

Special City Council Meeting  
Tuesday, May 6, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.  
REMOTE MEETING  
-Minutes-

**Present: Council President Steve LeBlanc; Council Vice-President Val Gilman; Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Jen Holmgren; Councilor John McCarthy; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor James O’Hara; Councilor Barry Pett**

**Absent: None**

**Also Present: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; Joanne M. Senos; Kenny Costa; Police Chief Ed Conley; various Department Heads; Vanessa Krawczyk; Grace E. Poirier**

*This meeting was conducted remotely through Zoom  
All votes were Roll Call*

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Councilor Barry Pett entered the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

**Councilor LeBlanc** announced, “Consistent with the governor's order suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law banning gatherings of twenty-five people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. All votes taken by the City Council and future remote meetings will be taken by roll-call.”

**PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:**

1. Mayor’s Proposed FY21 Budget Presentation to Council

**Mayor Theken** gave the City Council the following information:

- General fund revenues and expenditures are projected to increase from \$114.3 million in FY20 to \$127.9 million in FY21, an increase of 3.8%;
- Gloucester Public School funding is proposed for \$44,388,897, an increase of 2.9%
- The budget reflects a balanced, responsible spending plan for the community, which continues to invest in municipal infrastructure, education and public safety;
- The proposed FY21 budget comes at a time of local, national and international economic disruption brought on by the Coronavirus pandemic;
- The city has had consistent revenue growth from a variety of sources over the past several years, and has a strong track record of responsible fiscal management that has resulted in the growth of significant reserves which allows for the effective management of the city through economic disruptions;
- The city recently attained the highest possible short term bond rate, which allows the city to make critical investments;
- The budget reflects realistic yet conservation assumptions by lodging, excise tax receipts, expansion of the excise tax to cover short term rentals and anticipated revenues from cannabis excise taxes;
- The budget relies on the overall economic success of the Commonwealth, and with the current COVID-19 situation, there are a lot of unknown factors;
- The administration will continue to make difficult choices to spend wisely, maintain resources, fund core operations and meet the community’s needs and ensure effective delivery of services.

**Mayor Theken** thanked Jim Destino, John Dunn, Grace Macan and Vanessa Krawczyk for their work in balancing the city budget. She also thanked the City Council, the Budget & Finance Standing Committee, city employees, the School Committee and the volunteer members of the city’s boards and commissions. She said that she looked forward to working with the City Council in the coming weeks.

**Councilor LeBlanc** recognized the department heads who called into the meeting, and thanked them for attending.

**Councilor Cox** advised the Council of the following dates for budget meetings:

- Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> the B&F Committee will be reviewing the budget for Public Safety Departments;
- Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> the B&F Committee will be reviewing the School Budget
- Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> will be the public hearing for the FY21 Budget
- During the budget meetings the City Council will be joining the B&F Committee as a Committee of the Whole

**Councilor LeBlanc** then moved the motion for acceptance of the proposed FY21 budget.

**MOTION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, in accordance with MGL Ch. 44, §32 and pursuant to the Gloucester City Charter Part 1, Section 6, to accept the receipt of the Mayor's Fiscal 2021 proposed budget and to become the budget of the City Council, and to refer this budget to the Budget & Finance City Council Standing Committee for further review.**

**Mayor Theken** made an announcement that it is Nurses Week and thanked them and all essential workers.

**Councilor Holmgren** made an announcement that it is Municipal Clerks Week and thanked the City Clerk and the Clerk's Department for their work.

**A motion was made, seconded and voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m.**

**Submitted by Grace E. Poirier, Assistant City Clerk**