



**GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR OF BUSINESS**  
**TUESDAY, May 26, 2020**  
**6:00 PM**  
**REMOTE MEETING**  
**COUNCIL MEETING #2020-010**

Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real-time.

Join from Computer, Smart Device: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84416635156>

Join via Phone: +1 (312) 626-6799 or +1 (346) 248-7799

Webinar ID: 844 1663 5156

Please visit <http://gloucester-ma.gov/remote-public-meetings> for instructions and guidance on how to join a remote meeting

**UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR**

**ACTION**

1. City Council Resolution in support of An Act for Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy (FUTURE Act) (FCV 6/9/2020)

**Gloucester City Council**  
**Resolution in support of**  
**An Act for Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy (FUTURE Act)**  
**(H.2849/S.1940)**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gloucester adopted progressive guidelines and standards in order to become a Green Community, including an Energy Reduction Plan, Fuel Efficient Energy Policy, and Stretch Energy Code and was one of the first communities in the state to achieve Green Communities Designation in 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gloucester Clean Energy Commission was created to promote clean energy options in Gloucester including energy efficiency, conservation, and the development of clean and renewable energy; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gloucester Mayor launched Gloucester Green, a new program designed to help residents save money and energy, as well as helping to reduce their carbon footprint one household at a time; and

**WHEREAS**, Gloucester was one of 18 communities leading the way in the state in sustainability, renewable energy, and energy conservation, and is recognized by Environment Massachusetts as one of the state's clean energy leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Gloucester has an old natural gas infrastructure, with 44 unrepaired gas leaks at the end of 2018 beneath its streets leaking methane into our air, which is more than in each of 2016 (40 unrepaired) and 2017 (36 unrepaired); and

**WHEREAS**, methane leaking into the atmosphere knows no town boundaries and affects adjacent towns and neighborhoods where friends and relatives of Gloucester residents live; and

**WHEREAS**, leaked gas is 95% methane, which is a greenhouse gas that causes 84 times more climate change (heating) than carbon dioxide over a 20-year period; and

**WHEREAS**, recent events, such as the explosions in the Merrimack Valley in September 2018, have demonstrated the safety and health risks inherent in aging fracked gas infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, leaked methane deprives tree roots of oxygen and kills shade trees, which otherwise improve the quality of life of Gloucester's residents, provide protection for the City of Gloucester's residents against extreme heat and storm water flooding, and increase property values and maintain the City of Gloucester's property tax base; and

**WHEREAS**, gas companies have not significantly reduced the number of gas leaks and the volume of methane emissions since the passage of Ch, 149, Acts of 2014, An Act Relative To Natural Gas Leaks, requiring them to classify and repair leaks, and ratepayers still pay for the lost gas; and

**WHEREAS**, House H.2849 / Senate S.1940: "An Act for Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy (FUTURE Act)" takes a significant step toward solving the problems associated with natural gas distribution in the Commonwealth by not only addressing the crumbling infrastructure and immediate safety concerns but also creating a path forward by permitting gas companies to distribute renewable thermal energy, including solar, heat pump and geothermal energy, instead of explosive fossil fuels, and incentivizes our utilities to transition away from using explosive fossil fuel as an energy source towards renewable thermal energy sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the FUTURE Act will empower municipalities to have a stronger, safer, more transparent working relationship with public utilities by improving coordination for gas leak repair, mandating that

utilities notify the local fire chief and police department within an hour of finding a dangerous leak, requiring the gas companies and the Department of Public Utilities to share maps, costs, and plans with the municipalities and the public, and requiring that gas companies to be audited annually for safety, performance, and leak reports; and

**WHEREAS**, the FUTURE Act will allow individuals and municipalities to claim property damage from gas leaks, including damage to trees; and

**WHEREAS**, the FUTURE Act will mandate that gas leaks within a certain distance of a school zone or building, or within the root zone of a tree be fixed within 6 months; and

**WHEREAS**, the FUTURE Act will authorize municipalities to procure local or district energy services and to establish an energy microgrid; and

**WHEREAS**, the following 14 municipalities have passed resolutions supportive of the FUTURE Act: Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Concord, Hopkinton, Lexington, Lincoln, Newton, Somerville, Wellesley, Wellfleet, Weston and Worcester; and

**WHEREAS**, the FUTURE Act is consistent with and supportive of the clean energy and environmental practices and policies of Gloucester and its endorsement by the City Council advances its current policies; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the City Council go on record in support of the FUTURE Act (H.2849/S.1940) and urge the Legislature to pass the bill in the 2019-2020 session; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward suitably passed and certified copies of this resolution to members of Gloucester’s Legislative Delegation, as well as House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Senate President Karen Spilka, and Governor Charlie Baker on behalf of the entire City Council.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ of June, 2020

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Steven G. LeBlanc, Jr.  
Ward 3 Councillor, Council President

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Valerie H. Gilman  
Ward 4 Councillor, Council Vice President

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Scott Memhard, Ward 1 Councillor

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Barry Pett, Ward 2 Councillor

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Sean Nolan, Ward 5 Councillor

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Melissa Cox, Councillor at Large

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Jen Holmgren, Councillor at Large

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John McCarthy, Councillor at Large

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James W. O’Hara, Jr. Councillor at Large