

Ordinance & Administration Standing Committee

Monday, July 20, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

-Minutes-

Remote Meeting

Present: Chair Sean Nolan, Vice Chair Steve LeBlanc, Member Councilor O’Hara**Absent: None****Also Present: Joanne M. Senos, Vanessa Krawczyk, Councilor McCarthy, Peter Seminara**The meeting was called to order at **6:00 p.m.****There was a quorum of the City Council.**

Councilor LeBlanc stated, “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 25 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. 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. Persons who wish to do so are invited to view the meeting and you have the information that was on the posting. If you are calling in on a phone, you can press *9 to request to speak. If you're watching on a computer a device, there is a raised hand button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either these options to be recognized to speak.”

1. Appointments

City-Owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee (TTE 2/14/22) Christine Maney *(from alternate to full member; fulfilling an unexpired term)*

Summary of Discussion: Christine, a committee alternate since 2018, will be fulfilling the unexpired term of Patti Amaral. She stated that she is a member of the 400th Cemetery Committee, they are always working on continuing to make things better, and to make the city proud of its history. She explained that the committee makes cemetery purchases through DPW, and they have a great working relationship with them. **Councilor O’Hara** thanked Christine for her continued effort to help the city.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council appoint Christine Maney (from alternate to full member, fulfilling unexpired term) to the City-Owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee, TTE 2/14/22.

Human Rights Commission (TTE 2/14/23) Jennifer Beloff

Summary of Discussion: Jennifer has worked at Action Inc. for the last 7 years, currently as Director of Client and Housing Services, the department that oversees the shelter and some housing programs. She works with a wide variety of individuals with varying disabilities including learning & physical, substance use disorders, and other areas. A licensed Special Educator, she has previous experience as a Director of a Residential School for youth, and with human rights violation complaint

investigations. She mentioned that she is also interested in getting involved more civically in Gloucester. **Councilors Nolan, O’Hara, Holmgren, and LeBlanc** all spoke in her favor.

Councilor Question

Q1 (Holmgren) After tonight and the appointments next week, will this complete the Human Rights Commission composition, because I know there were a couple of other people who are interested.

A1 (Krawczyk) We’ll have enough for a quorum, but they are still interviewing people to fill a few more slots. The Mayor is anxious for this Commission to start meeting.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council appoint Jennifer Beloff to the Human Rights Commission, TTE 2/14/23.

Human Rights Commission (TTE 2/14/23) Paul Wasserman

Summary of Discussion: Paul expressed a lifelong interest & passion for Human Rights that intensified during his college involvement in the Civil Rights Movement & Desegregation. His early work as a Clinical Psychologist, and citizen member of the state Bar Association, taught him the importance of privacy & objectivity, which he thinks is very important to this position; if there are complaints, they have to be weighed very carefully and impartially. In addition, he is experienced in Diversity & Cultural Competence (including projects for profits, non-profits, and federal, state, and local government agencies), doing organizational assessments, making recommendations, and penalty assessment. He believes this is an important position that he really values and looks forward to contributing to. Councilors Nolan, O’Hara, LeBlanc, and Holmgren spoke in favor of his appointment, and Councilor LeBlanc encouraged the members of all committees, boards, and commissions to utilize the Open-Door Policy of the Mayor’s office and City Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council appoint Paul Wasserman to the Human Rights Commission, TTE 2/14/23.

Open Space & Recreation Committee (TTE 2/14/23) Daniel Morris

Summary of Discussion: Daniel has been a Gloucester resident for over 25 years, and on his almost daily bike rides, he is reminded of how lucky he is to enjoy the extraordinary quality of life provided by the open spaces, recreational facilities, parks, beaches, and cemeteries. Councilor LeBlanc shared Daniel’s sentiment. As a founding committee member about 10 years ago, Daniel worked with Steve Winslow in the development of the Open Space Plan, and now he looks forward to participating in its revision. He thinks this committee is important for providing advice, open space cataloging, and smart utilization, improvement, and conservation suggestions, and perhaps providing some priorities to inform CPA funding. Councilor Nolan thanked Daniel for his involvement.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council appoint Daniel Morris to the Open Space & Recreation Committee, TTE 2/14/23.

Reappointments:

Conservation Commission (TTE 2/14/23) Robert Gulla

Summary of Discussion: Robert believes that the committee has done well over the years trying to protect Gloucester's resources. He mentioned that the committee is looking for one member, and **Councilor LeBlanc** offered the Council's assistance in sharing that information through social media.

Councilor Question:

Q1 (O'Hara) asked Bob how he manages the conflict that sometimes occurs as a professional architect whose name is very prominent in a lot of special permits that come before the Council.

A1 (Gulla) stated that he has tried to do his best over the years, and that 75 percent of his work is outside the city, but there are rules that need to be followed regarding local clients.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council reappoint Robert Gulla to the Conservation Commission, TTE 2/14/23.

2. **CC#2020-009(Gilman): Pursuant to MGL c.54, §24, request City Council vote to move the Ward 4, Precinct 2 polling location from the Lanesville Community Center, 8 Vulcan Street to the Plum Cove School, 15 Hickory Street, to become effective with the September 1, 2020 State Primary and the November 3, 2020 General Election due to the inability to practice social distancing in the current Ward 4-2 polling location; AND pursuant to State Election Laws, that the City Council evaluate and make a public report on the impacts of such change**

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman thanked City Clerk Joanne Senos for being proactive regarding this matter, because early on in the pandemic, it became obvious that COVID-19 was not going away in the immediate future, and with it came the realization that there was going to be an issue with some of the polling places in terms of social distancing and waiting lines. After an evaluation of all the voting places, it was determined that the Lanesville Community Center was no longer adequate. The community center board vetted it, discussed it, and agreed with the decision.

On July 8th, **Councilor Gilman** went before the School Committee, and they unanimously supported the use of the Plum Cove School for voting in the September and November 2020 elections. She and the City Clerk are asking for the City Council's support in accepting the location change as well.

Massachusetts state law requires that by August 14, 2020, the 2,400 affected Ward 4 Precinct 2 voters must legally be notified using an electronic means to the extent possible, such as via email, or a

Reverse 911 automatic telephone call that plays a recorded message. **Councilor Gilman** and the City Clerk are requesting a mailing because they want to be very clear with the requirements and the fact

that it's changing, and a lot of people do not use the electronic means listed above. The Board of Registrars shall also post on the municipal website, and in all municipal buildings. It has also been recommended that a notification be placed at the Lanesville Community Center on the September and November 2020 election dates to make voters aware if they arrive there. **Councilor Gilman** expressed concern for the inconvenience it could possibly cause disabled voters, or anyone showing up to an empty poll location.

It was originally believed before the legislation was signed that mail notifications would be necessary, however, the state has since loosened its requirements, so it is now only required to notify every household instead of every voter, and this communication can be done by email, however, the City Clerk's office does not have the email addresses of all of the affected registered voters since it's not required on the voter registration form.

This mailing could possibly be covered under the CARES Act because it is a COVID-19 matter. Councilor Leblanc stated that a mailing would be fine if it is reimbursable, however, he is concerned that it could be a large expense from the City Council Budget that has already been trimmed down if it is not. The state may allow it, but reimbursement is not guaranteed since notifications by mail aren't required. The City Clerk calculated that based on the figures that she gave on July 8th (since it changes all the time with people registering to vote daily), the cost of mailing a regular letter would be \$1400 before postage. A postcard mailing (which would need to be done in-house since she doesn't have enough time to give it to a printer before the turn-around time) would cost approximately \$947. The City Clerk will seek the advice of General Counsel on this matter before the next City Council meeting.

The state is requesting that cities and towns that have more than one precinct in a building send photographs of those buildings.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Council Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend, pursuant to section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020, that the City Council evaluate and report on whether, for public health reasons due to COVID-19, changing the Ward 4, Precinct 2 polling location from the Lanesville Community Center, 8 Vulcan Street, to the Plum Cove School, 15 Hickory Street, would have a disparate adverse impact on access to the polls on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age.

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, pursuant to section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020 and for public health reasons due to COVID 19, the City Council move the Ward 4, Precinct 2 polling location from the Lanesville Community Center, 8 Vulcan Street to the Plum Cove School, 15 Hickory Street, effective immediately for the September 1, 2020 State Primary and the November 3, 2020 General Election.

- 3. CC#2020-010(Memhard): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22 270 "Parking Prohibited at all times" by ADDING Traverse Street, northerly side from its intersection with Beach Road in a westerly direction for a distance of 390' (Pole #1273); and**

AMEND Sec. 22-290 “Tow Away Zone” by ADDING Traverse Street, northerly side from its intersection with Beach Road in a westerly direction for a distance of 390’ (Pole #1273)

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Memhard stated this has been a chronic, long-term issue that has come to a head recently with local residents concerned about being able to get out of their driveways on the very narrow Traverse Street, in addition to the fact that there have been up to 20 cars at a time parked in the bushes at the Bass Rocks Golf Club. He mentioned that although the temporary Resident-Only Parking signage certainly is going to help, he has reached out to the traffic commission, and they think it would make sense to go ahead and try and put this ordinance into place. He has constituents who live on Haskell and Traverse Street who have reached out to him consistently about this being a problem, and he thinks this would help address it.

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 AMEND the GCO Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles, Sec. 22-270. “Parking Prohibited at All Times by ADDING: Traverse Street, northerly side from its intersection with Beach Road in a westerly direction for a distance of 390.’ (Pole # 1273); and AMEND Sec. 22-290. Tow Away Zone by ADDING: Traverse Street, northerly side from its intersection with Beach Road in a westerly direction for a distance of 390.’ (Pole #1273

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brianna Komi,
Administrative Support
City Clerk’s Office