

SPECIAL GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 31, 2011

6:30 p.m. – Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

Special Council Meeting – 2011-004

-Minutes-

Present: President, Councilor Jacqueline Hardy; Vice President, Councilor Sefatia Theken; Councilor Steven Curcuru; Councilor Paul McGeary; Councilor Joseph Ciolino; Councilor Robert Whynott; Councilor Greg Verga; Councilor Anne Mulcahey

Absent: Councilor Tobey

Also Present: Linda T. Lowe, Jim Duggan;

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m.

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence.

City Council Special Meeting Agenda:

Presentation:

1 of 1: Administration re: City Auditor's Report on Ambulance Service Revenues

Councilor Hardy invited Jim Duggan, CAO to the podium asking if he wished to address the City Council on the matter of the City Auditor's Report on the Ambulance Service Revenues continued to this meeting.

Jim Duggan, CAO stated that there would not be a presentation by the Administration this evening on ambulance revenue. They are still examining the City Auditor's report and what options they have going forward.

Mr. Duggan in response to **Councilor Hardy** inquiry as to when the Administration would be ready with their report, stated at present before the Mayor is the Certificate of Vote which can either be accepted or vetoed. They are still examining both of those options.

Councilor McGeary stated in effect whether the Mayor vetoes this or not this is "squelching" the matter for FY11.

Mr. Duggan would not commit to saying they are "squelching".

The Councilor continued saying the earliest this matter could come forward is now June 14th and left two weeks in the fiscal year and left two weeks for the Council to vote on it. But he reiterated, didn't Mr. Duggan think they were "squelching" the matter for the fiscal year.

Mr. Duggan responded he "would not say that".

Councilor Theken asked what could the Council do.

Councilor Hardy stated it is the Mayor's right under the Charter (§3-9) to hold the Certificate of Vote for 10 days whether the Council believes it to be fair or not. She inquired if any of the Council would wish to call a Special City Council Meeting to get this taken care of earlier as it is a matter of a few short weeks.

Councilor McGeary proposed a motion, which was seconded by Councilor Theken, that the City Council direct the Auditor as soon as the fiscal year is completed to make a report on the turfed ambulance calls assigned out of the Fire Department during the last three months of FY11. The Councilor felt it was important to know that information of how many ambulance calls were turfed during the last quarter of FY11 and to compare it with years past to see whether or how much revenue was "left on the table" by the failure of the Administration to act.

Councilor Verga expressed discouragement that the Council found itself in this position. It appeared to him someone was 'playing games'. He felt it was sad that an issue such as this should be politicized. There had been ample time and to come up with something that is agreeable. This was a simple request. There is no other explanation. Meanwhile all the Fire Stations but Central Station are closed.

Councilor Hardy stated that on 6 p.m. June 7th the B&F will meet at that time to review the Fire Department budget. She suggested the Council could have a Special City Council meeting prior to that meeting on or around 5:30 p.m.; and would there be any interest on the Council's part. She then asked Mr. Duggan if they would have their report done by June 7th.

Mr. Duggan stated he would examine that request "without committing to it".

After a discussion on procedure, Councilors Theken and Verga acknowledged their availability for the proposed Special Council Meeting.

Councilor Curcuru stated that the Administration is not here to make their presentation as requested by the Council; and it was his opinion they had ample time to make their response. He then offered a motion to continue the matter to the next regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council.

Councilor Theken felt they were discouraged that it was not if money wasn't there; in fact there is money there. In the meantime the money is going to go over (to the next fiscal year). They did lose. Regardless, services are depleted because they don't know what will happen. She expressed that she felt badly for those in Ward 4 and Ward 5 with their outlying stations closed. The Councilor acknowledged every minute counts in an emergency and still felt the City has the best ambulance service.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Theken, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to direct the City Auditor to make a report as soon as the fiscal year is completed on the turfed ambulance calls assigned out of the Fire Department during the last three months of the fiscal year 2011.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor Curcuru, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to continue this matter to Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at a Special City Council meeting [time to be confirmed].

Mayor's Report:

1. Request from School Committee for Council Support and Vote re: Charter Funding Resolution

(Refer B&F)

Councilor Hardy explained that the City Council has received a request forwarded by the Mayor from the School Committee for their consideration of a resolution which was adopted by a 6-0 vote of the School Committee at its meeting of May 25, 2011 and this is to refer the matter to B&F.

By unanimous consent, the City Council voted the matter of the School Committee resolution regarding Charter School funding by the State to the Budget & Finance Committee meeting.

City Council Unanimous Consent Calendar:

Memorandum from Larry Durkin, Environmental Engineer, requesting a loan authorization of \$4,500,000 to fund the first year of the Phase 3 Public Water System Upgrades

By unanimous consent the Memorandum from Larry Durkin, Environmental Engineer, requesting a loan authorization of \$4,500,000 to fund the first year of the Phase 3 Public Water System Upgrades was referred to the Budget & Finance Committee.

FOR COUNCIL VOTE:

- 1. Essex North Shore Agriculture & Technical School District By-Laws, Vote to authorize borrowing for New District High School Project and School Financing Plan**

**This was handled at the Special B&F meeting and no action is required of the Council.
This matter is closed.**

Councilor Hardy explained that while the minutes from the just concluded Special B&F meeting were not yet available, several motions were made that can come forward from that meeting regarding the appropriation of "free cash".

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to appropriate up to \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) from the General Fund

Unreserved Fund Balance also known as "Free Cash" for the purpose of the purchase of computer tablets for use by City Councilors for City Council meetings to be placed in Unifund Account #101000.10.161.58715.0000.00.000.00.058 – City Clerk Computer Equipment.

Discussion:

Councilor Curcuru advised the Council at the Special B&F meeting there had been a discussion on the possible purchase with free cash computer tablets for the use of the Council to save on time and paper in the Clerk's office.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Theken, the City Council voted BY ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed to appropriate up to \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars) from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance also known as "Free Cash" for the purpose of the purchase of computer tablets for use by City Councilors for City Council meetings to be placed in Unifund Account #101000.10.161.58715.0000.00.000.00.058 – City Clerk Computer Equipment.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor McGeary, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to appropriate up to \$9,793.00 (Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Three Dollars) from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance also known as "Free Cash" for the purpose of funds to be placed in the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund, Fund #850000.

Discussion:

Councilor Curcuru stated this is that the Council is doing their due diligence and putting whatever money was left over from free cash into an account that in the future that capital projects expenditures can be paid for in cash instead of borrowing for them as the account was set up to do when the Council enacted it last fall.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted BY ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed to appropriate up to \$9,793.00 (Nine Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety Three Dollars) from the General Fund Unreserved Fund Balance also known as "Free Cash" for the purpose of funds to be placed in the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund, Fund #850000.

2. Planning & Development Committee Report Unfinished Business from May 18, 2011

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to permit the Board of the Friends of Seacoast to hold their 8th Annual Seacoast Seven Road Race on City streets (route as on file with the City Clerk's office) on Saturday, July 16, 2011, starting at 9:00 a.m. with all runners off the City's streets by 1:00 p.m. All routes through the City are to be clearly marked with signage removed off the route by 2:00 p.m. the same day. Certificate of Insurance listing the City of Gloucester as the co-insured, and memorandums of endorsement from the Police Lt. Joseph Aiello and Fire Chief Phil Dench or his designee are to be on file in the City Clerk's office by the close of business July 8, 2011 with the following conditions:

1. That signs will be posted at both ends of Hough Avenue indicating the street is temporarily closed at the start and the finish of the race. The signage will be removed as soon as possible to reopen the roadway to the public;
2. That the race organizers are responsible to see that the Visitor Center restrooms are opened at 6:30 a.m.

Discussion:

Councilor Ciolino explained that the Committee has received the memorandums of endorsement from the Police and Fire Departments. The Certificate of Insurance is in process and will be received at least seven business days prior to the event. This is the usual process and no organization who has run road races in the City has failed to submit their Certificates of Insurance after any imposed deadline.

Councilor Hardy asked that both Chiefs signed off.

Councilor Ciolino was satisfied all the criteria have been met.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Theken, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to permit the Board of the Friends of Seacoast to hold their 8th Annual Seacoast Seven Road Race on City streets (route as on file with the City Clerk's office) on Saturday, July 16, 2011, starting at 9:00 a.m. with all runners off the City's streets by 1:00 p.m. All routes through the City are to be clearly marked with signage removed off the route by 2:00 p.m. the same day. Certificate of Insurance listing the City of Gloucester as the co-insured, and memorandums of endorsement from the Police Lt. Joseph Aiello and Fire Chief Phil Dench or his designee are to be on file in the City Clerk's office by the close of business July 8, 2011 with the following conditions:

- 1. That signs will be posted at both ends of Hough Avenue indicating the street is temporarily closed at the start and the finish of the race. The signage will be removed as soon as possible to reopen the roadway to the public;**
- 2. That the race organizers are responsible to see that the Visitor Center restrooms are opened at 6:30 a.m.**

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.