

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, January 28, 2020– 7:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

-MINUTES-

Present: Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc, Jr.; Vice Chair, Councilor Valerie Gilman; Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Jennifer Holmgren; Councilor John McCarthy; Scott Memhard; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor James O’Hara; Councilor Barry Pett

Absent: None.

Also Present: Mayor Sefatia Romeo-Theken; Joanne Senos; Kenny Costa; John Dunn; Mike Hale; Jill Cahill; Fire Chief Eric Smith; Assistant Fire Chief Joseph Aiello; James Pope; Vanessa Krawczyk; Paul Russo

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. The Council President announced that the meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law.

Flag Salute & Moment of Silence.**Oral Communications:**

Name: Susannah Altenburger

Address: No address given

Subject: Spoke of designing boats in Gloucester and about issues facing the fishing industry. She submitted a document, “Report, 25 Years of Needless Damage to a lot of New England’s Fishing Industry and Ecology,” and urged discussion on these issues and how federal law is failing the fishing industry.

Presentations/Commendations:

1 of 1: Jill Cahill, Community Development Director re: Community Development Block Grant Community Plan & Community Needs Assessment

Ms. Cahill, accompanied by Paul Russo of the Community Development Department (ComDev) conveyed the following information: The Community Development Department runs the city’s Community Development Block Grant program, a federal program of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Department which makes available about \$680,000 a year to be distributed through four priorities. ComDev is in the process of developing a Consolidated Five Year Development Plan (Plan) which is required by HUD. The city takes a “snapshot” of the social demographic and economic market conditions by engaging residents and businesses to help outline the city’s spending priorities for the next five years. This plan prioritizes the city’s comprehensive strategy on how to address identified needs. The four categories are: Housing; Economic Development; Public Services with all non-profits fall under this category which is capped at 15% of the overall total grant funding; and Public Facilities and Infrastructure. She mentioned working with Mr. Russo to gather community information, and advised that through HOME funds the city has been able to aid such projects as Harbor Village (low-moderate income affordable housing). In the Economic Development category small business loans have been granted for businesses such as Common Crow. Public Services grant funding has helped many city non-profits, as well as funding public facilities projects, working closely with the Public Works Department, for projects for ADA accessibility and funding a portion of the handicap accessibility project for the Stage Fort Park Visitor’s Center. A key element of this grant is that at least 70% of the funds must benefit low to moderate income individuals to meet a national objective of HUD. She noted that traditional government services aren’t eligible for funding.

Ms. Cahill mentioned that one of the ways to reach out to residents on this information gathering is through a survey which will be on the city’s website or by survey hard copy through the Mayor’s Office and the Community Development Department at the City Hall Annex. Representatives from her department will be at city public events throughout the coming weeks to learn where the community’s priorities are, as well as visiting such venues as Pathways for Children, the Open Door Food Pantry. She conveyed they’ve done some small group interviews and had a public meeting in December. They’re looking to engage as many people as possible in the community, noting that the survey will be live for two weeks in order to get the information to HUD by its deadline. She assured she would forward the survey link to the Council. The report is due to HUD in mid-May.

COUNCILOR QUESTIONS:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor McCarthy, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint David Rosen to the Planning Board, TTE 02/14/22.

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appoint David Rosen to the Planning Board, TTE 02/14/22.

Zoning Board of Appeals	Catherine Schlichte (to full member)	TTE 02/14/23
	Peter Cannavo (alternate member)	TTE 02/14/22

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor McCarthy, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Catherine Schlichte as a full member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/23.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox asked if the Home Rule Petition was received on the membership on two board issue to which **Joanne Senos**, City Clerk, indicated that the Council had not yet received a reply on the Home Rule Petition. She noted that legislative process typically takes six months to a year to be completed. **Council President LeBlanc** advised that Ms. Schlichte had said at the O&A meeting that if there was a conflict of interest that she would recuse herself.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appoint Catherine Schlichte as a full member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/23.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Peter Cannavo as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/22.

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by O’Hara, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appoint Peter Cannavo as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/22.

Consent Agenda:

• **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**

Community Preservation Committee	Jennifer-Lee Levitz Aronson (GHA Rep.)	TTE 02/14/21
	Henry McCarl	TTE 02/14/23
	Roseanne Cody	TTE 02/14/23
Council on Aging	Al Cottone, David Leveille, Joseph Orlando, Mark Ring, Angela Sanfilippo, Paul Vitale	TTE 02/14/23
Fisheries Commission	Shayla Kaufmann Swigart	TTE 02/14/23
Gloucester Cultural Council	Charles Nazarian, David Porper	TTE 02/14/23
Historic District Commission	Sandy Barry, Jude Seminara	TTE 02/14/23
Historical Commission	Howard “Ted” Costa	TTE 02/14/23
Magnolia Pier Advisory Committee	Alexander Monell	TTE 02/14/23
Magnolia Woods Oversight & Advisory Committee	Henry McCarl, Jane Remsen	TTE 02/14/25
Planning Board	Caitlyn Pszenny	TTE 02/14/23
Tourism Commission	Anthony Gross, Russell Sherman	TTE 02/14/23
Waterways Board		

• **MAYOR’S REPORT**

1. Memorandum from HR Director re: Mayoral Staff Reappointments:

Chief Financial Officer	John Dunn	TTE 02/14/22	(Refer O&A)
Community Development Director	Jill Cahill	TTE 02/14/22	(Refer O&A)
2. New Appointments:

Timothy Wood	Economic Development & Industrial Corp.	TTE 07/01/23	(Refer O&A)
Mauiza Alves	Human Rights Commission	TTE 02/14/23	(Refer O&A)
3. Memorandum from Shellfish Constable re: request amendment to GCO Ch. 20 “Shellfish, Seaworms & Eels,” Sec. 5 “Taking of Shellfish from contaminated areas” (Refer O&A)

4. Memorandum from Shellfish Constable re: request amendment to GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms & Eels," Sec. 7 "Closing of flats Shellfish taking" (Refer O&A)
5. Memorandum from Shellfish Constable re: request amendment to GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms & Eels," Sec. 29 "Fees" (Refer O&A)
6. Memorandum from Shellfish Constable re: request amendment to GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms & Eels," Sec. 30(a) "Limits (shellfish, noncommercial)" (Refer O&A)
7. Memorandum from Shellfish Constable re: request amendment to GCO Ch. 20 "Shellfish, Seaworms & Eels," Sec. 30 (b) Limits (shellfish, noncommercial)" (Refer O&A)
8. Memorandum from Harbormaster re: request amendment to GCO Ch. 10 "Waterways Administration," Sec. 87 "Harbormaster patrol Details" (Refer O&A)
9. Memorandum from General Counsel re: request Article 97 Petition to the Massachusetts Legislature to dispose of Mattos Playground For the combined school project (Refer P&D)
10. Memorandum, Grant Application & Checklist from the Police Chief re: request acceptance of a FY20 Traffic Enforcement Grant in The amount of \$10,500 (Refer B&F)
11. Memorandum, Grant Application & Checklist from the Public Health Director re: request acceptance of an Overdose Data to Action Grant (amendment to existing SAPC grant) in the amount of \$100,000 (Refer B&F)
12. Memorandum, Grant Application & Checklist from the Planning Director re: request acceptance of a Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program Public Access Charging Grant in the amount of \$8,429.72 (Refer B&F)
13. Supplemental Appropriation-Budgetary Request (2020-SA-16) from the Harbormaster (Refer B&F)
14. Supplemental Appropriation-Budgetary Request (2020-SA-17) from the Harbormaster (Refer B&F)
15. Supplemental Appropriation-Budgetary Request (2020-SA-18) from the Harbormaster (Refer B&F)
16. Supplemental Appropriation-Budgetary Request (2020-SA-19) from the Harbormaster (Refer B&F)
17. Memorandum & Supplemental Appropriation-Budgetary Request (2020-SA-20) from the Harbormaster (Refer B&F)
18. Memorandum from the CFO re: loan authorization request in the amount of \$3,300,000 for water capital projects (Refer B&F)
19. Memorandum from the CFO re: loan authorization request in the amount of \$3,730,000 for sewer capital projects (Refer B&F)
20. Memorandum from the CFO re: loan authorization request in the amount of \$435,000 for the Brier Neck Neighborhood paving Betterment
 - **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
1. Letter from Gloucester Contributory Retirement System Board re: Annual Expense Budget (Info Only)
 - **INFORMATION ONLY**
 - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
1. SCP2020-001: Wingsaersheek Road #105, Map 261, Lot 31, GZO Sec. 3.1.6(b) "Building Heights in Excess of 35 Feet" in the R-20 Low/Medium Density Residential District (Refer P&D)
2. PP2020-001: Request by Comcast to install 340' +/- of 4" PVC conduit and a 17"x30" vault over conduit located in sidewalk at Rogers Street #102 (Refer P&D)
 - **COUNCILORS ORDERS**
1. CC2020-001 (LeBlanc): request review of GCO Ch. 2 "Administration," Division 8 "Human Rights Commission" (Refer O&A)
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
1. City Council Meeting: 01/14/2020 (Approve/File)
2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 01/23/2020; O&A 01/20/2020 (no meeting), O&A Special 01/21/2020; P&D 01/22/2020 (no Meeting) (Approve/File)

Items to be added/deleted from the Consent Agenda:

Councilor Cox asked to remove under Approval of Minutes, Item #2 B&F 01/23/2020 minutes. She explained that the first item on page 1 of the January 23, 2020 minutes pursuant to the acceptance of the Daughters of the American Revolution annual contribution to the Archives Committee shows an incorrect account number and name and offered the following amendment by moving: "To STRIKE "Department Vault Construction Fund in Fund 3318." and ADD "Committee Donation Fund in Fund 3305." **Councilor Memhard** seconded.

By a unanimous vote of the City Council the motion to accept a \$500 donation from the Daughters of the American Revolution in the minutes of the B&F Committee meeting of January 23, 2020 was amended by STRIKING "Department Vault Construction Fund in Fund 3318." and ADD "Committee Donation Fund in Fund 3305." .

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously by the Council to accept the amended January 23, 2020 Budget & Finance Committee minutes as presented.

Councilor Gilman asked to remove under Approval of Minutes, Item #1 City Council 01/14/2020 minutes and moved to amend them as follows: to STRIKE wherever the phrase appears in the January 14, 2020 City Council Minutes under SCP2019-008, "1,348 square feet" associated with "Total Proposed Minimum Open Space per dwelling unit" and ADDING, "**1,358 square feet.**" **Councilor Holmgren** seconded.

She explained this was her scrivener's error and expressed she was pleased to see this corrected in the minutes.

By a unanimous vote of the Council, the minutes of the January 14, 2020 City Council meeting the amendments to STRIKE wherever the phrase appears in the January 14, 2020 City Council Minutes under SCP2019-008, "1,348 square feet" and ADDING, "1,358 square feet.**" By a unanimous vote of the Council accepted the January 14, 2020 City Council minutes as amended.**

Councilor Nolan asked to pull under “Confirmation of Reappointments” the reappointment of Caitlyn Pszenny to the Tourism Commission. He explained that Ms. Pszenny has yet to be sworn in and asked that her reappointment appear under the same heading on the Council’s February 11, 2020 meeting agenda to give Ms. Pszenny more time. **By a unanimous vote of the Council, Ms. Pszenny’s Confirmation of Reappointment will appear on the February 11, 2020 City Council Consent Agenda.**

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

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: January 23

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a donation from the Cape Ann Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the amount of \$500.00 for the Archives Department for the purpose of funding the Archives Committee Donation Fund in Fund 3305.

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a donation from the Cape Ann Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the amount of \$500.00 for the Archives Department for the purpose of funding the Archives Committee Donation Fund in Fund 3305.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, cash donations from members of the Cape Ann community and business partners to the Cape Ann Office of Veterans’ Services for the purpose of supporting on-going efforts to serve Veterans and Active Duty military for a total of \$2,850.00.

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, cash donations from members of the Cape Ann community and business partners to the Cape Ann Office of Veterans’ Services for the purpose of supporting on-going efforts to serve Veterans and Active Duty military for a total of \$2,850.00.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a Massachusetts State FY2020 Council on Aging Formula Grant Allocation from the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs for a total of \$88,848. There’s no local matching requirements for the state grant and the grant period is from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox advised this is an annual grant based on the number of seniors in the city and with the new federal census this number is expected to rise.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 favor, 0 opposed, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a Massachusetts State FY2020 Council on Aging Formula Grant Allocation from the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs for a total of \$88,848. There’s no local matching requirements for the state grant and the grant period is from July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, second by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL

c. 44, §53A, a state FY 20 Washer-Extractor Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services for \$6,573.13 for the purpose of purchasing a washer-extractor for cleaning firefighter equipment after exposure to smoke and other toxic chemicals. A national standard set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on the care and cleaning of structural firefighting gear delineates specific types of machines that should be used to effectively remove cancer-causing chemicals after each fire. All washer-extractors purchased with this grant will meet this standard, and enable personnel to wear clean gear each time they leave the fire station for an emergency.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox conveyed that the plan is to locate the new washer-extractor at the Bay View Station which can support the washer-extractor as it's not on a septic system, she noted.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state FY 20 Washer-Extractor Grant from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, Department of Fire Services for \$6,573.13 for the purpose of purchasing a washer-extractor for cleaning firefighter equipment after exposure to smoke and other toxic chemicals. A national standard set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) on the care and cleaning of structural firefighting gear delineates specific types of machines that should be used to effectively remove cancer-causing chemicals after each fire. All washer-extractors purchased with this grant will meet this standard, and enable personnel to wear clean gear each time they leave the fire station for an emergency.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2020-SA-13 in the amount of \$130,000.00 (One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars) from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Assessors - Revaluation-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #3210-359000 to Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Assessors – Revaluation - Property Data Services, Account #32105-530016 to fund the city's Property Revaluation contracts.

DISCUSSION: None.

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 Supplemental Appropriation 2020-SA-13 in the amount of \$130,000.00 (One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars) from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Assessors - Revaluation-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #3210-359000 to Receipts Reserved for Appropriation, Assessors – Revaluation - Property Data Services, Account #32105-530016 to fund the city's Property Revaluation contracts.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by Roll Call 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider the vote on 2020-SA-13 for \$130,000.

MOTION FAILS.

Councilor Cox brought the following two motions to the floor:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2020-SA-14 in the amount of \$400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Water Enterprise Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance – Retained Earnings (“Free Cash”), Account #6000-359000 to Water Enterprise Fund, Water Capital Outlay, Account #600058-580000 to fund crack identification and repairs at the West Gloucester Water Treatment Plant with remaining funds will be used to purchase water meters and related equipment inventory for the city’s water meter replacement program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve

Supplemental Appropriation 2020-SA-15 in the amount of \$150,000.00 (One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) from the Sewer Enterprise Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance – Retained Earnings (“Free Cash”), Account #6400-359000 to Sewer Enterprise Fund, Water Meter and Parts, Account #640058-588501 to purchase water meters and related equipment inventory for the city’s water meter replacement program.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox deferred comment to **Mike Hale**, Public Works Director, who addressed the issues as follows pursuant to 2020-SA-14 and -15: During this past budget process the meter replacement program funding was put on hold until the Water Enterprise Free Cash was made available and to then seek funding mid-way through the fiscal year. He reported that water meters are critical to revenue for water and waste water, indicating that the meter replacement program is very important to the city. Industry standards say that meters should be replaced every 10 years, and the city is on a 20 year replacement cycle, which he noted as not uncommon for most water companies to be that far off cycle.

Speaking to the West Gloucester Water Treatment Plant, **Mr. Hale** explained that in April 2019 there was a small seismic event about 14 miles off of Gloucester, and it was noted there were structural fractures in the masonry walls. They’ve been studying those cracks since then with structural engineers viewing the facility and placing crack gauges. However, there is a need to make a more in-depth study to determine the long-term repairs for those cracks, he pointed out, and some of this funding will go towards that engineering.

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 Supplemental Appropriation 2020-SA-14 in the amount of \$400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Water Enterprise Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance – Retained Earnings (“Free Cash”), Account #6000-359000 to Water Enterprise Fund, Water Capital Outlay, Account #600058-580000 to fund crack identification and repairs at the West Gloucester

Water Treatment Plant with remaining funds will be used to purchase water meters and related equipment inventory for the city's water meter replacement program.

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 Supplemental Appropriation 2020-SA-15 in the amount of \$150,000.00 (One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars) from the Sewer Enterprise Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance – Retained Earnings (“Free Cash”), Account #6400-359000 to Sewer Enterprise Fund, Water Meter and Parts, Account #640058-588501 to purchase water meters and related equipment inventory for the city's water meter replacement program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-7 in the amount of \$270,600 from Fire, Salaries, Account #0122051-511000 to Fire, Capital Outlay-Equipment, Account #0122058-585000, for the purpose of funding the purchase of the following capital items totaling \$270,600:

- 15 month subscription for Fire personnel scheduling software at \$5,600;
- Funding for the 1st year of a 3-yr. lease for a pick-up and SUV plus fit-out at \$40,000;
- Purchase of 13 Toughpads plus mounting and mounting hardware at \$105,000.
- Purchase of 19 mobile radios and associated hardware at \$120,000.

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-7 in the amount of \$270,600 from Fire, Salaries, Account #0122051-511000 to Fire, Capital Outlay-Equipment, Account #0122058-585000, for the purpose of funding the purchase of the following capital items totaling \$270,600:

- 15 month subscription for Fire personnel scheduling software at \$5,600;
- Funding for the 1st year of a 3-yr. lease for a pick-up and SUV plus fit-out at \$40,000;
- Purchase of 13 Toughpads plus mounting and mounting hardware at \$105,000.
- Purchase of 19 mobile radios and associated hardware at \$120,000.

Ordinances & Administration: January 21 – Special Meeting

There are no matters for Council action under this heading.

Planning & Development: January 22 - NO MEETING

Scheduled Public Hearings:

1. PH2020-001: Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Art. II, Div. 2 “Traffic Commission” re: number of members and membership

This public hearing is opened at 7:36 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: None.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Communications: None.

Councilor Questions:

Councilor Pett asked where this action originated. **Council President LeBlanc** explained this was his Council Order was a result through having attended many Traffic Commission meetings as the former O&A Chair. He mentioned that in the last several meetings he attended there were questions by the Commission members about enforcement; what the DPW can and can't do. He recounted that **Councilor McCarthy** had indicated when he was the city's Police Chief that there was a need to make these changes. He added that after discussion with the Mayor, it was determined that there should be a staff member representing the DPW, Fire and Police Departments appointed to the Traffic Commission as members. Chief Ed Conley has expressed his agreement to the expansion of the Commission membership to include a current Police Officer, and Mr. Hale also agreed that this would be helpful, he reported. He added that it will mean answers will be given at the meeting and then the Commission can make their recommendations to the Council all that more complete. **Councilor Pett** offered that the appointed city staff on the Commission will make a stronger Commission.

Councilor McCarthy noted during his years on the Police Department he thought it was necessary there be Police staff representation on the Commission for continuity, informational purposes, and for enforcement -- what can and can't be enforced. He noted there is a retired Police Officer 10+ years out from his active service currently serving as a member of the Commission. While that member has institutional memory, he is not up to date on current practices, and having a current officer as a member will be very helpful. This will ensure that what comes forward after a vote of the Council will be able to be instituted and enforced appropriately.

Councilor Gilman offered her support to the amendment saying not only is the action timely but is also being fiscally responsible by having department managers giving their input with the Commission. Decisions will be consistent with what is available in the city budget.

Councilor O'Hara, noted that the present Commission has done a great job under the stewardship of Robert Ryan. He asked how the seven members will be broken out. **Council President LeBlanc** reviewed that: one representative each of the Fire and Police Departments and one from the Public Works Department, and four members will be At Large and come forward via an appointment through the Mayor. **Councilor O'Hara** expressed concern for filling open slots for volunteer positions on boards, commissions and committees and the expansion of membership for the Commission. **Council President LeBlanc** pointed out that the At Large members' slots on the Commission are already filled. If one member leaves, there will be an appointment through the Mayor. The other three representatives will be designated from three city departments, he reiterated.

Councilor Cox asked if the department representatives will be voting members. **Council President LeBlanc** indicated they would be ex-officio non-voting. She highlighted that would mean there would be four voting members, saying it should be an odd number of voting members in case of a tie vote, and the recommendation is for four members At Large not five. **Council President LeBlanc** pointed out that the motion can be amended to fix the issue.

Councilor Pett noted that one at large member on the Commission was an attorney and asked if that was a specific requirement. **Council President LeBlanc** indicated that the person who previously served on the Commission happened to be a lawyer but is not required by Ordinance.

Councilor Holmgren expressed her support even with the potential a main motion amendment she indicated that this will make it easier for the Council if there are more members who are on the "front lines" answering questions during Commission meetings. She expressed her appreciation for the Council President's initiative.
This public hearing is closed at 7:46 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Art. II, Div. 2 "Traffic Commission," Sec. 22-32 "Composition; appointment; terms of members" by STRIKING the words "five members" and ADDING in its place as follows: "seven members comprised of a member of the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works and four resident members who shall be at-large members. These members shall be...."

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Gilman offered an amendment to the main motion: TO STRIKE THE PHRASE, "seven members comprised of a member of the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works and four" and ADD as follows, "eight members comprised of an ex-officio member of the Fire Department, Police Department,

Department of Public works and five...” **Councilor Holmgren** seconded. She mentioned that it is intended that the ex-officio members are non-voting members.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council, to Amend Sec. 22-32 “Composition; appointment; terms of members” by STRIKING the phrase, “seven members comprised of a member of the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public Works and four” and ADD as follows, “eight members comprised of an ex-officio member of the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public works and five...”

AMENDMENT TO THE MAIN MOTION PASSES.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Art. II, Div. 2 “Traffic Commission,” Sec. 22-32 “Composition; appointment; terms of members” the words “five members” and ADDING as follows: “eight members comprised of an ex-officio member of the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public works and five” resident members who shall be at-large members. These members shall be....”

For Council Vote:

1. City Council Commendation to The Grace Center

Councilor Holmgren moved the adoption of The Grace Center Commendation. She offered her thanks to the Grace Center staff and board members in attendance and on behalf of the city of Gloucester and the City Council.

Stephen Voysey, Program Director, The Grace Center, spoke of the fine staff who keep the Center running and serving their clientele, and mentioned their volunteers who help folks with the greatest needs. He noted it wouldn’t work without the full support of the Mayor, the City Council, the Police and Fire Departments saying it was a tremendous team effort.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Holmgren, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to adopt the following Commendation:

**“GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL
Be it Hereby Known to All that the Gloucester City Council Commends
The Grace Center**

WHEREAS, the Grace Center is celebrating many years of working with and for an underserved community; and

WHEREAS, for these many years the Grace Center staff and volunteers have graced us; and

WHEREAS, they are always kind and serve judgement in the interests of the greater good; and

WHEREAS, they are multitalented and add those talents immeasurably every day to this important work;

THEREFORE, the Gloucester City Council, on a meeting assembled and in gratitude, thank the Grace Center staff for their generosity of spirit and commitment to the City of Gloucester.”

The City Council recessed at 7:52 p.m. and reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

2. City Council Civility Resolution

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to adopt the Gloucester City Council Civility Resolution as follows:

**“GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL
CIVILITY RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS: On this 28th day of January 2020.

WHEREAS: Gloucester is a special place because we have a long history of community.

WHEREAS: In collaboration with the Mayor and City Administration, the City Council is proud to continue our community spirit by honoring our commitments to respectfulness, equality, non-discrimination, and keeping all our people safe.

WHEREAS: Any acts of violence, discrimination, or harassment do not reflect the values of the Gloucester community, and will not be tolerated.

WHEREAS: The Gloucester Police Department has been instructed by our City Administration to take all allegations seriously and will work diligently to investigate any claims of discrimination.

WHEREAS: If you fear for your immediate safety, call the Gloucester Police Department via 911 or 978-283-1212.”

3. Warrant for Presidential Primary Election on March 3, 2020

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to adopt the warrant for the Presidential Primary Election, to be held March 3, 2020.

Unfinished Business: None.

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

1. Update on the Waterways Board by City Council Representative, Councilor Steve LeBlanc who conveyed the following information: There have been several setbacks in the renovations of the Harbormaster’s office, and it has been suggested that the Center may not open until July. However, after working through issues, it was determined that the Harbormaster’s office is hoped to be opened by the start of the season at Harbor Loop. He mentioned some of the issues that were stalling reconstruction.

Councilors’ Requests to the Mayor:

At the behest of **Councilor Pett** the City Council wished **Council President LeBlanc** a Happy Birthday.

Councilor O’Hara noted he is a construction contracting work. While on a job in Connecticut he met a gentleman, Paul Murphy who assisted him with the paperwork at that time, who lost his wife, a teacher, during the Sandy Hook mass shooting. He explained that Mr. Murphy left that project for a period of time, and that when he returned he didn’t blame the shooter for these acts, as he conveyed the shooter had issues and had fallen through the cracks. **Councilor O’Hara** asked the Mayor, in her role as a member of the School Committee, to request that she direct the School District to enforce the state’s anti-bullying laws. He conveyed that no student should have to worry about such actions. He further asked through the Mayor to have the Police Chief direct the School Resource Officers to continue to protect the city’s students by addressing these issues saying that the stress of being bullied needs to be put to rest.

Councilor Memhard announced he was setting up a Ward 1 community meeting on Monday, Feb. 10th at either East Gloucester Elementary School or the Rocky Neck Cultural Center, 6:30 p.m. The meeting notice will be posted as soon as a venue is secured, he added.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson

Clerk of Committee

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.