

**Budget & Finance Committee**  
Thursday, November 7, 2019 – 5:30 p.m.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Council Conference Room – City Hall**  
**-Minutes-**

**Present: Chair, Councilor Melissa Cox; Vice Chair, Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Ken Hecht**

**Absent: None.**

**Also Present: Councilor Gilman (left at 6:47 p.m.); Kenny Costa; Jim Destino; John Dunn; Joanne Senos; Nancy Papows; Tim Good; Gary Johnstone; Bethann Brousseau; Police Chief Edward Conley; Harbormaster T. J. Ciarametaro; Assistant Harbormaster Chad Johnson; Jill Cahill; Tony Gross; Vanessa Krawczyk; Ellen Preston**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Matters were taken out of order.

**1. *Supplemental Appropriation 2020-SA-7 from the City Clerk***

**Joanne Senos**, City Clerk, explained that she appeared before B&F in FY19 requesting the transfer of funds to replace the city seal (Note: The City Clerk is the keeper of the City Seal). She reported that a vendor was difficult to find and replication of the drawing was also problematic. A local artist turned the seal rendering into a JPEG, and funds couldn't be carried over as this process took most of the fiscal year. A vendor has now been found that can replicate the seal, and she requested funding for two new city seals. **Councilor Cox** confirmed there was a charge for the artist's rendering whom **Ms. Senos** advised charged \$250, done at a discount.

**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 2020-SA-7 for \$680.00 (Six Hundred Eighty Dollars) from Account #32145-596001, City Clerk Dog License Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Transfers to the General Fund to Account #0116152-578000, City Clerk, Other Expenses, for the purpose of purchasing two additional cast iron City Seals to replace the old existing City Seal.**

**2. *Memorandum, Grant Application & Checklist from the Police Chief re: request acceptance of FY20 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Grant in the amount of \$18,649***

**Police Chief Edward Conley** explained that this is acceptance from the Drug Enforcement Agency to pay overtime only for an investigator assigned to the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. The GPD has participated in this program off and on for some years now. The city benefits from its participation because they share asset forfeiture with the DEA which in turn pays for GPD items like equipment and investigative costs. This overtime is used up completely, he indicated, on a question from **Councilor Cox**.

**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 accept under MGL c. 44, § 53A, a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) FY20 Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force Grant for \$18,649.00, reimbursing the City of Gloucester Police Department (GPD) for overtime by a GPD officer. The grant period is from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2020 and there is no required local match.**

**3. *Memorandum from Mayor's office re: request acceptance of local Cultural Council allocation for the Gloucester Cultural Council in the amount of \$10,400***

**Mr. Destino** advised this is the annual allotment of state funds from the Mass. Cultural Council to be distributed through the Gloucester Cultural Council by an application process and must be related to the arts. He highlighted that these grants support concerts, plays, art works by artists for public art (list of FY19 locally funded projects was placed on file).

**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 accept under MGL c. 44, §53A a state grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council in the amount of \$10,400 to the Gloucester Cultural Council for the purpose of supporting FY20 local cultural projects in the City of Gloucester by the Gloucester Cultural Council. The grant period is from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 and there is no required local match.**

#### **4. Memorandum from the Mayor's office re: the annual tax classification process**

**Nancy Papows**, Principal Assessor, noted that assessed values and new growth for FY20 were certified by the Department of Revenue on October 23<sup>rd</sup> enabling the start of the Tax Classification process. As noted in the Mayor's memo, there is only one action item which is adopting a residential factor. The residential factor determines the share of the tax levy that each class of property will bear and doesn't change the tax levy.

**Ms. Papows** then reviewed the Tax Classification Information for Fiscal Year 2020 (on file) with the Committee as follows:

Page 4 – A Comparison of Fiscal 2020 Values by Class: The Residential class this year represents 90.58% of the total value of the City, and Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property (CIP) class represents 9.42%. The taxable value of the city increased this year by 6.48% from FY19. Based on sales analysis, the residential class as a whole saw an increase of 6.0% from last year. Property types within that class varied from 2% to 14% with higher increases for multi-families and apartments. The Commercial and Industrial classes increased approximately 1% apiece.

Pages 5 – Fiscal Year Parcel Counts, Values, and percent of Total Taxable City Value: The table on this page shows the parcel counts and the assessed values of each class from 2007 to present.

Page 6 – Previous Classification Factors and Resulting Tax Rate: The table shows the historic shift factors adopted over the years, and the associated underlying residential shift factors. NOTE: The 1.03 shift factor was adopted last year (as it had since 2017) which shifts a portion of the residential tax burden to the CIP classes.

Page 7 – Calculating the Maximum Allowable Levy: The table shows the calculation of the maximum allowable levy for FY20. It starts with the levy limit from the prior year and added to that is the Prop 2-1/2 increase and new growth from Residential and CIP classes which results in the FY20 levy limit. Added to that is the CSO debt exclusion, and the water debt exclusion, (Pole's Hill is retired) which results in the maximum FY20 allowable levy at \$87,135,101. That figure divided by the total value of all parcels in the city results in the FY20 tax rate at a factor of 1.0 which is a tax rate of \$12.37 (down 36 cents from FY19). The tax rate at a factor of 1.0 would result in all properties paying the same rate for all classes of property. At a factor above 1.0, a portion of the residential tax levy would shift to a different class.

Page 8 – FY20 Tax Rate at a Factor of One = \$1, Shift in Tax Rate: This shows approximate tax rates that will result from the various shifts to the CIP class. The maximum shift allowed by the state is 1.5 percent (represented by 150%).

Page 9 – Comparison of Levy by Class at Various Shift Factors: This further shows the comparison -- levy by class and approximate shift of the levy and also shows the approximate excess levy capacity that results which is approximate based on a rounding of the tax rates when the tax recap is completed.

Page 10 – Change in Tax Dollars at Various Shifts: This shows changes in tax dollar for properties valued at different levels at various shifts; it shows the savings in residential and the increase in tax dollars that would be paid by the CIP taxpayers. The average single-family home for FY20 is 618,553, the median is \$445,500. For instance, a property value at \$500,000 is the closest to the average single family home in Gloucester which is \$618,553 this year. At last year's shift factor of 1.03 that would save the residential taxpayer \$20 per year while the CIP taxpayer would pay an additional \$185. The extreme as shown at the bottom of the page shows that a \$500,000 property at a maximum 1.5 shift saves the residential taxpayer \$320 annually while the CIP taxpayer would see an increase of \$3,095.

Page 11 – Open Space Discount and Residential Exemptions; Page 12 Residential Exemptions and Page 13 – Small Commercial Exemption: The remainder are not viable options for FY20.

**Councilor Cox** expressed appreciation for Ms. Papows' willingness to meet with Councilors on the FY20 Tax Classification.

**Councilor Hecht** recounted he fought last year for a tax rate of 1.0. He mentioned the commercial rate for Peabody was \$23 and in Beverly is \$25, compared to Gloucester is \$12.74. When people make real estate decisions they do consider what it will cost them in taxes, he pointed out. He conveyed that Gloucester is about half of two of

the city's competitive communities to the east, saying they should be, to attract people, and the city is appropriately priced dollars per foot for commercial real estate. Getting to 1.0 would be symbolic but isn't as practical to do, he conveyed and voiced endorsement of a 1.03 tax rate.

**Councilor Memhard** noted that from both sides of the issue as a property owner and business owner, the 1.0 rate is an equitable way to go, although not making a material difference. He conveyed it comes down to what helps incentivize investment in the commercial/industrial sector in the city. He pointed out they've seen some substantial investment in marijuana facilities, the build-out at Fuller with things happening that haven't come to fruition yet. In communities that have a good rate for residents have good commercial entities in their communities. He expressed his hope they'll get above a 9.3% commercial/industrial sector. He pointed out that there are communities that have the best rate for residents with good industrial and commercial businesses located in their city boundaries, citing Plymouth with its nuclear plant that in turn generates funding that flows into the community. While expressing appreciation for Councilor Hecht's opinion, and the Mayor's ask, he advised he would vote for a 1.0 level rate.

**Councilor Cox** advised that she also appreciated the Mayor's opinion on what is best for the city. With an increase of 20 houses and a decrease of two industrial properties, and an increase of only one commercial property, the residential tax rate isn't preventing people moving here or building homes in the city, she highlighted. She noted her belief that the tax rate isn't a factor in businesses locating in Gloucester. She expressed she is in favor of 1.0 saying it is best for the health of the city.

At 1.0, it was noted that the rates go down but assessments go up on the value of properties. A lower tax rate doesn't mean lower property taxes, City Auditor, **Kenny Costa**, confirmed.

**Councilor Hecht** put forward that with either the 1.0 or 1.03 rate, the costs of residential taxes are going up faster based on values with commercial rates rising at a slower rate. At his request **Ms. Papows** cited that in FY19 Beverly's residential rate as \$13.21/commercial \$25.41; Peabody's residential rate was \$11.01/commercial \$23.69. **Councilor Hecht** pointed out that Gloucester is a wash, saying that the bottom line is that the city is a bargain.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox , seconded by Councilor Memhard , the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2 in favor, 1 (Hecht) opposed, to recommend that the City Council adopt a RESIDENTIAL TAX CLASSIFICATION FACTOR OF 1.0 for Fiscal Year 2020.**

At the request of **Councilor Cox**, **Ms. Papows** reviewed tax exemptions that citizens may apply for each year such as: personal exemptions that meet qualifications by age or income. There are senior, veteran, legally blind, and widow exemptions. There is also a Community Preservation Act exemption and a water and sewer exemption. **Councilor Memhard** asked if these exemptions are well publicized. **Ms. Papows** advised information is on the back of the tax bill, and they have given talks at the Senior Center; information on exemptions is in the annual report, and they do offer it to taxpayers when they come into their office. Their clerks offer it to everyone, and they send reminders to the elderly as the exemptions are an annual application process. The deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup>, she noted. The eligibility date is July 1 for exemptions and applications can start. The tax bill comes out in December and they have until April 1<sup>st</sup> to make the application **Councilor Cox** suggested a city Facebook page be created to share this information to the public. **Mr. Destino** noted the launch coming soon for the city's new website and this will be incorporated into the Assessors' Office part of the new website. NOTE: For more information on citizen tax exemptions, please call: 978-281-9715 or go to [www.gloucester-ma.gov](http://www.gloucester-ma.gov).

**5. Memorandum from the CFO re: request amendment to Loan Order 2018-007 (\$1,600,000) by increasing it to \$2,500,000**

**John Dunn**, CFO, explained there were matters that are things that drove costs of the Harbormaster's building renovations, such as what was behind walls and ceilings. There were five bids that all came in higher than expected. The base bid is about \$1.8 million, and the first alternate plan is what the city is going with. When construction costs rise above \$1.5 million, they must hire an Owner's Project Manager which wasn't originally budgeted; that added another \$115,000 to the project. He noted there is a concern for the contingency which is small, but presuming the loan authorization increase goes forward the city can commit to the second floor alternative plan which encompass the Harbormaster's Office are saying that this ensures that the project will be done correctly. A history of pinching pennies hasn't worked well, he added.

**Councilor Cox** expressed agreement with Mr. Dunn's assessment of the project as it stood. She mentioned that the original loan authorization was increased by \$400,000 and questioned the loan language showing it as a base of \$1.6 million going to \$2.5 million. **Mr. Dunn** explained that the original loan order was for \$1.6 million and was

increased by \$400,000 in 2018. Technically the \$400,000 doesn't exist as he didn't go out for that funding, so it is \$1.6 million to \$2.5 million. What the Council is doing is approving the \$2.5 million overall not an incremental increase, he pointed out. There is a small contingency of about \$140,000, **Councilor Cox** confirmed. **Jill Cahill**, Community Development Director, expressed the city is confident in obtaining another \$200,000 more in grant funds from the Seaport Economic Council and the city will know by the end of November. That \$200,000 is tied to the Alternate 1 plan, **Mr. Dunn** added.

**Councilor Memhard** asked about the city's commitment to the lease of the Harbormaster's building with National Grid saying that National Grid doesn't want the city to own the building and neither does the city want to own it, and what it costs the city. **Harbormaster T.J. Ciarametaro** explained that given the remediation project surrounding that area of the water sheet, the city doesn't want to own the property from a liability standpoint. The city is in Year 2 of a 30-year lease with two ten-year options for a total of 50 years. There is a 2% accelerator on the lease which he indicated which is standard, and it is a triple net commercial lease. This is a city building without the liability, he added. **Ms. Cahill** noted that the useful life of the building with the renovations is 30 years. The Harbormaster reminded the Committee that they'd already undertaken the waterside infrastructure project at about \$1.0 million. If they take the \$600,000 in federal and state grants, the useful life of the assets with depreciation on the water side is 25 years. The depreciation of the assets is lesser term than the overall lease which was a large part of the decision-making process. He advised that the lease is about \$48,000 a year which is well below any other commercial waterfront property with slips and shore side plus the 3,800 sq. ft. facility.

**Councilor Cox** asked about anticipated revenues that may come out of this renovation project. Harbormaster Ciarametaro conveyed they are seeing increasing revenue coming in. He advised he'll be back before the Committee once Waterways Retained Earnings are certified to put forward a plan for additional moorings for overnight accommodations. He mentioned that each year over the last three years there's been an increasing popularity of the city's water sheet; however, the numbers are skewed as not every transient boat anchors on the city transient moorings as there are private transient moorings also available. More boats are coming here, he conveyed; and with the Annisquam River dredging this should bring even more water tourism to the city by cutting a 17 mile detour to get to Gloucester. This is the final leg for the city being on par and competitive with ports of like size. A boater spends an average \$250 a night in the city, **Ms. Cahill** pointed out. **Councilor Cox** asked from a tourism perspective if there's been surveys through city restaurants to learn where people are visiting from and how they come to the city. **Ms. Cahill** noted Discover Gloucester brings together people at the end of the season for recap session, and it was put forward this past season was quite good, with the Visitor Center numbers increasing by 1,500. **Councilor Cox** advised she'd like to see more feedback through surveys. The Harbormaster noted that Discover Gloucester will have a permanent place with them and suggested that obtaining this information should grow. The Harbormaster added that the Building Committee has spent a great deal of time being fiscally responsible for this building renovation \$2.5 million project which is as streamlined as possible. There were unforeseen issues, he pointed out. It is anticipated this renovation will be finished by mid-April, it was confirmed.

**Councilor Hecht** expressed his endorsement of the project but that he stated he wasn't enamored of the costs. This is spending over \$500 per foot for rehabilitation, he indicated. He offered briefly his idea for a plan for the DPW to develop its own staffed internal construction company.

**Mr. Dunn** requested that at the Council meeting there be a Reconsideration of the vote on the Loan Authorization so that the city can promptly sign the contract for the Owner's Project Manager and move forward signing the contract with the winning bidder. The maximum to be borrowed is \$1.5 million with the \$1 million SEC grant, but the loan order has to be for the gross amount of the project, he explained; and should the additional \$200,000 be received the amount to be borrowed would be dropped accordingly.

**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 as follows:**

**Ordered: That Loan Order 2018-007, Certificate of Vote 2018-129 of this Council approved July 24, 2018 authorizing the borrowing of \$1,600,000 to pay costs of improvements to the Gloucester Harbormaster facilities and establish a visiting boater center, including costs incidental or related thereto, is amended in its entirety to provide as follows:**

**Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,500,000) to pay costs of improvements to the Gloucester Harbormaster facilities and establish a visiting boater 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.

**6. *Special Budgetary Transfer Requests 2020-SBT-1 through -6 from the Treasurer/Collector***

**Mr. Dunn** reviewed that there exist some account deficits in the Police Department Parking Salaries when the AFSME A contract settled and for Animal Control; in the Shellfish overtime account, along with two insurance accounts, one that covers building insurance and another that covers the city's flood insurance. The insurance came in slightly higher than expected but there may be credits realized through the year, he pointed out.

**Councilor Cox** asked about the \$8,000 for Animal Control. **Mr. Dunn** pointed out that was due to not just the contract settlement but a reclassification. Last year they didn't have the part-time person for the fiscal entire year. She also asked why the insurances were so much. **Mr. Dunn** advised it is overall, and based on experience. They can go for a number of years with flat premiums because they aren't using it, but if there are a couple of years with losses, premiums rise. This is building, general liability, police, and umbrella liability insurance, and covers everything including School liability. He noted he increased and decreased some caps, and the net was to increase overall. Several buildings weren't in at the right amount, and they don't want to be in the position of being caught short; there are also the value of improved city buildings which needs to be included, he added.

**Councilor Cox** urged there be two full time parking attendants. **Mr. Destino** noted that there is a project in the offing for new meters and kiosks and everything is being considered including reconfiguring parking spaces and personnel.

**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 Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-1 in the amount of \$3,000 from Account #0192151-517004, Pension/Regular Contributory, Pension Retirement Fund, to Account #0121851-511000, Police Parking, Salaries, for the purpose of funding a projected account deficit.

**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 Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-2 in the amount of \$1,500 from Account #0192151-517004, Pension/Regular Contributory, Pension Retirement Fund, to Account #0121851-511300, Police Parking, Wages-Hourly Permanent, for the purpose of funding a projected account deficit.

**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 Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-3 in the amount of \$8,000 from Account #0192151-517004, Pension/Regular Contributory, Pension Retirement Fund, to Account #0129251-511000, Police - Animal Control, Salaries, for the purpose of funding a projected account deficit.

**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 Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-4 in the amount of \$2,000 from Account #0192151-517004, Pension/Regular Contributory, Pension Retirement Fund, to Account #0129651-513000, Shellfish Control, Overtime, for the purpose of funding an actual account deficit.

**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 Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-5 in the amount of \$50,000 from Account #0192151-517004, Pension/Regular Contributory, Pension Retirement Fund, to Account #0194552-574001 Liability Insurance, Building Insurance, for the purpose of funding an actual account deficit**

**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 Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-6 in the amount of \$10,000 from Account #0192151-517004, Pension/Regular Contributory, Pension Retirement Fund, to Account #0194552-574002 Liability Insurance, Flood Insurance, for the purpose of funding an actual account deficit**

**7. *Acceptance of a donation from the Magnolia Pier Fundraising Committee to support the rebuilding of the Magnolia Pier***

**Ted Costa**, Chair of the Magnolia Pier Fundraising Committee, advised the Committee raised in excess of \$180,650.39. He expressed the hope that at the November 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting he and the Committee would present their check to the city. Noting that a donation came from a financial institution and another from a Trust that is in process, the final cash donation could go higher, he indicated. **Councilor Cox** offered her compliments to the Committee expressing appreciation for their efforts in this successful public/private partnership.

This matter will come forward as a scheduled Council Presentation on November 12, 2019.

**8. *Memorandum from Grants Administrator re: recommendations from the Community Preservation Committee for Round 10, FY19 funding:***

- A. Young Legends Street Hockey                      Stage Fort Park Hockey Rink                      \$100,000  
 Link to application on city's website. Go to <http://gloucester-ma.gov/index.aspx?nid=103>  
 And choose "Young Legends Street Hockey" or click on this link: [Young Legends Street Hockey](#)

**Carl Ellis, III** and **Carl Ellis, IV**, 5 Bray Street, were present to represent the Young Legends Street Hockey organization. Additionally, Jaimie Corliss, Grants Manager from the Community Development Department was present with Ellen Preston of the Community Preservation Committee. **Mr. Ellis, IV**, advised that his group is looking to convert the basketball court at Stage Fort Park into a Street Hockey rink. Total estimated costs of this project are \$306,894. He explained that Young Legends started in 2004 and has about now about 80 children involved. **Mr. Ellis the IV** was pointed out as the designer of the rink. A business plan was noted in the application. They have 9-14 year olds that come out every summer, holding mini-camps, saying their charges are nominal, \$50 for the program and \$15 for the mini-camp. The rink is a large part of their future plans for all community members to use this rink and to expand programming to high school aged children and to adults to build street hockey, noted as less expensive than buying ice time with the only equipment requirement is a hockey stick and sneakers. This will grow Gloucester's program to create a hub of street hockey, he offered. He noted they've talked extensively with Fitchburg which is trying to build its fourth rink, saying that Fitchburg is considered the founding community for street hockey. He expressed the Street Legend's vision of attracting teams from all over the country as well as from Canada to the city with this new rink, envisioning holding international street hockey competitions.

As to other funding sources for this project, **Mr. Ellis, IV**, advised they have a \$10,000 pledge from the Gloucester Fisherman Athletic Association and that they are seeking funding from other entities, and have raised \$8,000 from other sources. **Ms. Corliss** noted that the CPA funding would help the Street Legends organization to leverage their grants. **Councilors Cox** and **Memhard** encouraged Messrs. Ellis to continue to raise funds. **Mr. Ellis, IV**, noted they raised about \$2,000 this summer from an event, and are constantly trying to be inventive to create events to raise funds. He conveyed they're talking to Bower Hockey (a hockey equipment company) and the Boston Bruins but those things take time, especially sponsorships. **Ms. Corliss** added that the CPA funding also shows that the city is on board and committed.

**Councilor Cox** advised that she spoke with Mike Hale, DPW Director, who told her that nothing will happen until this project is fully funded. She also inquired with Mr. Hale as to the current basketball courts mentioning the courts at Burnham's Field which are heavily used during the summer because she didn't want to take away something that's being used. As with any other city asset, she pointed out that all scheduling once the rink is built

will need to be through the DPW office, and it is open to the public outside of those bookings. She asked what the organization is going to give back to the community. The prices for the programs offered, she noted, are relatively low. **Mr. Ellis, IV**, highlighted they were considering establishing a scholarship for their players moving on to college and could potentially run it through the High School, which the board is moving towards. They would like to do free clinics and camps to teach street hockey skills. **Councilor Cox** noted that street hockey can be played on rollerblades. **Mr. Ellis, IV** indicated that it can be played in sneakers or on rollerblades. The rink can have a puck league and a league using balls.

**Mr. Destino** advised he and the Mayor are fully in favor of this application, saying that the street hockey fits better into their planning with their plans for the 400<sup>th</sup>. He offered that this is a nice facility that will be well built, open to the public. The Legends Street Hockey will take care of the facility and operate it. They have some great conceptual ideas, and he expressed they will be successful in their fundraising, and it is a unique way to partner with city schools to keep children active. He offered his commendation to “the Carl’s” saying that this project has growth potential and benefits, and reiterated his support. He added that this sport is inexpensive to play, only needing a stick and a ball.

**Councilor Cox** also offered her support for the application with **Ellen Preston**, Community Preservation Committee member saying that this is a good use of taxpayer money and the application has the CPC’s full support.

**Mr. Destino** confirmed for the Committee that the maintenance will be by the Street Legends organization and will run through the DPW as will scheduling. **Councilor Memhard** asked how one of these courts holds up over time with use. **Mr. Ellis, III**, conveyed that they did a great deal of research and spoke with board and tile manufacturers and looked at rinks. They picked Athletica which bought out Becker Boards which is what the O’Maley Rink has. He noted they’ll use anodized aluminum panels that are bolted together and surfaced with polyethylene. That surface, he indicated, holds up longer especially in a salt water laden environment. The tile has a 15 year warranty. They priced seal coat for half the cost of what a tennis court would require. The fencing will be galvanized steel as it is better in the open air environment which will be installed on the side closest to the Little League of the side field. The whole rink will be enclosed by four to six foot fencing to keep the balls/pucks within the rink.

**Councilor Memhard** asked if a viewing platform will be installed. **Mr. Ellis, IV**, advised there are bleachers planned. The benches where the children sit will be an open concept so that the view to the water will remain.

B&F Committee Site Visit: Saturday, Nov. 16 at 11:00 a.m. meeting at the basketball court at Stage Fort Park.

**A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Dana C. Jorgensson*

Clerk of Committees

**DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:**

- Mass Cultural Council – Online Toolkit for Local Cultural Councils, list of Gloucester Cultural Council arts funding distribution for FY2019
- Young Legends Street Hockey Business Plan from Messrs. Ellis