

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, July 14, 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

Also Present: Joanne M. Senos; Mayor Theken; Vanessa Krawczyk; Chip Payson; John Dunn; Chief Conley; TJ Ciarametaro; Mike Hale; Chief Smith; Jonathan Sanger; Phil Harvey; Bill Sanborn; Gregg Cademartori

*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 25 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:

Craig Hamilton, 46 Grove Street

The caller stated he has called several times during Oral Communications and has not heard anything back from the city regarding Grove Street roadwork, and the scheduled sewer work that was supposed to start in April. He said that they wrapped up the first phase in November last year, and he is still waiting for an update as to when the work will resume. His concerns for the road are as follows: the road and sidewalks are a hazard to pedestrians, cars speed through the neighborhood, residents experience vehicular damage, and the sewer overflows causing raw sewage to accumulate in the street. He noted that similar roadwork has been done recently to Shepherd Street and Trask Street.

Councilor LeBlanc will follow up with the DPW Director and contact Craig with an update as soon as possible. **Interim CAO Vanessa Krawczyk** let the council know that she personally delivered a letter to Mr. Hamilton’s house today, and asked him to please contact her after Labor Day so she can provide him with an update on the status of the roadwork, as well as several other items that he addressed in previous oral communications.

Jeff Santos, 44 Grove Street

The caller stated that the road and sidewalks are a hazard to pedestrians, cars speed through the neighborhood, and that he has personally experienced damage to both of his vehicles.

Mara DeGagne, 152 East Main Street

The caller stated that she is concerned about people not wearing masks, kids not being able to return to school as a result, the fact that beaches were overcrowded last weekend, that non-residents, including those from out-of-state, were not obeying parking regulations, and that Jim’s Variety had to close at 1:45pm because there

was no place for customers to park. She asked if there are any plans for rule enforcement, and **Councilor LeBlanc** replied that there is an administrative plan in place that is going to be activated soon, and that the City Council has been working with the Mayor's Office to try to alleviate the situation. As a Ward 1 constituent, she was encouraged to contact Councilor Memhard for an update.

Presentations/Commendations:

1. Karin Carroll, Public Health Director re: update on COVID-19 and other related matters

Karin Carroll, Public Health Director, updated the Council with the following information:

THE GOOD NEWS

- Right now, there is very little community transmission here in Gloucester and Cape Ann, and that's pretty much echoed throughout Massachusetts as well, so the numbers are very good.

BACK TO GLOUCESTER

- There have been 26 deaths today, but at the moment, less than 5 active cases. We have our nursing team still in place from the spring for contact tracing. In terms of testing, there was some free testing that was provided to anyone who participated in a protest of any sort, and the positive test rate was very low after that testing, good indicators suggesting that there is very little community transmission right now, which means it's safe to go ahead with the reopening of activities.
- In general, compliance with businesses, as well as the community, has been outstanding. Our reaction to complaints and issues is an educational approach; we are not fining, we are not closing people down, but we are not ignoring it either. We have a number of inspectors throughout the city that assist us, so depending on if it's a restaurant, if it's someone with a liquor license issue, if it's boats, etc., we'll use city staff to reach out and answer questions. Mostly all of the businesses have now safely opened in phase three.

TESTING

- It can still be very slow. We want to see accessibility on the Cape, ideally, we'd like to see a site in Gloucester that's doing large amounts of testing, so we currently have a task force that the Mayor has helped set up with some of our health care providers and private pharmaceutical companies.

EXPOSURE

- We are concerned about the length of time it takes from an exposure to get that person isolated. We have that down to less than 24 hours, if a phone number doesn't work, we will deliver a letter within that timeframe asking the person to isolate or quarantine.

SCHOOLS

- We anticipate schools opening in the fall.

THE HOMELESS POPULATION

- It continues to be a significant issue, we anticipate exceeding our capacity locally very soon, and are looking at regional solutions.

GENERAL COMPLIANCE

- This will get more and more important all the time: face coverings, basic hygiene, staying home when you're sick, and adhering to the Six Feet Rule. Face coverings are a challenge. If not wearing one is for a medical reason, you cannot ask any more questions, you cannot deny them access to your business, but you can require that they stay six feet from the other people in the shop or restaurant.
- If people can maintain social distance, we're really not concerned about taking their face masks or other face coverings off. If they're on the beach with their family on their blanket, or they're staying

six feet away, there's very little transmission outdoors; just those points of access where people might be going to the snack bar, or might be standing in line at the bathroom, those are the times in which we are concerned. If the parks and beaches get to the point where people can't set up six feet away from others, then that's a concern.

MOVING FORWARD TO THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

- We're fully expecting a second wave in the winter months, maybe sooner. Studies show over and over again that if you have 40-60% of your population complying, you significantly slow the transmission down. Moving forward in the next six months, we will leave our contact tracing team in place. The state has downsized its contact tracing team, but it is still there, and available if we need it, so that will be our fallback.

BIO BOT WASTEWATER SAMPLING

- We're going to be sampling our wastewater, and we'll be monitoring with Bio Bot. If we see the numbers start to rise in our wastewater, we'll know that something's happening in the community, and we can ramp up our messaging. We'll also be upping our flu-covered vaccine and prevention.
- If we can get people really thinking about flu prevention, and staying home when you're sick, that will also reduce the spread.

COVID CARE KITS

- The final thing we'll be doing is some COVID Care Kits, thanks to a donation from Amazon, as well as some CARES Act funding. Kits will be put together for seniors and other high-risk members of the community.

Questions from the Council:

Q1 When members of the public feel like there's been a business that's non-compliant, they can call and leave a message on the 211 COVID-19 hot-line. How will that information that is being tracked at the state level be brought back to the city in terms of enforcement?

A1 (Carroll) They'll come back to us in the Health Department. There is a Department of Labor Standards hotline that the health departments can access if we need help with enforcement, but our take has been to work with our local businesses, vendors, community, and try to help support them, and resolve it before bringing the state in. I work with them once we get the complaint, they'll do their due diligence, and within 72 hours, if they think an investigation needs to happen, they will loop in the local municipality.

Q2 "How can we help you as a council?"

A1 (Carroll) We need your help to get the message out, and then get it back to us, the message of let's focus on what people are doing well, and not so much what they're not doing; helping our constituents to continue to do the right thing, thank them for doing the right thing.

Q3 "Does the city have inspectors out Thursday, Friday, Saturday evenings going to these establishments, making sure everything is adhered to?"

A1 (Carroll) Food inspectors will go where the complaints are. Our inspectors work city hours, but all of us are on call all the time, as well as the police. If we were to get a concern or something that was happening on a weekend, we absolutely would be there. We're not doing any routine inspections for people to open for COVID, we gave them a checklist, told them what they needed to do, and provided lots of trainings, so only if a complaint comes in, then we follow up, either an inspection, or we do just a phone call or Zoom call.

Council President Steve LeBlanc thanked Karin and the administration for their work.

Confirmation of New Appointments

None.

Consent Agenda

- **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**
- **MAYOR'S REPORT**
- 1. Appointments/Reappointments:

New Appointment:	Jennifer Beloff, Paul Wasserman	TTE 2/14/23	Human Rights Commission		
	Daniel Morris	TTE 2/14/23	Open Space & Recreation Committee		(Refer O&A)
Reappointment:	Robert Gulla	TTE 2/14/23	Conservation Commission		(Refer O&A)
- 2. Memorandum, Grant Application & Checklist from the Public Health Director re: request acceptance of Healthy Summer Youth Jobs Grant in the amount of \$2,692.80 (Refer B&F)
- 3. Memoranda from the Veterans' Services Director re: acceptance of donations totaling \$403 (Refer B&F)
- 4. Gloucester Health Department Budget Projections for COVID-19 (Refer B&F)
- 5. Cape Ann Seniors on the GO summer schedule (Refer B&F)
 - **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
 - **INFORMATION ONLY**
- 1. Letter from Essex Tech. Superintendent of Schools re: Interim 1/12th Budget for FY21 (Info Only)
 - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
 - **COUNCILLORS ORDERS**
- 1. 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 to the inability to practice social distancing in the current Ward 4-2 polling location (Refer O&A)
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
- 1. City Council Meeting: 6/23/2020 (Approve/File)
- 2. Special City Council Meeting: 6/24/2020 (Approve/File)
- Special P&D Meeting: 7/13/2020 (under separate cover) (Approve/File)
- 3. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 7/9/2020 (under separate cover), O&A 7/6/2020 (no meeting), P&D 7/8/2020 (Approve/File)

Items to be added/removed from the Consent Agenda

None.

Councilor LeBlanc presented the City Council with a Consent Agenda and asked if there was anyone who would like to pull anything from that agenda. No items were requested to be pulled.

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 Consent Agenda.

Committee Reports:

• Budget & Finance – July 9

Councilor Cox presented the City Council with a Unanimous Consent Agenda and asked if there was anyone who would like to pull anything from that agenda. No items were requested to be pulled.

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 July 9th Budget & Finance Standing Committee Unanimous Consent Agenda.

The following votes were taken up under a Unanimous Consent Calendar.

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 accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a federal grant from the US DOT/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration passed through the Mass Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, for the Federal FY 2020 Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Grant Program in the amount of \$6,000 for the purpose of paying for

educational materials and enforcement overtime. The grant period of the grant is from June 1, 2020 to September 15, 2020 and there's no matching local funds.

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 under MGL c. 44, §53A, a federal grant from the US DOT/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration passed through the Mass Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, for the Federal FY 2020 Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety Grant Program in the amount of \$6,000 for the purpose of paying for educational materials and enforcement overtime. The grant period of the grant is from June 1, 2020 to September 15, 2020 and there's no matching local funds.

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 accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a pass-through grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Initiative Grant for \$40,000 (FY21: \$40,000) to support an environment on Cape Ann that supports physical activity and provides access to healthy foods. The Federal portion of the grant is \$20,000 and the State portion is \$20,000. The grant period is through June 30, 2021.

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 under MGL c. 44, §53A, a pass-through grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Community Health and Prevention, Mass in Motion Municipal Wellness and Leadership Initiative Grant for \$40,000 (FY21: \$40,000) to support an environment on Cape Ann that supports physical activity and provides access to healthy foods. The Federal portion of the grant is \$20,000 and the State portion is \$20,000. The grant period is through June 30, 2021.

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 accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a federal grant of an Overdose Data to Action Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health passed through the U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention, an amendment of \$25,000 for a total of \$125,000 in FY21 to amend existing Substance Abuse Prevention Program Grant Contract for a new grant award total of \$825,000, for the purpose of the Gloucester Health Department partnering with the Gloucester Police Department to enhance the Community Impact Policing Unit through financial support for a dedicated 1.0 FTE Community Health Navigator to serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery. The grant period is through June 30, 2022 and there's no local match for this grant.

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 under MGL c. 44, §53A, a federal grant of an Overdose Data to Action Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health passed through the U.S. Center for Disease Control & Prevention, an amendment of \$25,000 for a total of \$125,000 in FY21 to amend existing Substance Abuse Prevention Program Grant Contract for a new grant award total of \$825,000, for the purpose of the Gloucester Health Department partnering with the Gloucester Police Department to enhance the Community Impact Policing Unit through financial support for a dedicated 1.0 FTE Community Health Navigator to serve as a liaison between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery. The grant period is through June 30, 2022 and there's no local match for this grant.

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 accept under MGL c. 44, §53A a state grant from the Mass. Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, a Mass. Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative Services Grant (MOAPC), for a 3 month extension of \$25,000 for FY2021. The purpose of this grant is to address the opioid crisis through a strategic regional approach with the Town of Danvers and City of Beverly. The grant period is from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

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 under MGL c. 44, §53A a state grant from the Mass. Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services, a Mass. Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative Services Grant (MOAPC), for a 3 month extension of \$25,000 for FY2021. The purpose of this grant is to address the opioid crisis through a strategic regional approach with the Town of Danvers and City of Beverly. The grant period is from July 1, 2020 through September 30, 2020.

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 accept under MGL c. 44, §53A a Federal Clean Vessel Act Pump-out Boat Grant for \$11,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior passed through Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for the purpose of servicing resident and transient boaters of the City for the disposal of sewage from vessel holding tanks, portable toilets and shore side pump-out facility. The grant period is from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

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 under MGL c. 44, §53A a Federal Clean Vessel Act Pump-out Boat Grant for \$11,000 from the U.S. Department of the Interior passed through Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries for the purpose of servicing resident and transient boaters of the City for the disposal of sewage from vessel holding tanks, portable toilets and shore side pump-out facility. The grant period is from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

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 the disposition by means of a lease as provided in the Request for Proposal #20081 Lease of Water Tower Space, 15 Hickory Street, For Telecommunications Systems pursuant to the terms and conditions as stated therein. Said term is to be a five-year term from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2025 with a minimum bid of \$30,000.

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 the disposition by means of a lease as provided in the Request for Proposal #20081 Lease of Water Tower Space, 15 Hickory Street, For Telecommunications Systems pursuant to the terms and conditions as stated therein. Said term is to be a five-year term from September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2025 with a minimum bid of \$30,000.

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-20 for the purpose of funding and making whole Fiscal Year 2020 accounts totaling \$788,500 as follows:

FROM ACCOUNT			TO ACCOUNT			Amount
ORG	OBJ	Account Name	ORG	OBJ	Account Name	
0116151	511000	City Clerk, Salaries	0112151	519011	Mayor, RMT Sick Leave Buyback	\$ 30,000
0118151	511000	Com. Dev., Salaries	0112152	578001	Mayor, Contingency - Emergency	\$ 60,000
0118152	520000	Com. Dev., Purch of Services	0112152	578001	Mayor, Contingency - Emergency	\$ 16,000
0114552	530010	T/C, Legal Services	0114551	511000	T/C, Salaries	\$ 5,000
0115552	530000	MIS, Prof & Tech Service	0115551	511000	MIS, Salaries	\$ 11,000
0182052	565004	State Assess, School Choice	0122051	511000	Fire, Salaries	\$ 35,000
0182052	565004	State Assess, School Choice	0122051	511000	Fire, Salaries	\$ 80,000
0147051	511000	DPW Pub Serv, Salaries	0122051	511000	Fire, Salaries	\$ 70,000
0140352	540000	DPW Solid Waste, Supplies	0140351	513002	DPW Solid Waste, OT-Labor	\$ 4,000
0141151	512000	DPW Eng., S&W Temporary	0142151	511000	DPW Admin, Salaries	\$ 10,000
0151051	511300	BOH, Wages - Hourly Perm.	0151052	520000	BOH, Purch of Services	\$ 85,000
0154352	577001	Veterans Benefits, Medical	0154151	519011	COA, RMT Sick Leave Buyback	\$ 9,500
0154352	577001	Veterans Benefits, Medical	0154351	511000	Veterans, Salaries	\$ 9,000
0156352	538000	Tourism Other Purch Serv	0161051	511000	Library, Salaries	\$ 11,000
0149952	520000	DPW - Central, Energy	0170059	592500	Debt Service, Interest on Notes-BAN	\$ 130,000
0190151	517003	Health Insurance	0190351	517008	Medicare Insurance	\$ 30,000
0182052	565004	State Assess, School Choice	0190351	517008	Medicare Insurance	\$ 120,000
600051	511000	Water EF, Salaries	600059	591500	Water EF Debt Service, Interest LTD	\$ 8,000
640051	511000	Sewer EF, Salaries	640059	592500	Sewer EF DS, Interest on Notes-BAN	\$ 40,000
640052	520000	Sewer EF, Purch Services	640059	592500	Sewer EF DS, Interest on Notes-BAN	\$ 17,000
700052	520000	Waterways EF, Purch Services	700051	512000	Waterways EF, Salaries	\$ 8,000
TOTAL						\$ 788,500

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer 2020-SBT-20 for the purpose of funding and making whole Fiscal Year 2020 accounts totaling \$788,500 as follows:

FROM ACCOUNT			TO ACCOUNT			Amount
ORG	OBJ	Account Name	ORG	OBJ	Account Name	
0116151	511000	City Clerk, Salaries	0112151	519011	Mayor, RMT Sick Leave Buyback	\$ 30,000
0118151	511000	Com. Dev., Salaries	0112152	578001	Mayor, Contingency - Emergency	\$ 60,000
0118152	520000	Com. Dev., Purch of Services	0112152	578001	Mayor, Contingency - Emergency	\$ 16,000
0114552	530010	T/C, Legal Services	0114551	511000	T/C, Salaries	\$ 5,000
0115552	530000	MIS, Prof & Tech Service	0115551	511000	MIS, Salaries	\$ 11,000
0182052	565004	State Assess, School Choice	0122051	511000	Fire, Salaries	\$ 35,000
0182052	565004	State Assess, School Choice	0122051	511000	Fire, Salaries	\$ 80,000
0147051	511000	DPW Pub Serv, Salaries	0122051	511000	Fire, Salaries	\$ 70,000
0140352	540000	DPW Solid Waste, Supplies	0140351	513002	DPW Solid Waste, OT-Labor	\$ 4,000
0141151	512000	DPW Eng., S&W Temporary	0142151	511000	DPW Admin, Salaries	\$ 10,000
0151051	511300	BOH, Wages - Hourly Perm.	0151052	520000	BOH, Purch of Services	\$ 85,000
0154352	577001	Veterans Benefits, Medical	0154151	519011	COA, RMT Sick Leave Buyback	\$ 9,500
0154352	577001	Veterans Benefits, Medical	0154351	511000	Veterans, Salaries	\$ 9,000
0156352	538000	Tourism Other Purch Serv	0161051	511000	Library, Salaries	\$ 11,000
0149952	520000	DPW - Central, Energy	0170059	592500	Debt Service, Interest on Notes-BAN	\$ 130,000
0190151	517003	Health Insurance	0190351	517008	Medicare Insurance	\$ 30,000
0182052	565004	State Assess, School Choice	0190351	517008	Medicare Insurance	\$ 120,000
600051	511000	Water EF, Salaries	600059	591500	Water EF Debt Service, Interest LTD	\$ 8,000
640051	511000	Sewer EF, Salaries	640059	592500	Sewer EF DS, Interest on Notes-BAN	\$ 40,000
640052	520000	Sewer EF, Purch Services	640059	592500	Sewer EF DS, Interest on Notes-BAN	\$ 17,000
700052	520000	Waterways EF, Purch Services	700051	512000	Waterways EF, Salaries	\$ 8,000
TOTAL						\$ 788,500

• **Ordinances & Administration – June 15 (continued from 6/23/2020)**

1. Application of Sarah Valencik for a Permit for Scientific Research in the Coastal Waters & Tidal Flats in the City of Gloucester pursuant to GCO Ch. 20, Sec. 20-27 “Permits for Scientific Works in coastal waters and flats of city”

Summary of Discussion: Tom Lido, 29 Old Salem Road called in on behalf of Sarah Valencik, who has received her Division of Marine Fisheries permit, however she is still waiting to receive the required sign-offs from the Conservation Commission & Department of Public Works.

As the applicant did not yet have all of the required approvals, this matter is continued to July 28, 2020.

- **Ordinances & Administration – July 6 (no meeting)**
- **Planning & Development – July 8 (no items under this heading)**
- **Special Planning & Development-July 13**

Councilor Gilman reported that it is Planning & Development’s purview to approve road closures for Special events. On July 13, they permitted the road closures for the Shop, Stroll, and Dine event on Saturday, July 18, 2020 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and street closures between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., with closures of Main Street from Pleasant Street to the West end, and side street closures including Hancock, Short, Center, and Porter Streets, with conditions. Councilor LeBlanc requested that these closures come before the full City Council during the pandemic, and Councilor Gilman was in agreement.

Scheduled Public Hearings:

1.PH2020-020: RZ2020-002: Temporary amendment to the GZO pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, and GZO Sec. 1.11.2(e) to amend GZO by ADDING a new Sec. 5.33 “Temporary Zoning Relief to Businesses During COVID-19 Pandemic” (Continued from 6/23/2020)

The public hearing opened at 7:10 p.m.

Those Speaking in Favor: Vanessa Krawczyk. Interim CAO

Vanessa advised the Council that the initial recommendation that came from the Mayor’s office to move this forward was a commitment to support the city’s businesses, especially restaurants, as part of our economic development and recovery strategy as we deal with COVID-19. It was a priority to help our local businesses open safely and responsibly, the temporary zoning relief removed barriers that allowed that to happen. No more than 30 businesses took advantage of it, and kudos to our staff for moving the applications along very quickly. She said that the administration strongly supports this, and asked for the Council’s support.

Those Speaking in Opposition: None.

Communications: None.

Councilor Questions: None.

The public hearing closed at 7:11 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: on a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, in accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, §5, and the GZO Sec. 1.11.2(e) to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Zoning Ordinance by ADDING a new Sec. 5.33 “Temporary Zoning Relief to Businesses During COVID-19 Pandemic” which would allow existing businesses to add outdoor seating, display, or takeout without requiring a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals or the City Council, or approval of the Planning Board under Sec. 5.9 “Site Plan Review,” as applicable, on a temporary basis until December 1, 2020.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman recognized that Bill Sanborn and Gregg Cademartori were still on the call and mentioned that this was fully vetted through the Planning Board and was unanimously supported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: on a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, in accordance with MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, and the GZO Sec. 1.11.2(e) to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Zoning Ordinance by ADDING a new Sec. 5.33 “Temporary Zoning Relief to Businesses during COVID-19 Pandemic” which would allow existing businesses to add outdoor seating, display, or takeout without

requiring a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals or the City Council, or approval of the Planning Board under Sec. 5.9 "Site Plan Review," as applicable, on a temporary basis until December 1, 2020.

MOTION: The City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to amend the Gloucester Zoning Ordinance by ADDING a new Sec. 5.33 "Temporary Zoning Relief to Businesses during COVID-19 Pandemic" which would allow existing businesses to add outdoor seating, display, or takeout without requiring a special permit from the Zoning Board of Appeals or the City Council, or approval of the Planning Board under Sec. 5.9 "Site Plan Review," as applicable, on a temporary basis until December 1, 2020.

2. PH2020-021: Application of EIP Dory Road LLC for the storage of ethanol at 11 Dory Road, Assessors Map 262, Lot 16 per MGL Ch. 148, §13, and GCO Ch. 8, Sec. 8-1 "License for storing inflammables"

Councilor LeBlanc opened and continued the public hearing to July 28, 2020.

3. PH2020-010: SCP2020-002: Essex Avenue #99A, Map 216, Lot 126, GZO Sec. 1.8.3 "Standard to be applied," Sec. 3.1.6(b) "Building Heights in Excess of 35 Feet;" Sec. 2.3.4(13) "Marine related service, storage or repair, limited primarily in the MI District to commercial fishing vessels;" Sec. 5.5 "Lowland Requirements;" Sec. 5.5.2 and Sec. 5.5.3 in the EB District (Cont. from 6/9/20; TBC)

Councilor LeBlanc opened and continued the public hearing to July 28, 2020.

4. PH2020-011: SCP2020-003: Atlantic Road #163 (formerly part of #171), Map 73, Lot 41 (a portion of former Map 73, Lot 26), GZO Secs. 1.8.3 "Standard to be Applied," 3.1.6(b) "Building Heights in Excess of 35 Feet," 3.2.2 fn.(e) "Dimensional Requirements for Multi-family Dwellings and Their Accessory Uses (other than signs) – reduction in distance between buildings," 2.3.1(8) "Conversion to or new multi-family or apartment dwelling, seven or more dwelling units," 5.7.5 "Special Permit Criteria" for Major Project and 1.10.1(a)(1)(2) "Jurisdiction of the City Council" in the R-20 Low/Medium Density Residential district

Councilor LeBlanc opened and continued the public hearing to August 11, 2020.

Other Business

1. City Council Discussion re: CC#2019-034: parking at all times of motor vehicles and RV's on Western Avenue from the County Way Landing to the Avis R. Murray Tennis Courts (Cont. from 6/23/2020)

Councilor LeBlanc said that he would like to withdraw this application. He will resubmit a new Council Order once the Traffic Commission is able to meet and make a recommendation.

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to withdraw the request.

Individual Councilor's Discussion including Reports by Appointed Councilors to Committees: Update on the Magnolia Woods Oversight & Advisory Committee by City Council Representative, Councilor Sean Nolan

Councilor Nolan said that there is no new information to report as the committee has not met.

Councilors' Requests to the Mayor:

Councilor Memhard requested assistance from the Mayor's office on behalf of his constituent Donna King, who lives on Eastern Avenue between the lights at 128 and East Main Street, to reach out and contact directly either Dispatch Manager Bruce Horne, or other people in charge at Gorton's and Americold to communicate to their truckers to stop using Eastern Avenue as a cut-through, and rather use the recommended extension on East Main Street as it's signed properly, but at this point, multiple tractor trailers are going through residential neighborhoods and a school zone.

Councilor Pett responded that both companies have constantly participated in working to keep the trucks off, most of this ends up being a GPS issue. For all of their regular carriers, they have specific instructions not to do that. The Mayor's office has gone all the way up to the Secretary of Transportation, and some meetings have been scheduled, and a number of issues that are going to be able to help; when they redo the numbering of the state highways, which is coming up within the next six months to a year. Hopefully we're going to have some additional signage with the correct new signs that will help with this issue, but it is being worked on by the administration, and he is trying to help since he has done so much previous work with the DOT.

Councilor Gilman

Request 1. Requested a Dead End, No Turn Around sign at the end of Linwood Place, almost directly across from Plum Cove Beach, at a location the DPW is comfortable with since it is so narrow that the only place to turn around is people's driveways.

Request 2. Requested a Dead End sign at the end of Quarry Street, possibly around Pole# 3183 at the bottom of the hill to notify people that there is no access to the quarries by car there.

Request 3. Requested a Grills Are Not Allowed sign at Lane's Cove.

Councilor Cox requested that the Board of Health clarify use of reusable bags in grocery stores, she would like their opinion regarding if stores refusing to accept them is illegal. She understands that stores can continue to use plastic bags for the time being but would like to know if they can refuse reusable bags in their store.

Mayor Sefatia responded that they can refuse because they don't know where our bags have been, however, you can either bag your own groceries once the cashier scans your items, or bring them to the Self-Checkout since you're bagging your own groceries. She verified the information with the state and the CDC.

Councilors' Thanks and Acknowledgements:

Councilor Memhard thanked all of the support from everybody in dealing with the beach parking issues this past weekend. The City Council is working with the Mayor's office, with Bob Ryan at the Traffic Commission, and the Gloucester Police Department to improve signage and the designated Resident-Only parking areas. Residents can purchase a \$5 sticker from the Collector's office that is good for 5 years or use a Beach Pass.

Councilor O'Hara extended a Thank You to the DPW for clearing trees on Hesperus Avenue. He requested that the Department of Transportation do the same thing on their right-of-ways since there are quite a few trees that are extremely hazardous.

He requested Mass Highway maintain fences or erect fencing/barriers on 128 as wildlife is creating a hazard on the roadway.

Councilor Holmgren thanked the Gloucester Police for all of the enforcement work they did this weekend. Chief Conley reported the statistics that 478 parking tickets were issued this weekend in their computer system that he can find. She stated she will support the Mayor and city administration in whatever they can do to help increase enforcement, but it is going to take time and patience.

Councilor Nolan thanked the DPW for doing an excellent job cleaning up after the weekends, the police department for their enforcements, and the administration & DPW for the tree removal on Hesperus Avenue.

Councilor Gilman thanked the city administration, Vanessa, DPW, the police, fire, & public health for the work of everyone for help in closing the quarries, as well as a group of 10 Lanesville constituents who went through the Mayor's office for approval, and cleaned up the quarry with the trash bags she provided. She stated that she appreciates the commitment to the community and the city to try to manage the current overpopulation in all of our open spaces.

Councilor LeBlanc thanked Acting CAO Vanessa. The City Council appreciates the daily updates they receive. He also thanked The Building Inspector, Bill Sanborn; Assessor, Gary Johnstone; and City Clerk, Joanne Senos for being at the meeting.

Councilors' Ward Updates and Community News:

Update on the Piping Plovers by City Council Representative, Councilor Scott Memhard

Councilor Memhard said we're down to one surviving chick named Marshmallow. He was 3 weeks old July 14, and has begun to fly. We lost one nest of four eggs, and we have lost 3 chicks in the last 3 weeks. That is about the average rate. Marshmallow is doing great, and he thanked everyone for their support and help.

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by: Brianna Komi,
City Clerk's Office Administrative Support