

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, September 8, 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: Mayor, Sefatia Romeo Theken; Acting CAO, Vanessa Krawczyk; City Clerk, Joanne M. Senos; CFO John Dunn; Economic Development Director, Sal DiStefano; Assessor, Gary Johnstone; Auditor, Kenny Costa; Community Development Director, Jill Cahill

Absent: None

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

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

Council President 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:

Mary Ann Albert Boucher, 93 Mount Pleasant Avenue

She stated that every taxpayer in the city should know how much the secondary water treatment plant is going to add to the tax burden, and that the CFO, when asked what the costs would be said not going there, it is going to be a burden. Coming before the City Council soon will be a loan request for a water flood mitigation project to build a protection wall around the entire treatment plant, and another \$4.2 million project will be before the Council for items without a full price tag. She believes it is time to pause, reevaluate, before none of us can afford to live here. She mentioned that she knows a lot of attendees are here tonight regarding a land disposition, which she stated she is not supposed to talk about. She believes they have been kept in the dark on a lot of this, and the taxpayers and citizens of this city should know exactly what is going on at all times. She declared that a full price tag should be known and asked if it is \$4.2 million for everything for our schools, or only some of the projects for our schools, we demand to know.

Pam Steele, 10 Pilot’s Hill

She stated that she has asked before, however she never received a response letter, so she is going to ask every time she can. She told the meeting attendees that they will all be retiring at some point in their lives, thinking they will have enough money, however no matter what they do, because of what is happening in Gloucester, they will be gone, as she and her friends will be. She said that she does not know if the City Council can do anything, and that she is a fan of capitalism since she has benefitted from it, however she believes that it just does not seem right that nobody ever wanted to come to Gloucester, and now all of a sudden from COVID and people who have money and cannot put it in the bank, they want to buy up our

town, and she feels it is being sold off. She stated that she worked hard her entire life, and has not wasted money, yet can still see that her days are numbered. She asked the Councilors to think about it, because they will be in that position at some point, and will be very sad to leave, this is the most beautiful place that anyone could ever live, and people still have values. She referenced the houses that cost in excess of a million dollars, and stated that one by one, people feel like they are being locked out, and she just hopes the meeting attendees will think about people in her situation. She said that Gloucester has a 10% higher senior population than the state average that taxpayers are going to need to subsidize if they are lucky enough to remain here, but maybe the taxes from those expensive properties will be enough to cover the cost.

Patti Amaral, 14 Myrtle Square

She stated “Our greatest gift is open space. Our greatest gift is fresh air. Our greatest gift is clean water. Our greatest gift are trees. Our greatest gift is our Earth, and together, we can save it, we can breathe it, we can drink it, we can hug it, and protect it for our future generations. Will you be the City Council that will help to save our open spaces? I leave you with this (quote by John C. Sawhill), our society is defined not only by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy.”

She asked the City Council to please think when they are taking these open spaces away. She shared that she is going to have a grandchild in November who should be able to play in an open field, not on a 60 x 90 turf area. She asked them to close their eyes and think about what they are looking at, and mentioned that she would be contacting **Councilor Pett** to follow up. She requested don't destroy, please save.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS: None.

CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- ***CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS***

- ***MAYOR'S REPORT***

1. Management Appointment
HR Director Holly Dougwillo (fulfilling an unexpired term) (TTE 2/14/21) (Refer O&A)
2. Memorandum from Veteran's Services Director re. request acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$75.00 (Refer B&F)
3. Memorandum, Grant Application, & Checklist from the Public Health Director re. request acceptance of a Bike Plan Mini-Grant in the amount of \$1,000 (Refer B&F)
4. Memorandum from General Counsel re. request permission to pay FY20 invoice with FY21 funds (Refer B&F)
5. Memorandum from CFO re. loan authorization request for ancillary costs not included in the Schematic Design Submission to the MSBA for the East Gloucester/Veteran's Memorial Consolidated School Project in the amount of \$4,200,000 (Refer B&F)
6. Mayor's response to oral communications at the 8/11/2020 City Council meeting (Info Only)
7. Health Department document listing COVID-19 symptoms for self-monitoring (Info Only)
 - ***COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS***
 - ***INFORMATION ONLY***
 - ***APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS***
 - ***COUNCILLORS ORDERS***
 - ***APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS***
 1. City Council Meeting: 8/25/2020 (Approve/File)
 2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 9/3/2020 (under separate cover), O&A 8/31/2020 (no meeting), P&D 9/2/2020 (under separate cover) (Approve/File)

Items to be added/removed from the Consent Agenda: None

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR:

1. Addendum to the Mayor's Report: Memorandum from Community Development Director re. Land Disposition Committee Recommendation-11 Webster Street (Refer P & D)

Items to be added/removed from the Unanimous Consent Agenda: None

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman stated that she wanted to make sure that the public is duly aware that this particular matter is being referred to the Planning and Development Committee (and then will go before the full City Council). She shared that a seven page packet of documentation is available for this City Council meeting on the city website, including the Addendum to the Mayor's Report, the September 3rd recommendation from the Land Disposition Committee for 11 Webster Street, a letter from the DPW regarding the Disposition of Mattos Field, and the July 31, 2020 Chapter 152 of the Acts of 2020 (An Act Authorizing the City of Gloucester to Use Certain Lands for Municipal School Purposes) vote of Governor Baker. **Councilor Memhard** thanked **Councilor Gilman** for the clarification.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

• Budget & Finance – September 3rd

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Pett congratulated the Gloucester Fire Department for the wonderful grants they are receiving.

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 Unanimous Consent Agenda for the September 3, 2020 Budget and Finance meeting.

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 Supplemental Appropriation 2021-SA-33 in the amount of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) from DPW Highway Force – Transfers to General Fund Account #32085-596001, to DPW-Public Services Purchase of Services Account #0147052-520000 for the purpose of funding a right of way tree removal and pruning on Holly Street and other locations.

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 Supplemental Appropriation 2021-SA-33 in the amount of \$25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars) from DPW Highway Force – Transfers to General Fund Account #32085-596001, to DPW-Public Services Purchase of Services Account #0147052-520000 for the purpose of funding a right of way tree removal and pruning on Holly Street and other locations.

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 National Park Service passed through the Essex National Heritage Commission, a 2020 Essex Heritage Visitor Grant for \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting activities of the City's Visitor Welcome Center at Stage Fort Park. The grant period is from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. There is 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 from the National Park Service passed through the Essex National Heritage Commission, a 2020 Essex Heritage Visitor Grant for \$2,500 for the purpose of supporting activities for the City's Visitor Welcome Center at Stage Fort Park. The grant period is from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. There is 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 federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services passed through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant program entitled “Pathways to Success” special project for \$7,500 for the purpose of connecting residents with resources, technology, and assistance to increase skills and confidence in job seeking and work readiness. The grant period is from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. There is 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 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services passed through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant program entitled “Pathways to Success” special project for \$7,500 for the purpose of connecting residents with resources, technology, and assistance to increase skills and confidence in job seeking and work readiness. The grant period is from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. There is no local match for this grant.

Summary of Discussion: Auditor Kenny Costa advised **Fire Chief Eric Smith** that this grant did not need to be resubmitted because it had already been accepted and approved by the City Council during the October 22, 2019 meeting. The original grant period was from September 3, 2019 through September 2, 2020, and FEMA has granted a 12-month extension through September 2, 2021. No further action is needed.

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 Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a FY2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$490,670.91. The purpose of this grant is to fund training and personnel costs with a 10% local match equal to \$49,670.09 funded by the City of Gloucester. The grant period is from August 14, 2020 to August 13, 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 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Department of Homeland Security (DHS), a FY2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) in the amount of \$490,670.91. The purpose of this grant is to fund training and personnel costs with a 10% local match equal to \$49,670.09 funded by the City of Gloucester. The grant period is from August 14, 2020 through August 13, 2021.

- **Ordinances & Administration – August 31st (no meeting)**
- **Planning & Development – September 2nd (no items under this heading)**

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman stated that although there is nothing official to report, she wanted to remind City Councilors that as a result of that meeting, the Planning and Development Committee is prepared to conduct a site visit at 163 Atlantic Road (formerly 171) on Friday, September 11, 2020. There will be one session at 5:00 p.m., one at 5:30 p.m., and one at 6:00 p.m. Attorney Eliason mailed a notice to abutters on Friday, September 4th, and most of them attended the meeting. **Councilor Gilman** had already confirmed with 5 Councilors who were planning to attend, and encouraged any remaining who are interested to notify her as soon as possible so she can accommodate as many abutters as space will allow.

OLD BUSINESS

Summary of Discussion: Council President LeBlanc explained that per the **City Clerk**, a scrivener’s error occurred during both meetings listed below:

1. O&A Minutes of 2/3/2020: amendment to GCO Sec. 10-87 “Harbormaster Patrol Details” to correct motion due to scrivener’s error

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to amend the Ordinances and Administration Committee meeting minutes of February 3, 2020 on page 5 to correct a scrivener’s error in regards to the amendment to the GCO Section 10-87 “Harbormaster Patrol Details” subsection (c)(4) by striking “A flat fee of \$57/hr.” and inserting “A flat fee of \$75/hour.”

2. City Council Minutes of 2/25/2020: amendment to GCO Sec. 10-87 “Harbormaster Patrol Details” to correct motion due to scrivener’s error

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to amend the City Council meeting minutes of February 25th, 2020 on pages 13 and 14 to correct a Scrivener's error in regards to the amendment to the GCO Section 10-87 “Harbormaster Patrol Details” subsection (c)(4) by striking “A flat fee of \$57/hr.” and inserting “A flat fee of \$75/hour.”

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. PH2020-024: Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement between the City of Gloucester and Hefring Engineering

The public hearing opened at 6:21 p.m.

Those Speaking in Favor: The Mayor and Economic Development Director Sal DiStefano

Those Speaking in Opposition: None.

Communications: None.

Summary of Discussion: Hefring/Nortech AS CEO Atle Lohrmann and partner Freda Zifteh both attended to represent the company. The Mayor thanked them and expressed excitement that Hefring Engineering is making this investment in Gloucester, and at the prospect of 60 new jobs coming to the city within a few years. She thanked Mr. Lohrmann and Ms. Zifteh, and stated that the city looks forward to supporting and working closely with them in partnership, and she believes that many uses of the ocean-glided technologies will benefit and create opportunities in our community (as well as the entire state) for years to come, from the mapping of the ocean bed to testing the waters for the U.S. Navy. She also thanked **Community Development Director Jill Cahill** and **Economic Development Director Sal DiStefano**. She mentioned that the “blue economy” (working waterfront) is changing, and the waterfront and fishermen are told that they are believed in and that the city wants this to continue to exist, so this investment is going to help. She encouraged the **City Council** to accept this proposed agreement.

Mr. DiStefano thanked **Council President LeBlanc**, and the entire **City Council**. He stated that the **Mayor** covered a lot of ground when she spoke in favor of the TIF agreement, and you could hear the passion in her voice; as always, she is in support of economic development, especially on our working waterfront. He presented Hefring Engineering to the **Council** for their consideration on behalf of the **Mayor** and the TIF Committee. He stated that he was also joined in the meeting by Maria DiStefano, Regional Director for the Massachusetts Office of Business Development. He explained that the M.O.B.D. Economic Assistance Coordinating Council approves the city’s TIF agreements, even if they are local only. He reiterated that as the **Mayor** mentioned, the state has been a great partner in trying to find all the support possible for this company. He told the attendees that Hefring would be conducting a brief presentation during the meeting to familiarize everyone with their ocean glider, and stated that the city is really excited because the company is looking to move into the Gloucester Marine Genomics Institute building located at 417 Main Street (right on the waterfront), also home to the new company LifeMine.

Mr. DiStefano mentioned that one of the things that really appealed to the city was the fact that Hefring Engineering has visited and is looking forward to working with our local fishermen and other marine employees, providing blue collar jobs to those interested in helping to assemble, launch, and test these devices. He explained that today a proposal is being presented to the **City Council** for a 5-year TIF agreement, and clarified that the city is not losing any existing tax revenue, this is merely a discount on the extra value that will be created after the company makes a significant investment, and the goal is that they expand to even more space in Gloucester and continue to make it their home. The agreement will start with a 90% discount on year one, 80% year two, 70% year three, 60 % year four, and 50% year five. He thanked the members of the TIF Committee, along with the **Mayor, Community Development Director Jill Cahill, Assessor Gary Johnstone, CFO John Dunn, Council President Steve LeBlanc, Auditor Kenny Costa, General Counsel Chip Payson, and Acting CAO Vanessa Krawczyk.**

Ms. Zifteh thanked **Mr. DiStefano** and the **City Council** for inviting Hefring Engineering to attend this evening's meeting. During her presentation, she explained that the ocean glider is a vehicle that swims in the ocean and carries various sensors to observe subsea properties important to science and operations, such as determining salinity, fish stock populations, naval battlespace awareness, weather prediction, and by climate scientists and oceanographic modelers to map the seabed floor. These types of vehicles are widely used by the U.S. Navy, several branches of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), many universities with large research programs, and similar institutions around the world such as the Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the United Kingdom National Oceanographic Center.

She explained that the company's aim was to build one that is significantly lower in cost and less complex to use than their competition so they can increase accessibility. The early prototype glider featured in the video presentation demonstrated the use of buoyancy engines to move through water rather than propellers and thrusters like autonomous underwater vehicles, which means they can complete much longer missions and collect data over longer ranges without power limitations, so it is not uncommon for a glider mission to go six months, and collect information over very large segments of the ocean.

Ms. Zifteh provided background on the company. It is partly owned by a Norwegian oceanographic sensor company called NorTech A-S with headquarters in Oslo, and a U.S. subsidiary located in Boston, so as an organization, they have decades of experience putting technology in the ocean (this type of development) as well as common founders. They have secured \$4 million dollars for the development and initial production phase, and once the prototype goes into production, they anticipate 5-year international revenues of approximately \$20 million dollars per year, with about 30% of this coming from the U.S. market. This year they are not yet in production, but have secured a small amount of revenue from a phase one Small Business Innovation Research grant in support of producing explosion-proof sensors for Navy submarines, to give an idea of their 5-year local workforce plans. These plans include building out a production facility as well with 60 employees they can provide well-paying jobs with competitive benefits packages to.

They are considering Gloucester (in addition to being sought-after by other locations in the United States with strong Navy and NOAA ties, along with relevant research and scientific communities both in the state of Massachusetts, and close to key customers and partners, including the Gulf Coast, specifically Gulfport, Mississippi, southern California, and the Washington D.C. area). They like the idea of being close to the NorTech Boston hub while being able to leverage those resources in Gloucester that could fulfill all practical requirements for development, testing and attracting top talent. Some of these things that they are looking for are a working waterfront with quick access to deep water for testing and deployment of the vehicles, and vessels of opportunity (small man-portable vehicles that can be deployed from small fishing boats), and an attractive place to live with affordable housing and good quality of life.

Mr. Lohrmann explained that they have been searching for almost a year to decide on a production location, and that once they came to Gloucester and saw the water and the general atmosphere of the city we were, they believed it would be a good fit.

Councilor Questions:

Q1 (Pett) Even though your product is not unique (there are currently four other manufacturers of this type of vehicle in Cape Cod, Seattle, San Diego, and France), what is the protocol for interacting with and sharing information world-wide with other governments, militaries, etc., such as the Department of Defense and the United States Navy?

A1 (Zifteh) To the ongoing use of these types of devices within the military, she explained she would contact the civilian branch, or the division of the Navy equivalent to the Army Corps of Engineers in charge of world-wide models. How the ocean moves is a fairly benign part of the Navy, so they do not require the same type of secrecy limitations as warfare activities.

Q1 (Gilman) This technology is intriguing, can you give us a feel for how you might be collaborating with organizations already in Gloucester such as GMGI, Maritime Gloucester, and the MA Marine Station, and staying connected to our city?

A1 (Zifteh): We need a product, so our first attempt at staying connected will be to have lots of conversations on how they can utilize this. One of the things mentioned was the accessibility, to be able to put this type of technology in more people's hands, and right now, the types of research institutions that have these are the ones that have large research vessels and programs, such as San Diego Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. She reiterated that the company likes local partnerships, currently Nor-Tech Boston does business with Boston University, Northeastern University, and UMass Boston.

A2 (Lohrmann) In Gloucester specifically, NOAA is a collaborating partner.

The public hearing closed at 6:39 p.m.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Holmgren thanked Hefring Engineering for testing the waters with us, and the remaining Councilors expressed their gratitude to the company for choosing Gloucester. **Councilor Cox** clarified that this is a consideration of accepting the TIF agreement, not yet a commitment to move to the city.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Standing Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve a Tax Increment Financing exemption between the City of Gloucester and Hefring Engineering, in accordance with the Massachusetts Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) and Chapters 23A, 40, and 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws to be located at 417 Main Street, for the term of five (5) years ending in Fiscal Year 2026.

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 a Tax Increment Financing exemption between the City of Gloucester and Hefring Engineering, in accordance with the Massachusetts Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP) and Chapters 23A, 40, and 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws to be located at 417 Main Street, for the term of five (5) years ending in Fiscal Year 2026.

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

1. Adopt the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement between the City of Gloucester and Hefring Engineering for property located at 417 Main Street;
2. Approve the project application and find that it meets the requirements of MGL c. 23A, §3F in that it provides a reasonable opportunity to create jobs within the City of Gloucester as indicated in the TIF Agreement.
3. Authorize the mayor to execute the TIF agreement and submit the TIF agreement and the certified project application and all other necessary documents to the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and take any other action as necessary and appropriate to implement the provisions of these documents.

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 accept the following:

- 1. Adopt the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement between the City of Gloucester and Hefring Engineering for property located at 417 Main Street;**
- 2. Approve the project application and find that it meets the requirements of MGL c. 23A, Section (need section symbol) 3F in that it provides a reasonable opportunity to create jobs within the City of Gloucester as indicated in the TIF Agreement.**
- 3. Authorize the mayor to execute the TIF agreement and submit the TIF agreement and the certified project application and all other necessary documents to the Economic Assistance Coordinating Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and take any other action as necessary and appropriate to implement the provisions of these documents.**

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.'s 1.8.3 "Standard to be Applied," 1.10.1(a) "Jurisdiction of the City Council 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 8/11/2020)

Council President LeBlanc opened and continued this matter until October 13, 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 8/25/20)

Council President LeBlanc opened and continued this matter until October 13, 2020.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR'S DISCUSSION INCLUDING REPORTS BY APPOINTED COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES: None.

COUNCILORS' REQUESTS TO THE MAYOR:

Councilor Cox requested that the Traffic Commission begin meeting again.

COUNCILORS' THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Councilor Memhard recognized that the city has passed Labor Day weekend, a Schooner Festival, and the Mayor's Reception at the Schooner Festival with none of the above, and it is sort of a sad note as Labor Day goes by that 2020 has been so different than we're used to enjoying here in Gloucester.

Councilor McCarthy observed during a recent visit to Good Harbor Beach that the lifeguards and all other summer city employees who pitched in and made the beaches, parking lots, and all around safer and cleaner.

Councilor O'Hara mimicked **Councilor McCarthy's** thanks to all of the city employees who gave Gloucester a successful summer, to the **Mayor** for her hard work to bring some normalcy to the city, and to visitors who came into the community to enjoy the beauty of Gloucester. He also thanked **City Clerk Joanne Senos** for conducting a successful primary, and for working with the Magnolia Library where a Red Cross blood drive was held the evening before the election. He thanked **Councilor Cox**, and all other participants in the blood drive being held on September 8, 2020 as well.

Councilor Nolan thanked the administration and the **Department of Public Works** for all the work they have done around the city, which he stated is sometimes a thankless job that he wants to extend kudos for. **Councilor Gilman** supported what **Councilor Nolan** said, thank you to Public Works staff and all other city staff members, it is much appreciated.

Councilor LeBlanc extended kudos to the **City Clerk's Office** for running a very smooth primary. He appreciates the poll workers as well who were willing to be involved during this stressful time of uncertainty that we are all experiencing due to COVID-19.

COUNCILORS' WARD UPDATES AND COMMUNITY NEWS:

Councilor O'Hara reported that the Magnolia Library Red Cross Blood Drive held on August 31st, 2020 collected 38 units that could potentially save 114 lives. Each person is able to donate a unit of blood every 56 days, so he encouraged everyone to contact 1-800-RED CROSS to schedule an appointment to roll up their sleeves as often as possible. He explained that the library is being used as the location for their blood drives since many other volunteer collection facilities have opted not to collect due to the current COVID-19 virus. He shared the following upcoming Blood Drive dates at that location: **September 16th, September 22nd, October 1st, October 12th, October 28th, November 9th, November 11th, November 20th, December 8th, and December 30th.**

Councilor Gilman mentioned that the evening of September 9, 2020, socially-distanced quarry focus groups will be held at Plum Cove Beach to begin some general conversations about demographic interests of quarry core use and priorities as preparation begins for Zoom best-practice sessions. She explained that Les Bartlett and Heather Atwood will be assisting her with the focus groups, and will also be panelists during the Zoom sessions along with the **Mayor**, and former GHS student Caroline King who now attends Boston College and wrote her junior thesis on quarry management.

An informal listening sessions for attendees whose last names start with A-M will begin at 6:15 p.m., N-Z will meet at 7:00 p.m., and a third session will be held that evening if needed. Everything will be scribed verbatim, and then the information will be communicated. She also wanted to inform the Council and the public that an online SurveyMonkey questionnaire replicating the same questions asked during the sessions will be available via the Gloucester Daily Times in the weeks ahead

MOTION: on a motion by Councilor Holmgren, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 experiencing technical difficulty to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brianna Komi
Administrative Support
City Clerk's Office