

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, May 26, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
REMOTE MEETING
-Minutes-

Present: Council President, Councilor Steve LeBlanc; Council Vice President, Councilor 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 Romeo Theken; Joanne M. Senos; Chief Conley; John Dunn; Kenny Costa; Jill Cahill; Adrienne Lennon; Joe Lucido; Vanessa Krawczyk; Rob Gulla

Presenters: Adrienne Lennon, Piping Plover Update

Appointees: Christopher Sicuranza

*This meeting was conducted remotely through Zoom
All votes were ROLL CALL votes*

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor LeBlanc announced, “This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. 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. Additionally, all votes taken by the City Council during this and future remote meetings will be by roll call vote. If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a “raise hand” button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.”

Oral Communications:

Sue Harris, 96 Leonard Street: Requested barriers or “no parking” signage be placed on Walnut Street.

Presentations/Commendations:

Update re: 2020 Piping Plover Breeding Season at Good Harbor Beach

Jill Cahill thanked the City Council for the opportunity to give an update on the Piping Plovers, and acknowledged the team overseeing the piping plovers: Adrienne Lennon, Chief Conley, Joe Lucido and Animal Control.

Rob Gulla, Conservation Commission Chair, told the Council that there needs to a Piping Plover Plan for the City of Gloucester so that they can more smoothly transition into the season each year.

Adrienne Lennon gave the City Council a mid-season update on the Piping Plovers (slides on file):

- Dunes have been fenced in along the length of Good Harbor Beach;
- March 20: 2,300 feet of symbolic fencing from the Witham Street side;
- March 22: Piping Plovers spotted on Good Harbor Beach;
- Nest reported near the footbridge side and expanded fencing;
- March 24: expanded fencing near the footbridge side;

- April 16: expanded fencing by 50' on the footbridge side;
- May 26: team expanded fencing on the Witham Street side;
- May 26: expanded fencing on footbridge side due to the presence of a nest and expanded fencing on the Witham Street side due to plover activity

Questions from the Council:

Q.1. Is last year's symbolic fencing the reason the dunes are growing well this year?

A.1. (Lennon) Last year's fencing contributed to the dune growth in Area 3 (footbridge side)

Q.2. Will there be volunteers watching the Piping Plovers this season?

A.2. (Cahill) No. Last year the city spent a lot of time and effort organizing training and signups which were disregarded.

Q.3. Are the Piping Plovers being considered protected or endangered this year?

A.3. (Lennon) The status of the birds has not changed in a long time. They are a state listed threatened species, and are protected under the endangered species act.

Q.4. A lot of the beach is being taken up by the fencing. Can social distancing be maintained for beachgoers?

A.4. (Lucido) The state hasn't been down to look at it yet. Their appointment is in two weeks.

(Mayor) Due to COVID-19 the state isn't coming any earlier. They've been asked before.

Confirmation of New Appointments

Licensing Board

Christopher Sicuranaza

TTE 5/31/2026

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Christopher Sicuranza to the Licensing Board TTE 05/31/26

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appoint Christopher Sicuranza to the Licensing Board TTE 05/31/26

Consent Agenda & Unanimous Consent Calendar:

Consent Agenda

- Confirmation of Reappointments
1. Gloucester Housing Authority Scott Duffany (Labor Representative) TTE 5/28/25
 - Mayor's Report
 1. Reappointment: Assessor Tim Good (TTE 5/14/23) (Refer O&A)
 2. Memorandum from CFO re: acceptance of a \$1,000 donation to the Fire Department from Michael and Renee Minogue Family Foundation (Refer B&F)
 3. Update Memorandum from Conservation Agent regarding the 2020 Piping Plover Breeding at Good Harbor Beach (Info Only)
 - Communications/Invitations
 - Information Only
 - Applications/Petitions
 1. PP2020-005: Request by Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Verizon New England Inc. for the installation of 1 JO Pole on Washington Street beginning at a point approx. feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Washington Street and Colburn Street. Install 1 JO Pole, 1 Anchor and all appurtenances (Refer P&D)
 - Councillors Orders
 - Approval of Minutes From Previous Council And Standing Committee Meetings
 1. City Council Meeting: 5/12/2020 (Approve/File)
 2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 5/21/2020 (under separate cover), O&A 5/18/2020 (under separate cover), P&D 5/20/2020 (under separate cover) (Approve/File)

UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR

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

No Councilors asked to remove any items from the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Holmgren asked to remove City Council Resolution in support of An Act for Utility Transition to Using Renewable Energy (FUTURE Act) from the Unanimous Consent Calendar and asked if the Council could vote on the resolution this evening because the Clean Energy Commission has been working on it for months and wants to get it to the state legislature. She asked the Council suspend its Rules of Procedure and vote on the matter immediately.

Councilor Gilman said didn't support voting immediately because the public hasn't had an opportunity to see the resolution and ask Councilors questions.

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor Holmgren, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to suspend the City Council Rules of Procedure.

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor Holmgren, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the resolution.

It was clarified that the resolution was for gas leaks only and for holding gas companies accountable and making sure they have protocols in place.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance – May 21

The votes taken under the Budget & Finance Committee Report were done under a Consent Agenda. No Councilors asked for any items be removed.

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the Budget & Finance May 21, 2020 Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer Request #2020-SBT-15 in the amount of \$315,221 from Account #S4193992-530100, SPED-Tuition Non-Public School, District Wide, Professional & Technical Services to Account #0182052-565004, City General Fund, School Choice Sending Tuition Assessment for the annual reimbursement to the City General Fund for the additional Cherry Sheet School Choice SPED related expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer #2020-SBT-16 in the amount of \$60,000 from Account #S1102505-511101, GHS Salaries-Principal Professional to Account #0121151-513000, Police Uniform, Overtime, for the purpose of funding the Gloucester High School Resource Officer.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the

City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a cash donation in the amount of \$2,000 from the Minogue Family Foundation to be used to benefit the on-going efforts of the Harbormaster's Office.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer Request #2020-SBT-17 in the amount of \$5,000 from Account #0121151-511000, Police-Uniform, Salaries to Account #0121152-558003, Police-Uniform, Public Safety Supplies for the purpose of purchasing public safety supplies.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer Request #2020-SBT-18 in the amount of \$3,000 from Account #0121151-511000, Police-Uniform, Salaries to Account #0121152-542007, Police-Uniform, Computer Equipment Not Capitalized for the purpose of purchasing of a rugged lap top for a cruiser.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer Request #2020-SBT-19 in the amount of \$4,600 from Account #0121151-511000, Police-Uniform, Salaries to Account #0121152-551010, Police-Uniform, Audio Visual Supplies for the purpose of purchasing two homeland security cameras.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer Request #2020-SBT-20 in the amount of \$11,800 from Account #0121151-511000, Police-Uniform, Salaries to Account #0121152-530028, Police-Uniform, Software Services for the purpose of updating software licenses and purchase of a server.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer Request #2020-SBT-21 in the amount of \$10,000 from Account #0121151-511000, Police-Uniform, Salaries to Account #0121652-524037, Police-Harbors, R&M Boat & Marine Maintenance for the purpose of repairing the Gloucester Police boat engine.

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Ordinances & Administration – May 18

There were no items to be reported.

Planning & Development – May 20

There were no items to be reported.

Scheduled Public Hearings:

1. PH2020-009: SCP2020-001: Wingaersheek 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
(Cont. from 4/14/2020)

Councilor LeBlanc opened and continued the public hearing to June 9, 2020.

2. PH2020-011: SCP2020-003: Atlantic Road #163 (formerly part of #171), Map 73, Lot 41 (a portion of former Map 73, Lot 26), GZO Sec. 1.8.3 “Standard to be Applied,” 1.10.1(a) “Jurisdiction of the City and Zoning Board of Appeals – City Council,” 2.3.1(8) “Conversion to or new multi-family or apartment dwelling, seven or more dwelling units,” 3.1.6(b) “Building Heights in Excess of 35 Feet,” 3.2.2 “Dimensional Requirements for Multi-Family Dwellings and

**Their Accessory Uses (other than signs)” and 5.7.5 “Special Permit Criteria” in the R-20 Low/Medium Density Residential district
(Cont. from 4/14/2020)**

Councilor LeBlanc opened and continued the public hearing to June 9, 2020.

Individual Councilor’s Discussion including Reports by Appointed Councilors to Committees: Update on the Waterways Board and the Poet Laureate Selection Committee by City Council Representative, Councilor Steve LeBlanc

There was no update on the Poet Laureate Selection Committee.

The Waterways Board has not met in a while. **Councilor LeBlanc** said the Harbormaster updated him on the following:

- The office is going to be opening on time and running and functioning;
- Dinghy docks will be accessible;
- Social distancing on the water is being promoted;
- There shouldn’t be any tying up;
- There has been a setback to the public facilities renovations at the Harbormaster’s Office.

Councilors’ Requests to the Mayor:

Councilor Gilman: Request that the DPW gives graffiti cleanup volunteers in Ward 2 technical advice on cleanup protocol. Request that the administration consider the use of “No Parking” sawhorses during the COVID-19 emergency order in areas including Walnut Street and Lanes Cove as they see fit based on the consistency and frequency of illegal parking.

Councilor McCarthy: Request that the state expedite the Mayor’s request to come to Good Harbor Beach in regard to fencing and Piping Plovers as so much of the beach is being taken up by the fencing, creating a concern that beachgoers won’t be able to properly social distance.

Members of the Council gave the following thanks and acknowledgements:

- Police Department and first responders for their work during the COVID-19 crisis;
- Administration and Conservation Agent for the Piping Plover update;
- Veterans’ Service Office and other city officials involved in the Memorial Day service;
- Clean Energy Commission for their work on the resolution;
- Those who took time on Memorial Day to remember those who gave their lives;
- Congratulations to Gloucester High School’s graduating class;
- The Mayor for defending her staff with regard to the handling of Piping Plovers

The Mayor thanked the City Council for their work during the COVID-19 crisis.

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Submitted by Grace E. Poirier, Assistant City Clerk