

**GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 12, 2021– 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: City Clerk Joanne M. Senos; Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; CAO Nicole Kieser; Asst. CAO Vanessa Krawczyk; Chief Conley; Public Health Director Karin Carroll**

*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 or the public hearing to be recognized.”

**MOMENT OF SILENCE:**

**Councilor LeBlanc** called for a moment of silence in honor of Gloucester Police Department Officer Anthony Parisi, a 30-year veteran of the force who passed away recently. The **Mayor** also shared some memories about Officer Parisi.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Lenore Balliro, 1022 Washington Street**

Made a complaint about lack of enforcement of residents removing snow from the sidewalks in front of their homes.

**Patti Page, 3 Tidal Cove Way**

Said that public participation needs to be central to the process of renewing local space and harbor plans.

**Steve Noel, 567 Essex Avenue**

Brought up a concern about notification of the reopening of the firing range. **Councilor LeBlanc** advised Mr. Noel that he could not speak on that matter under oral communications, but could speak at the public hearing.

**Kristen Ward, 27 High Street**

Brought up a safety concern regarding the worsening problem of wrong-way drivers on the beginning of High Street. Requested that the issue be looked at and resolved.

**Sharron Cohen, 1041 Washington Street**

Brought up a concern about wrong-way drivers on High Street. Requested that signage be looked at and the issue resolved.

Before continuing with the next order of business, **Councilor LeBlanc** announced to everyone in attendance that the public hearing for 99A Essex Avenue would be continued to January 26, 2021.

### **PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:**

#### **1. COVID-19**

**Karin Carroll, Public Health Director**, updated the City Council on the following:

- 179 active cases in the City of Gloucester; numbers have continued to rise since Thanksgiving
- Hospitalizations are low; currently 5 residents in the hospital
- 33 deaths since the beginning of COVID
- Wastewater virus results are continuing to rise significantly; however, results lowered slightly last week
- Schools and many businesses are continuing to operate safely with very little transmission within the agencies
- Cases are mainly linked to households, private clubs and gatherings
- The city is still keeping up with contact tracing; changes have been made to close contact protocols
- The city successfully vaccinated 100 regional first responders from Cape Ann and Ipswich during its first clinic

Questions from the Council:

**Q. (Cox)** Are supermarkets subject to the 25% capacity rule?

**A. (Carroll)** Believed they are not subject to that capacity rule, but did not have an immediate answer. The Building Inspector is working closely with supermarkets.

**Q. (Cox):** Are you planning on getting assistance from CERT and MRC before offering vaccine clinics to the general public?

**A. (Carroll):** The city will only go through MRC to staff future clinics if additional help is needed beyond the team that is currently in place.

**Q. (Gilman):** What can the City Council do to help?

**A. (Carroll):** Thanking the team is appreciated.

**Q. (LeBlanc):** Is there a plan to give excess dosages to the next qualifying tier?

**A. (Carroll):** First responders and school nurses (who are COVID testing) on the waiting list in the region will be notified of cancellations. If excess dosages are available after the first responder clinic closes, and after consultation with the state, the city will go to the first priority list and offer the vaccine to people added to that group.

**Members of the Council** thanked Ms. Carroll and her team for their work and communication.

### **CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS**

None.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**
- **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Management New Appointment:	Chief Administrative Officer	(TTE 2/14/22)	Nicole Kieser	(Refer O&A)
Management Reappointments:				
Director of Veterans Services	(TTE 2/14/23)	Adam Curcuro		
Human Resources Director	(TTE 2/14/23)	Holly Dougwillo		

DPW Director	(TTE 2/14/23)	Michael Hale	
Information Services Director	(TTE 2/14/23)	Ryan Knowles	
General Counsel	(TTE 2/14/23)	Charles Payson	
Inspector of Buildings	(TTE 2/14/23)	William Sanborn	
Assessor	(TTE 2/14/24)	Gary Johnstone	(Refer O&A)
<b>Boards, Committee &amp; Commissions New Appointments:</b>			
City-Owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee	(TTE 2/14/24)	Maureen Vallis	
Community Preservation Committee	(TTE 2/14/24)	Kerry McKenna	
Gloucester Cultural Council	(TTE 2/14/22)	Karen Koretsky (fulfilling unexpired term)	
Open Space and Recreation Committee	(TTE 2/14/23)	Mark Poulin (fulfilling unexpired term)	(Refer O&A)
<b>Boards, Committees &amp; Commission Reappointments:</b>			
Affordable Housing Trust	(TTE 2/14/23)	Ruth Pino, Michael Luster	
Board of Commissioners of Trust Funds	(TTE 2/14/24)	Karen Neva Bell	
Clean City Commission	(TTE 2/14/24)	Sarah Steward, Carter Whitlock	
Clean Energy Commission	(TTE 2/14/23)	Samuel Ziergiebel, Linda Brayton, John Moskal	
Committee for the Arts	(TTE 2/14/25)	Robert Haverkamp	
Community Preservation Committee	(TTE 2/14/24)	Pamela Tobey	
Conservation Committee	(TTE 2/14/24)	Barry Gradwhol, Linda Charpentier	
Council on Aging	(TTE 2/14/24)	Selma Bell, Barry McKay, Frederick Cowan, Jay Gustaferro	(Refer O&A)
2. Memorandum from the Cape Ann Veterans Services Director requesting the acceptance of donations totaling \$5,958			(Refer B&F)
3. Memorandum from the Archives Committee requesting the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$500			(Refer B&F)
4. Memorandum, grant application and checklist from the Public Health Director requesting the acceptance of a BI Lahey Health Grant in the amount of \$20,000			(Refer B&F)
5. Memorandum, grant application and checklist from the Police Chief requesting the acceptance of the FY2021 State 911 Department Training Grant in the amount of \$73,912.44			(Refer B&F)
6. Memorandum from Grants Administrator with the recommendations from the Community Preservation Committee for Round 11 FY20 Funds in the amount of \$513,623 for one-time projects			(Refer B&F)
7. Memorandum, grant application and checklist from Public Health Director requesting the acceptance of a BI Lahey FY21 Community Collaborative Grant in the amount of \$24,800			(Refer B&F)
• <b>COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS</b>			
1. Memorandum from City Clerk requesting City Council set the date of the Municipal Preliminary Election to September 14, 2021			(FCV 1/26/21)
• <b>INFORMATION ONLY</b>			
• <b>APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS</b>			
• <b>COUNCILLORS ORDERS</b>			
• <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS</b>			
1. City Council Meeting: 12/8/2020			(Approve/File)
2. Executive Session Minutes: 2/24/2020, 7/14/2020, 11/17/2020			(Approve/File)
3. Special B&F: 12/30/2020			(Approve/File)
4. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 1/7/2021 (cancelled), O&A 1/4/2021, P&D 1/6/2021			(Approve/File)

### **ITEMS TO BE ADDED/REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**Councilor Gilman** requested to pull the executive session minutes as she felt they were not ready for approval. She suggested going into executive session at the next Council meeting so that the Council could better understand the details of the minutes before approving them.

**Councilor LeBlanc** continued this matter to January 26, 2021.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **• Budget & Finance – December 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 the Budget and Finance Unanimous Consent Agenda.**

**Summary of Discussion:** Councilor Cox thanked the donors who gave to the Veterans 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 accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a federal grant from the US DOT/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and passed through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), a Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program for \$24,930 for the Police Dept. to provide funding for traffic enforcement and safety. The grant period is from December 18, 2020 through September 15, 2021 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 from the US DOT/National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and passed through the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), a Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program for \$24,930 for the Police Dept. to provide funding for traffic enforcement and safety. The grant period is from December 18, 2020 through September 15, 2021 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 various cash donations under MGL c. 44, §53A, to support Cape Ann Veterans Services in the amount of \$100 from the following members and business partners within our community:

Linda Comeau	\$ 50.00
Wayne Sargent	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$100.00

**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 various cash donations under MGL c. 44, §53A, to support Cape Ann Veterans Services in the amount of \$100 from the following members and business partners within our community:**

<b>Linda Comeau</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b>Wayne Sargent</b>	<b><u>50.00</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>

• **Ordinances & Administration – January 4, 2021**

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 forward a letter to MassDOT requesting that the speed limit on Leonard Street be reduced to 20 m.p.h. and that such letter be accompanied by the speed study and a Certificate of Vote of the City Council.

**MOTION TO AMEND: on a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to amend the motion to include the recommendation from the Police Chief.**

**Summary of Discussion:** Councilor Gilman thanked O&A for taking up the matter, and the residents of Annisquam who were in support.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to forward a letter to MassDOT requesting that the speed limit**

on Leonard Street be reduced to 20 m.p.h. and that such letter be accompanied by the speed study, a Certificate of Vote of the City Council and, letter of support from the Chief of Police

• **Planning & Development – January 6, 2021**

No items to report.

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. PH2020-010: SCP2020-002: Essex Avenue #99A, Map 216, Lot 126, GZO 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 MID 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 11/10/2020, TBC 1/26/2021)

Councilor LeBlanc continued the public hearing to January 26, 2021.

2. PH2021-001: Group Petition under City Charter Sec. 9-1 “Free Petition” Subsection (b) “Group Petition” re: use of public land for a Gloucester Police Shooting Range

**Public Hearing Opened: 7:05 p.m.**

Councilor LeBlanc announced that a group petition requires 150 signatures from registered voters in the city. Speakers can come before the City Council and speak on the matter, but no action will be taken by the City Council. If a Councilor wishes to change the ordinance pertaining to the firing range, they can submit an order through the City Clerk’s Office. He then advised the attendees on the Council Rules of Procedure regarding speaking at a public hearing.

**Those Speaking in Favor of the Firing Range:**

- **Timothy Sova, 25 Lendall Avenue**

**Proponents gave the following reasons for the support of the Firing Range:**

- Marksmanship is a perishable skill and Gloucester Police Officers should have the ability to continually train on this skill.

**Those Speaking in Opposition to the Firing Range:**

- **Nubar Alexanian, 11 Sumner Street**
- **Jean Grobe, 17 Lincoln Street**
- **Amy Donnelly, 9 Sumner Street**
- **Charlie Crowley, 19 Biskie Head Point**
- **Steve Noel, 567 Essex Avenue**
- **Pete Radocha, 259 Concord Street**
- **Grant Clark, 279 Concord Street**
- **Diana Clark, 279 Concord Street**
- **Ann Stevens, 10 Winterhaven Road**
- **Jonathan Janes, 21 Forest Lane**
- **Robin Hosking, 20 Forest Lane**
- **Gitama Kinigstein, 18 Forest Lane**
- **Debbie Holland, 11 Jebeka Lane**
- **Andrew Innes, 60 Bray Street**
- **Jo-Ann Costano, 60 Bray Street**
- **Maryann Boucher, 93 Mt. Pleasant Avenue**
- **Dennis McGurk, 283 Concord Street**
- **Elizabeth Smith, 21 Bray Street**

**Opponents gave the following reason for their objection to the Firing Range:**

- Could affect businesses run in the neighborhood
- Character of the neighborhood is not being preserved
- There are no accountability standards for non-police use
- Quality of life is compromised
- Firing range is not adequate for the training police need
- Scheduling, notification and signage is not adequate
- Training is done during prime usage seasons
- Conservation/environmental issues
- Reduction in open space
- Area residents were not notified of the amendment to the firing range ordinance
- Area around the Haskell Pond Reservoir has been approved as a shooting range
- Shooting range is in a neighborhood area
- Hiking area: firing range is located next to trailheads to the Gloucester/Manchester woods
- No fencing, enclosure or cell service at the site
- Unauthorized use by gun owners
- Multiple entrance points
- Noise: causing PTSD for veterans, heightened anxiety, disruption for remote learners and workers
- Decreased property values

**Opponents offered the following alternatives:**

- Training could be done at Fort Devens, and the cost could be shouldered by the residents of the city
- Training could be done at the shooting range at the Police Department
- Collaborate with other communities to use a central range, such as the facility at the Northeast Municipal Law Enforcement Council's SWAT Team 63 Middlesex and Essex County Agencies. Their fees are less than the fees charged by Fort Devens

**Heidi Wakeman**, Chair of Open Space & Recreation Committee, called in to say that this matter would be taken up by the Open Space & Recreation Committee at their next meeting.

**Mark Poulin**, appointee to the Open Space & Recreation Committee, asked if the range was for active and retired police officer. **Councilor LeBlanc** said it was for both, as retired police are still used in some capacity on the force.

**Communications:**

- **Jean Grobe**
- **Jo-Ann Castano**
- **Debe Holland**
- **Andrew Innes**
- **Laraine Chicchetti**
- **Jane Gagliardi**

**Councilor Questions:**

**Q. (Holmgren):** Will there be a committee or a neighborhood oversight group? How will neighbors be given notice when the range is being used?

**A. (Conley):** He has as communicated to the neighborhood and local stakeholders his willingness to forming an advisory committee which would also serve as a means with which to communicate with the neighborhood. Currently, communication to the neighborhood is done through social media sites and the website.

**Q. (Pett):** Is this range only going to be available to Gloucester Police?

**A. (Conley):** Yes.

**Q. (Gilman):** How many officers would typically need to do the Wednesday make-up training?

**A. (Conley):** Over the past year, 10 to 20 officers have needed to make up training time.

**Q. (Memhard):** What are the requirements of the training, and the number of officers that need it?

**A. (Conley):** There are 74 active, sworn members of the department that need to qualify twice a year. The number of retirees will fluctuate, but there are approximately 3. Retirees are not required to qualify twice a year. Each officer must train 8 hours in the spring and 8 hours in the fall. Due to COVID, in 2020 more iterations were offered at 4 hours each. The Police Department is required to fire all of its weapons (pistols, side arms, patrol rifle and shotgun) and each officer is required to qualify on all the weapons.

**Q. (McCarthy):** Could the Chief explain the benefit to logistics in having the firing range in the area?

**A. (Conley):** There is a storage area on Forrest Lane that the Police Department can utilize to store equipment. The Police Department has 6 certified instructors to teach firearms and run a firing range and there is a cost benefit to that. The city loses control of its costs when using an outside range.

**Q. (Gilman):** Has the city considered regionalizing the training?

**A. (LeBlanc):** The ordinance states that is for Gloucester Police.

**A. (Conley):** Most Chiefs that he has spoken to who are trying to establish or reopen a range are facing the same issues that Gloucester is, so regionalizing probably wouldn't work.

**Q. (Gilman):** Is it impracticable to revisit the shooting location at the Police Department?

**A. (Conley):** The range in the police department has not been maintained and is not safe.

**Q. (Cox):** Was the Chief aware of the Lexington Facility and the possibility of buying into that in April?

**A. (Conley):** He was made aware only at a meeting where the Lexington Chief discussed it. There has been no further communication that the facility is open or available.

**Q. (Cox):** What other options were explored during the discussion in April? Was their discussion about regionalization?

**A. (Conley):** Due to changes in requirements to the frequency of training, many chiefs are seeking to use their own local ranges in order to be more cost effective. Training out of town is expensive: mileage reimbursement for officers and instructors; travel time overtime pay; and, overtime pay for instructors. For the areas that have regionalized, there is a wait list to get in.

**Q. (Holmgren):** Do the bullets have lead?

**A. (Conley):** Bullets used for target practice/certification do not contain lead. The rounds used are environmentally friendly for shooting ranges.

**Q. (O'Hara):** How many shots are fired per police officer per round of qualification?

**A. (Conley):** Approximately 500.

**Q. (Cox):** Is it possible that lead bullets would be used?

**A. (Conley):** Training is mandatory - there may be a time when frangible ammunition is not available and training would still have to occur.

**Q. (Nolan):** He clarified that the city is not inviting the Sherriff's Department, SWAT Teams, and the Coast Guard from other cities. It is not allowable according to the ordinance and to do so would be against the law unless they are working directly with the Gloucester Police Department.

**A. (Conley):** That is correct.

**Public Hearing Closed: 8:30 p.m.****Summary of Discussion:**

**Councilor LeBlanc** reiterated that no action will be taken by the Council at this meeting, and if any Councilors wish to change the ordinance, they should submit an order through the City Clerk's Office. **Councilor Pett** commented that he has looked at the range with Chief Conley, and based on his own past military experience in running ranges, the range as it is set up now can be a safe place for officers to qualify.

**Councilor LeBlanc** thanked Chief Conley for his time.

**FOR COUNCIL VOTE**

**1. Decision to Adopt: SCP2020-005: Rocky Neck Avenue #37, Map 130, Lot 4A, GZO Secs. 2.3.1.7 "Conversion to a new multi-family or apartment dwelling, four to six units," and 3.2 "Dimensional Tables," reduction in minimum lot area and open space per dwelling unit to create a fourth unit in the NB zone.**

**Summary of Discussion:** None.

**MOTION: To adopt decision: SCP2020-005: Rocky Neck Avenue #37, Map 130, Lot 4A, GZO Secs. 2.3.1.7 "Conversion to or new multi-family or apartment dwelling, four to six dwelling units," and 3.2 "Dimensional Tables," reduction in minimum lot area and open space per dwelling unit to create a fourth unit, in the NB zone**

**COUNCILORS' REQUESTS TO THE MAYOR:**

- **(Gilman)** Request a planning session, to include the CAO, to begin the conversation about the quarry management for the summer.

**COUNCILORS' THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

- **(Holmgren)** Thanked the public for their participation at the meeting, and reminded everyone to wear a mask.
- **(Pett)** Thanked the Councilors for their help during his first year as a councilor. Also thanked the administration and people who are working through the pandemic.
- **(Memhard, McCarthy & O'Hara)** Thanked the Public Health Director and her team. Also thanked the Forrest Lane abutters who spoke tonight about the concerns they have for their neighborhood.

**COUNCILORS' WARD UPDATES AND COMMUNITY NEWS:**

- **(Cox):** She is working with Community Development Director Jill Cahill on coming up with a fair and equitable economic recovery plan for all businesses.
- **(Gilman):** There will be drive-thru food drive for the Open Door on Saturday.

**Councilors LeBlanc and Gilman** thanked interim CAO Vanessa Krawczyk for her work during her interim period.

**Councilor Nolan** left the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

**MOTION: on a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 a.m.**

**Submitted by Grace E. Poirier, Assistant City Clerk**



**Items submitted at the meeting: None.**