Avenue, 3N

Name: **Don Moody**
Address: 17 Dodge Street which abuts the Green Street Park
Written statement placed on file.

Name: **Shawn Gadbois**
Address: 2R Green Street

Name: **Beth Brau**
Address: Dodge Street
Written statement placed on file.

Name: **Tracy O'Neil**
Address: 12 Friend Street, 1

Name: **Elmer Magana**
Address: 19 Dodge Street

Name: **Glen Bresnahan**
Address: 514 Essex Avenue

Name: **Sarah Doucette and son, Anthony**
Address: 32 Trask Street

Name: **Jillian Amero**
Address: Hartz Street

Name: **John O'Hara**
Address: Of Magnolia
Subject: Concern for the use of the Magnolia Town Landing as well as voicing objection for building on city green spaces.

At request of **Council President Lundberg** 33 people present raised their hands in opposition to the Green Street location for a new school. **Council President Lundberg** explained this (site selection) is far from a "done deal" and that there would be a public hearing on the matter, and that there will have to be a vote for financing, likely an override that all city voters would have to weigh in on. He assured the Council would do the right thing for the citizens of Gloucester.

Confirmation of New Appointments:

Fisheries Commission

Captain Salvatore "Sam" Novello (Cont'd from 3/4/19)

TTE 02/14/22

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 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 appoint Captain Salvatore "Sam" Novello to the Fisheries Commission, TTE 02/14/22.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor LeBlanc conveyed that Capt. Novello has been on the ocean for 10,000 days, that he is a family fisherman who owned several boats, and will bring that knowledge to the Fisheries Commission to help steer it in the right direction.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appoint Captain Salvatore "Sam" Novello to the Fisheries Commission, TTE 02/14/22.

Licensing Board

Melissa Teixeira Prince

TTE 05/31/23

NOTE: Ms. Teixeira Prince is fulfilling the unexpired term of Meredith Fine.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 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 appoint Melissa Teixeira Prince to the Licensing Board, TTE 05/31/23.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor LeBlanc explained that Ms. Teixeira Prince was currently in a full house Licensing Board meeting going on simultaneously with the City Council meeting. He highlighted that Ms. Teixeira Prince is well known for all that she does for the city. **Councilor Gilman** added that she worked for six years on the School Committee with Ms. Teixeira Prince noting her commitment to this new appointment, which she termed as excellent for the city.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appoint Melissa Teixeira Prince to the Licensing Board, TTE 05/31/23.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Adria Pratt (from Alternate to Full Member)

TTE 02/14/22

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: 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 appoint Adria Pratt to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a Full Member, TTE 02/14/22.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor LeBlanc advised that this is simply bringing Ms. Pratt to full

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appoint Adria Pratt to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a Full Member, TTE 02/14/22.

Consent Agenda:

• **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**

1. Licensing Board John Lamirande TTE 05/31/25

• **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Memorandum from Human Resources Director re: amendment to the Personnel Ordinance for Job Classification, AFSCME A (Refer O&A)
2. Memorandum from Human Resources Director re: draft Disabilities Rights Commission Ordinance (Refer O&A)
3. Memorandum from Mayor re: endorsement of the establishment of a Dogtown Preservation Commission (Refer O&A & P&D)
4. Memorandum from Assistant DPW Director re: request approval to pay FY18 invoice with FY19 funds (Refer B&F)
5. Special Budgetary Transfer Request 2019-SBT-11 from the Police Department (Refer B&F)
6. Memorandum from EMS Coordinator re: proposal to update the Fire Department Ambulance Service Billing & Collection Policy, and write-off of uncollectable debt (Refer B&F)
7. Memorandum from Community Development Director re: request acceptance of the PY19/FY20 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Entitlement and HOME allocations totaling \$749,635 (Refer B&F)
8. Memorandum from the CFO re: request amendment to Loan Order 2019-001 to increase it by \$250,000 for engineering and construction costs (Refer B&F)

- **INFORMATION ONLY**
 - **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
1. Invitation from the Cape Ann Veterans Services to the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 27, 2019 (Info Only)
 - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
 1. Special Events Application: Request to hold the Magnolia Community Farmers Market, Sundays, June 9-Sept. 15, 2019 (Refer P&D)
 2. Special Events Application: Request to hold the Gloucester Police Community Safety Day July 13, 2019 (Refer P&D)
 3. Special Events Application: Request to hold the Fishbox Derby on September 29, 2019 (Refer P&D)
 4. Application of Eric Magers for a Permit for Scientific Research in the Coastal Waters & Tidal Flats of the City of Gloucester pursuant to GCO Ch. 20, Sec. 20-27 "Permits for Scientific Works in coastal waters and flats of city" (Refer O&A)
 - **COUNCILORS ORDERS**
 1. CC2019-019 (Gilman): Amend GCO Ch. 2 "Administration," Div. 8 "Human Rights Commission," by ADDING Secs. 2-502 Disabilities Rights Commission Established; Terms," 2-503 "Election of chairperson; rules of procedure; quorum," 2-504 "Purposes," 2-505 "Definition of person with disability," 2-506 "Powers and duties," and 2-507 "Records" (Refer O&A)
 2. CC2019-020 (Gilman): Amend GCO Ch. 2 "Administration," Article V "Boards, Commissions, Councils and Committees" be Amended by ADDING a new Div. 18 entitled, "Dogtown Preservation Commission" (Refer O&A & P&D)
 3. CC2019-021 (Memhard): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-292 "Fire Lanes" be amended re: Horton Street (Refer O&A & TC)
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
 1. City Council Meeting: 04/23/2019 (Approve/File)
 2. City Council Special Meeting: 05/07/2019
 3. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 05/9/19 (no meeting), O&A 05/06/19, P&D 05/08/19 (Approve/File)

Items to be added/deleted from the Consent Agenda:

Councilor Gilman asked to remove Item #2019-020 under the Mayor's Report, advising the Council that this Order is to replace the Ad Hoc Commission now needs to become a city-appointed board that has the "strength" of other city Commissions. The plan would be to keep the Dogtown Advisory Commission until this new Dogtown Preservation Commission is approved and codified, she noted. She pointed out they are working on a plan which would be presented to the Administration and the Council after the transition. CC2019-020 was voted unanimously by the Council to be referred to O&A and P&D Committees.

By unanimous consent of the City Council the Consent Agenda was accepted as amended.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: May 9 (No Meeting)

Ordinances & Administration: May 6

There were no matters for Council action from this meeting. There was a withdrawal of a Council Order, but withdrawal of Council Orders no longer comes to Council for a vote, **Councilor LeBlanc** advised.

Planning & Development: May 8

There were no matters for Council action from this meeting; however, **Councilor Gilman**, Chair of the P&D Committee, reported that P&D voted an Ad Hoc Committee to study Affordable Housing within Assisted Living Residences. She mentioned that Gregg Cademartori, Planning Director, is aware of this effort which will be collaborative. **Council President Lundberg** noted that during the consideration of the last iteration of Gloucester Crossing he first proposed initially they only look at the Assisted Living Residence at Gloucester Crossing, but that the vision has expanded for the better.

Scheduled Public Hearings:

1. **PH2019-023: Loan Authorization in the amount of \$1,850,000 to abate asbestos in the Plum Cove School Boiler Room, and improvements to the Gloucester High School Field House**

This public hearing is opened at 8:08 p.m.

Those speaking in favor:

John Dunn, CFO explained that the \$1,850,000 loan order is to be used as follows: The first portion of the loan request (for \$225,000) is for the Plum Cove Elementary School for asbestos remediation. This remediation is to remove floor tiling and some minor asbestos removal in the insulation around fittings for the school's boiler. Not much engineering is necessary for this work. The bid package is ready to go out once the loan order is approved. The abatement will start in July and will be finished before school starts in September.

The second part of the loan order (for \$1,625,000) which is the larger portion will be used for work to be done in the GHS Field House to remove the current floor and its replacement which has been failing for a number of years. The recommendation would involve the removal of the floor, its replacement; replacement of lighting fixtures with LED lighting (and bleachers). The work will be done in terms of engineering and design work will be done during the summer. The project is estimated to take once under construction three to four months. It was noted that the best timing may be to start in the late spring and continue to completion in the early fall. The timing for construction is based on the fact that the Field House is less used from late spring to early fall as well as school summer break.

Jonathan Pope, School Committee Chair, asked for the Council's support for the loan order noting they've known the Field House floor has been faulty since its installation. He thanked the Administration for finding a way to leverage resources to maintain their buildings.

Kathy Clancy, School Committee member, expressed her agreement with Mr. Pope's assertions noting some of the many issues with the Field House. Home indoor track events have not been held due to the Field House's poor condition. She expressed her support of the loan order and also expressed her gratitude to the Administration.

J.D. McEachern, Jr., Poplar Park, noting he was part of the original Field House Building Committee, expressed his support for the loan order to fix the Field House saying the facility is very important to high school sports.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Communications: None.

Councilor Questions:

Councilor Gilman expressed she was eager to get the Field House completed quickly so students can begin to use the facility sooner rather than later. She noted work is scheduled for 2020 and asked what is holding it back.

Mr. Dunn noted that over the summer the design work will be done and test drillings will be conducted which is easiest to do when students aren't there. The timing of the actual construction is up to the Administration in conjunction with the Superintendent's Office, the GHS Athletic Director and GHS Principal. They want to be able to use the space in the late fall and winter for students, and then start the work in the spring and complete it over the summer. He suggested the construction would be April through October. It means they're already past the window for 2019 construction, he noted. If others decide where they want to clear the space for the entire winter they can then begin the work, but there may be environmental concerns that have to be considered. He added that both of these projects are on the master list by Dore & Whittier that the city needs to address, particularly the asbestos abatement.

Dr. Richard Safier noted he spoke with Dore & Whittier, the Athletic Director and GHS Principal. If the project were to be expedited, the Field House wouldn't be done before January or early February. He reported that the Athletic Director had conveyed he'd like to have the work done at an accelerated pace but had listed many activities that take place during the winter in the Field House; and the Principal had expressed agreement that not having the Field House available for physical education and extracurricular activity during the winter would be a detriment to the students who'd lose a half year of use. Historically there is a negative legacy of construction of the Field House which is still on the minds of the staff and the neighborhood which is why they prefer to do the work when the building isn't occupied, he advised.

Councilor Holmgren noted she attended GHS from 1994 to 1998 when the Field House was built, and expressed her appreciation that the floor was going to be fixed. Considering the amount of irritation and illness that the chemicals in the floor caused when originally installed, she asked that there be caution in rebuilding the floor as to the types of materials used for its construction and as well as the types of chemicals used as sealants. **Dr. Safier** assured that the main focus is to ensure a healthy and environmentally sound building.

Councilor O'Hara, noting quality control and environmental controls, asked what city department will have control over this project once it moves forward. **Mr. Destino** explained that the DPW Director will have a lot to say about this project and will oversee it in conjunction with the Schools -- it will be a team effort, but Mr. Hale will be taking point on the facility, he assured. **Councilor O'Hara** asked if there was money in the budget for environmental engineering. **Mr. Destino** advised they are checking these things off to ensure that the facilities are maintained for the long term and will be done correctly. They will get bids from qualified contractors, he assured.

This public hearing is closed at 8:24 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Hecht, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve the following a loan authorization of \$1,850,000 as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates One Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000) to pay costs of improvements to the Plum Cove Elementary School and Gloucester High School, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor O'Hara pointed out that while this is a lot of money, it's important to preserve the Field House for the benefit of the students to exercise, and all other types of activities. They are cognizant of the cost but that they need to give students a good environment, he pointed out.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by **ROLL CALL 9** in favor, 0 opposed, to approve the following a loan authorization of \$1,850,000 as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates One Million Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,850,000) to pay costs of improvements to the Plum Cove Elementary School and Gloucester High School, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

2. **PH2019-024: Loan Order 2019-004: Loan Authorization in the amount of \$650,000 for improvements to the Stage Fort Park Visitor Center**

Councilor Nolan stepped away from the dais at 8:27 p.m. and returned at 8:30 p.m.

This public hearing is opened at 8:27 p.m.

Those speaking in favor:

Mr. Dunn described this request for a loan order for \$650,000 for making improvements to the Stage Fort Park Visitors' Center as follows: This is a project that is on the list of recommendations for city facilities improvements. The porch is now restricted due to its poor condition. The Visitor Center's porch has had structural issues for

several years now. The porch will have to be torn down and replaced; there will be some roof work along with architectural improvements to the building itself. As a result, there will be some ADA compliance issues addressed, which was termed to not be onerous. The Community Development Director's statistics showed that the building sees 10,000 visitors come through its doors annually, representing 47 states, 7 Canadian provinces, 34 different countries. It was noted that this is about a four month project. The plans and engineering design work will be done over the summer and work will start late in September for exterior work and then move inside to finish the work.

Councilor Cox noted with this fix there's been discussion about the Visitor's Center open longer to accommodate good weather before Memorial Day and past Labor Day. She asked if during the design work they could consider if heating the building was able to be done. **Mr. Destino** confirmed there was not heat in the building and **Mr. Dunn** advised that option could be explored while they are completing the design plans.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Communications: None.

Councilor Questions: None.

This public hearing is closed at 8:32 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Hecht, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve the following a loan authorization of \$650,000 as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000) to pay costs of improvements to the Stage Fort Park Visitors' Center, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

DISCUSSION:

Council President Lundberg noting this and the previous loan order, he asked about the city's status as to its debt capacity. **Mr. Dunn** advised that the city will be "all right." He reported they haven't reviewed the totality of the Dore & Whittier Facilities Report yet. However, the way debt runs off; the way they can increase the debt budget by 2.5% a year, that the city can afford to issue debt of about +/- \$4 million a year in General Fund debt as opposed to the Enterprise Funds, and this is within that range, he conveyed.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve the following a loan authorization of \$650,000 as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$650,000) to pay costs of improvements to the Stage Fort Park Visitors' Center, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, Section 7, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

3. PH2019-025: SCP2019-004: Fuller Street #35, Map 168, Lot 14, GZO Secs. 1.9, 3.1.6, 3.2.2 and 1.7 for a special permit to exceed the maximum allowable building height, decrease the minimum lot area per dwelling unit and decrease the minimum open space per dwelling unit in the NB/R-20 district (TBC 5/28/19)

This public hearing is opened at 8:35 p.m.

Council President Lundberg conveyed at the request of the Attorney for the Applicant, this matter is continued to the Council's next regularly scheduled meeting of May 28, 2019.

This public hearing continued to May 28, 2019 at 8:35 p.m.

For Council Vote:

1. **Decision to Adopt: SCP2019-001: Chestnut Street #6-#8, Map 13, Lot 53, GZO Sec. 2.3.1(7) "Conversion to or new multi-family or apartment dwelling, four to six dwelling units;" Sec. 3.1.6(b) "Building Heights in Excess of 35 feet;" Sec. 3.2.2(a) & (b) "Dimensional Requirements for Multi-Family Dwellings and Their Accessory Uses (other than signs)"**

Councilor LeBlanc recused himself under MGL Ch. 268A for this Council vote as he has worked on the building in question and left the dais.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (LeBlanc) recused, to adopt the Special Council Permit decision for SCP2019-001 for Chestnut Street #6-#8 pursuant to Sections 2.3.1(7), 3.1.6(b), and 3.2.2(a) & (b) of the Gloucester Zoning Ordinance.

Councilor LeBlanc returned to the dais.

Unfinished Business: None.

Individual Councilor's Discussion including Reports by Appointed Councilors to Committees:

Update on the Council on Aging Board from by City Council Representative, Councilor Valerie Gilman, highlighted the following programs: There is a smart driving program offered through AARP at 10:30 – 3:00 p.m. on May 23rd at the Rose Baker Senior Center; Aging with Dignity Workshop at 10:00 am, on May 29th hosted by Care Dimensions; Elder Law Education Program at 10:00 a.m. on May 22, 10 a.m. focused on taking control of your future. The Council on Aging Board has been actively discussing matters like Aging and Dementia-Friendly Cape Ann at a workshop last week at the Gloucester Elks attended by 250 people last week.

Councilor Gilman noted that Council President Lundberg attended the COA's last board meeting talking about challenges of regional transport particularly for seniors, mentioning that he's has been active in a state-wide task force. She encouraged people to read the COA monthly newsletter.

Councilors' Requests to the Mayor:

Councilor Holmgren noted that the previous week was designated "Teacher Appreciation Week" and "Nurses Appreciation Week." She expressed that she couldn't appreciate anyone more at this time than the City Clerk's Office because last week was also "Municipal Clerk's Week," and offered her thanks to Joanne Senos, City Clerk, and her staff for all they do for the Council and city. She announced the following events: A short-term rental law informational meeting at the Sawyer Free Library this Thursday with Rep. Ferrante and Attorney Meredith Fine; the Generous Gardener's Annual Plant Sale will be held this Saturday, May 18th at the Fishermen's Wives Statue; May 30th is Action, Inc.'s Annual Breakfast at the Elks at Bass Rocks. She expressed that the North Shore Health Project is grateful for the show of support for the recent Governor Baker Dinner benefitting the Health Project.

Councilor Memhard announced the Sawyer Free Library Annual Meeting taking place on Monday, May 20th at 6:00 p.m. at the Library when the building plans will be unveiled during that meeting. He reported that the National Fish and Seafood plant on East Main Street abruptly closed. He thanked the Administration and Mayor's

“prompt, proactive and compassionate response” for the affected employees. He noted this is a 40-year major business and brand whose closure saw a loss of 150 jobs. He asked that the Mayor through the Building Inspector conduct a baseline decibel reading on the property of the National Fish and Seafood plant. He then gave an update on the Piping Plovers nest at Good Harbor Beach dunes reporting the nest has four eggs. There is an enclosure to protect the nest from predators as well as enforcement with new signage through the cooperative efforts of the DPW and Police.

Councilor Cox announced a meeting of the Downtown Development Commission on May 16th at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. She reported pursuant to the issue of short-term rentals in the city that she’s working with the Community Development Director on Airbnb regulations. There will be an art show at the Sawyer Free Library in June called, “Where is It” which will consist of art renderings or photographs and people will have to figure out where the photos or art renderings indicate or represent, highlighting she will have two photographs in that exhibition.

Councilor LeBlanc noted a meeting with him and Councilor Memhard at Rocky Neck about the installation of the city’s new kayak racks in the municipal parking lot and the neighbors who expressed concern as to the racks’ placement. He reported that the Harbormaster joined them at their visit to the site and was responsive to feedback. He reminded the Council that moving forward when matters are before the Council where such projects come before them it should behoove them to ask questions so as to account for community input and concerns.

Councilor Hecht announced there is a Monday, May 20th meeting of the newly revitalized Tourism Commission, saying that they are looking for two more dynamic people to join the Commission, and asked that they contact him if interested.

Councilor Gilman asked that a Request to the Mayor be submitted in her name and **Councilor LeBlanc’s** name through the DPW Director to install 30 m.p.h. signs on both sides of Poplar Street from Maplewood Avenue to Washington Street. She announced the Memorial Day ceremony is on Monday, May 27 Monday at 10:30 a.m. in the GHS auditorium with lunch in the cafeteria afterwards. She noted passing out the cover sheet for Student Government Day and highlighted the content in the pamphlet created for the 25 participating High School students. She asked that Councilors arrive for their next regularly scheduled meeting at 6:15 p.m. for a brief reception which the public is encouraged to attend. She reminded the Council that the participating students will speak to them at their May 28th meeting. She noted that she and Councilor Holmgren have been working on this event for a year, and that Ms. Senos has assisted them in their effort.

Councilor O’Hara thanked everyone who turned out the previous day for the Red Cross blood drive reporting that state blood banks are very low, and that yesterday was his 309th donation which is the equivalent of 38 gallons of blood. There will be another Red Cross blood drive on June 26th at the Magnolia Library from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson

Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:

Written statements submitted under Oral Communications from the following Gloucester residents:

- Caitlin Pszenny, 27 & 30 Dodge Street
- Linda McDonald, 18 Ledgemont Avenue
- Mary Ann Albert Boucher, 93 Mt. Pleasant Avenue
- Beth Brau, 9 Dodge Street
- Don Moody, 17 Dodge Street