

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.
REMOTE MEETING
-Minutes-

Present: Council President, Councilor Steve LeBlanc; Council Vice President, Councilor Val Gilman; Councilor John McCarthy; Councilor Jen Holmgren; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor James O’Hara; Councilor Barry Pett

Absent: Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Scott Memhard

Also Present: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; City Clerk, Joanne Senos; CAO, Nicole Kieser; Police Chief, Ed Conley; Auditor, Kenny Costa; CFO, John Dunn; DPW Director, Mike Hale; Community Development Director, Jill Cahill

Presenters: John O’Rourke and Daria Mark for Good Energy; Chair of Clean Energy Commission, Candace Wheeler; Linda Brayton and Linda Stout-Saunders for Clean Energy Commission;

Jenny Benedict, Sawyer Free Library Director; Julie Travers, Community Librarian; Melissa Dimond, President and Executive Director of Wellspring House; Andy Allen, Director of Adult Education at Wellspring House

*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 that the meeting was 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 63 people, the meeting would 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 someone is calling in on a phone, they can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If they are watching on a computer or device there is a “raise hand” button that can be tapped or pressed to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications or the public hearing to be recognized.

Councilor LeBlanc announced the names of the Councilors and city staff who were in attendance. There was a quorum of the City Council.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Mary Ann Albert Boucher, 93 Mt. Pleasant Avenue

Asked if the entrance for the new field at Green Street would be on Ledgemont.

Dennis McGurk, 283 Concord Street

Expressed an overall concern about the open spaces throughout town.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:

- 1. Gregg Cademartori, Planning Director and representatives from Good Energy, LP re: update on municipal energy aggregation in Gloucester**

Planning Director, Gregg Cademartori stated representatives from Good Energy, LP were going to give an update on the successful municipal energy aggregation program. He stated two years ago the City went out for a collective bid for an alternative electric supplier so all residents and small businesses in the community would

have an opportunity to participate in a supply agreement that would potentially lower the electrical supply portion of the utility bill.

John O'Rourke of Good Energy, LP shared his screen (slides on file):



City of Gloucester

Community Electricity

Aggregation Program Renewal

April 13, 2021

Program Overview

- Program launched in December 2018
- Current contract expires December 2021
- Program includes additional 5% MA Class I RECs above the RPS
- About 1% of participants are in the 100% option, yet accounts for 10% of total renewable energy
- Program participation within 10% of peak of 2019

Mr. O'Rourke stated the program was launched in December 2018 with the current contract expiring in December 2021. He stated the program was stable and over the last year, during the pandemic, there had been a reduction in energy usage.

Gloucester Local Green (5%) through Feb 2021

Savings cannot be guaranteed because future Basic Service rates are unknown.

For enrollments, he stated, the Local Green product had just under 11,000 enrollments with a total savings of \$1.27 million. He stated savings cannot be guaranteed due to future changes in the Basic Service rate. For extra renewable energy, there was 8,357,743 kWh with stable participation over the period of the program.

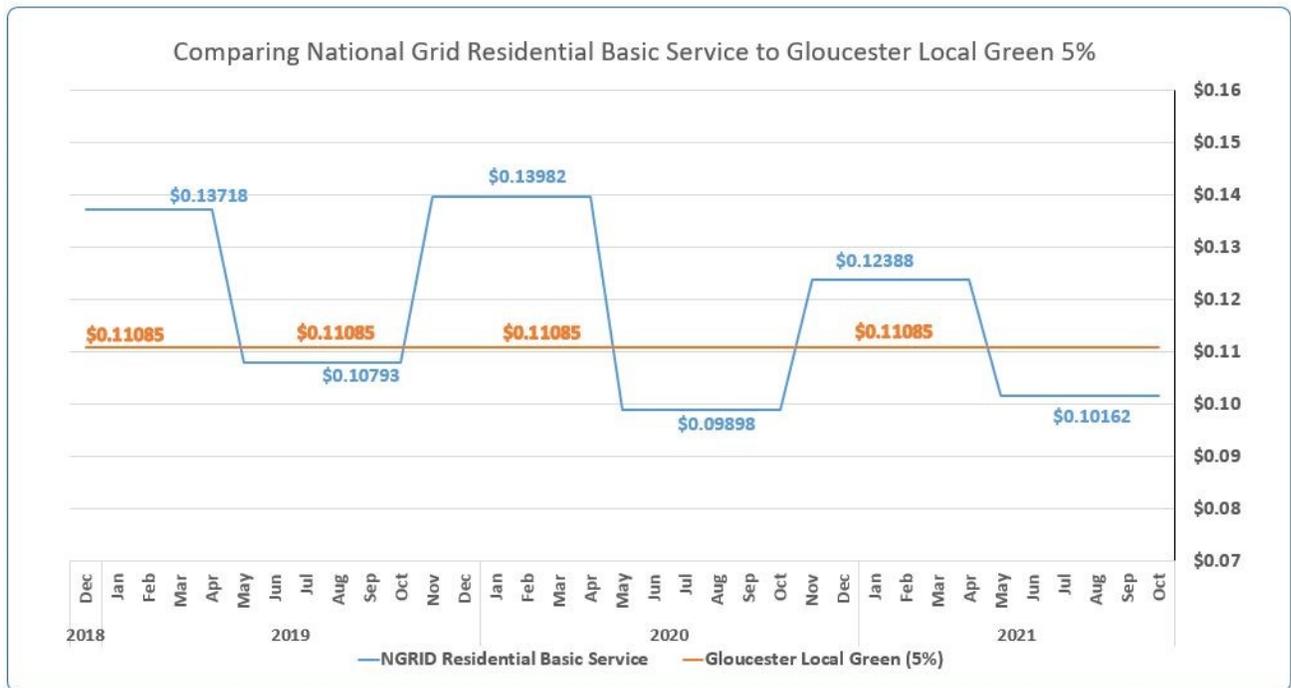
Gloucester Premium Local Green (100%) through Feb 2021

Mr. O'Rourke stated the above slide showed the 100% Local Green product. He explained the cumulative savings were not expected to be positive because the people that entered this particular product were interested in providing more renewable energy for the grid. This share of renewable energy was 897,977 kWh.

Program Overview Gloucester Basic through Feb 2021

Mr. O'Rourke stated the Gloucester Basic program was stable with approximately 200 participants with the same amount of renewable energy as National Grid. With only 200 participants, the savings showed approximately \$33,400. He stated there was no additional renewable energy in this part of the program.

Compared to National Grid



Mr. O'Rourke stated the above slide showed the difference between the National Grid rates and the rate of the program over time.

Daria Mark of Good Energy took control of the presentation:

Renewable Energy Impact

- Additional Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) purchased by the program
 - Since launch: 10,000 MW
 - In 2020: 4,000 MWh

- These additional RECs are equivalent to:
 - Annual usage of 1,500 typical Gloucester homes
 - Annual output of 1.5MW land-based wind turbine in New England
 - 11 acres of solar

Ms. Mark stated there was additional renewable energy included in the City’s product, both in the standard product and in the 100% option.

Additional Renewable Energy

	RPS MA Class I	Gloucester CEA (Local Green 5%)	
2019	14%	19%	
2020	16%	21%	
2021	18%	23%	
2022	20%	25%	CEC recommendations Stay with 5%
2023	22%	27%	
2024	24%	29%	

Ms. Mark stated that the CEC (Clean Energy Commission) recommended that the City’s program stay within 5% of the State requirement.

Timeline

April	May/June	November	December
Meet with CEC	RFB		
Finalize program features	Pre-bid meeting	Launch outreach and education materials	Education and outreach materials
Information session with City Council	Bid Day	Presentation to community groups & City Council	Seamless Enrollment

Ms. Mark explained the timeline in the above slide. She stated community outreach would not happen until November because the new contract didn’t start until December of 2021. She stated enrollment was seamless and no action would need to be taken for those already enrolled.

The **Planning Director** stated that Candace Wheeler, Chair of the Clean Energy Commission (CEC), was present at the meeting, along with Linda Brayton and Linda Stout-Saunders from the CEC. He stated the members of the CEC made a motion to support moving forward with many features of this program in the potential for a new bid.

Candace Wheeler, Chair of the Clean Energy Commission, wanted to share the vote of the CEC. She stated the CEC on March 31st voted to recommend to the City that the contract with Good Energy be renewed for another term, up to three years. She stated the CEC felt that aggregation of electrical purchasing where the City was buying electricity on behalf of the City’s rate-paying residential accounts was a wonderful way to be effective in improving the City’s carbon footprints. At this time, she stated, the CEC felt the City should stay

with the 5% increase over the minimum of the state requirement as she felt work still needed to be done in public education regarding what aggregation was, what aggregation meant and the ease of aggregation to be an effective protector of the climate by participating in aggregation. She stated that the CEC was very satisfied with Good Energy's work to support the City in publicity and administration leg work. She stated the CEC whole-heartedly recommended to the City that the City Council approve and vote for the extension of Good Energy's contract.

Clean Energy Commission member, Linda Brayton stated that due to the pandemic the CEC decided to keep the numbers as they were. She stated she was one of the few taking part in the 100% Local Green product. She stated the CEC discussed holding their own campaign to get the word out about the 100% product as just even a few more participants would increase the numbers quite a bit. She encouraged residents to look at the CEC website as there were calculators on there to help figure out individual bills and savings.

COUNCILORS QUESTIONS

Q1. (Gilman): Have there been opportunities to look at regionalization as a way to help with rates?

A1. (O'Rourke): Stated essentially there had not been much done in terms of regionalization because some municipalities had not gotten to the point of putting a warrant article on their warrant and the DPU, because of the lockdown, had slowed down significantly. He stated the backlogs made it difficult to plan a concerted effort of multiple towns going out to bid together. He stated other towns could join the City, but it would be up to the individual town.

A1. (Cademartori): Stated he participated in, along with members of the CEC, a working group over the winter to look at opportunities for regionalization. He stated other communities use a different broker so there was a mismatch in terms of when other communities would have their contracts ending as it would have to be synchronous. Also, he stated, the competitiveness with suppliers would also be affected depending upon the makeup of the communities that might be participating, so sometimes it was not advantageous for the City to partner with other communities.

Q2. (Gilman): Asked for examples of the renewable opportunities in the City.

A2. (Mark): Stated the City's additional renewable energy, above what was required by the State, came from Green Energy Consumers Alliance (GECA). She stated the goal of GECA was to get people off of fossil fuels and into a sustainable future. She stated the GECA website had a chart that showed where the different resources from which GECA bought their renewable energy.

Q3. (LeBlanc): Asked if a resident was automatically in the pipeline unless the resident opted out.

A3. (Cademartori): Stated there was a lot of management residents could do with their account. When the National Grid rate dropped below the rate of Clean Energy, people may have fallen out of the program. He stated at any time any participant can opt out of the program.

Councilor Holmgren stated she wished to voice her appreciation for emphasizing opting in for the 100% renewable energy as she saw how it would benefit the City in numerous ways. She also wished to extend her appreciation to Good Energy and the City's CEA team.

The **Planning Director** stated this spring looked as if it would be a good opportunity for bid and he would report back to the City Council the results of the bidding.

2. Jenny Benedict, Library Director re: new "Gloucester Connection" portal on library website

Sawyer Free Library Director, Jenny Benedict shared her screen (slides on file): **Ms. Benedict's** first slide showed the front page of a new community website, Gloucester Connection. She stated the Sawyer Free Library realized that Cape Ann had a variety of services but that information about them was not easy to find, particularly for newcomers to Gloucester and for those whose primary language was not English. She stated this information was consolidated into an easy online platform. She stated the core committee of contributing organizations were Sawyer Free Library, Wellspring, Action, Gloucester Housing and Gloucester Public Schools.

President and Executive Director of Wellspring House, Melissa Dimond stated Wellspring’s primary focus was to help families achieve financial security. She stated through various focus groups held in several languages in partnership with the Sawyer Free Library it was learned that newcomers to the City enjoyed it, but that it was hard to feel connected to the City. She stated the Gloucester Connection website was a centralized place to get clear and current information as the first stop to help newcomers transition into the City.

Community Librarian at the Sawyer Free Library, Julie Travers stated the website was a free resource with a centralized online directory with an event calendar aspect that consolidates information from local organizations for residents, visitors and other service providers.

Director of Adult Education at Wellspring, Andy Allen shared that the website was truly interactive and easy to use as a welcoming connection to newcomers in Gloucester providing key information to everything from signing your child up at the City’s schools, to signing up for MassHealth, applications for housing and information on transportation. He explained the website supported many languages through Google Translation; if you click on your preferred language, the whole website will translate into that language. He stated there were over 25 organizations who have contributed to the website and each organization was responsible for keeping the website updated with current information.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILORS:

Q1. (Holmgren): Asked if an agency would like to be added if the agency would do it or would the agency have to reach out to someone else.

A1. (Benedict): Stated the site was open to all community organizations to contribute information and the agency could reach out to either Andy Allen at Wellspring or Julie Travers at Sawyer Free Library for directions.

Q2. (Gilman): Asked if an agency can keep their own website or does it have to be customized into the template.

A2. (Allen): Stated that the website was built out to act as a gateway. He stated each organization had a place to add links for services to each organization’s home page.

A2. (Dimond): Wanted to explain that the website was not intended to be comprehensive about any particular subject matter. She stated the Gloucester Connection website was not intended to be “instead of” an organization’s website, but would link to that other resource.

Councilor Holmgren gave her thanks and praise for their hard work. **Councilor Nolan** stated that the groups contributing to and working on this website were some of the best agencies and groups in the City. **Councilor Gilman** stated this website was “one-stop shopping”. **Councilor Pett** stated this website was phenomenal and wished to offer a suggestion to advertise this resource on social media. **Councilor LeBlanc** suggested that this resource be placed on the City’s webpage.

Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken stated her office receives greater than 50 or 60 calls weekly with questions regarding housing assistance or applications. She also stated there was sometimes a language barrier so to have a multilingual website was very helpful. She stated this website would be a wonderful resource for information on the City’s schools, Action, Wellspring, happenings in the community and so much more. **Mayor Theken** expressed her gratitude to all who have worked to make this happen.

CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS:

None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**
Clean City Commission Jamie L. Mathison
- **MAYOR’S REPORT**
1. New Appointment:

TTE 2/14/24

- City-Owned Cemeteries Advisory Committee Augustave M. Sabia, Jr (*fulfilling unexpired term*) TTE 2/14/22 (Refer O&A)
2. Memorandum from General Counsel re: proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinances re: closing the West Gloucester Firing Range (Refer O&A)
 3. Memorandum from the Planning Director requesting a Conservation Restriction from the Essex County Greenbelt Association for 109R Leonard Street (Refer P&D)
 4. Memorandum from the Cape Ann Veterans Service Director requesting acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$200 (Refer B&F)
 5. Memorandum from the Cape Ann Veterans Services Director requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$45 (Refer B&F)
 6. Memorandum from the Public Health Director requesting acceptance of a COVID-19 Response award in the amount of \$14,705.88 (Refer B&F)
 7. Memorandum from the Community Development Director requesting acceptance of two Mass Cultural Council Grants: Rocky Neck Cultural District in the amount of \$7,500, and Downtown "Harbortown" Cultural District in the amount of \$7,500 (Refer B&F)
 8. Memorandum from the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee Chair re: Fort area restoration and Lucy Davis Pathway extension funding (Info Only)
 9. Notice that the Public Health Director will provide a COVID-19 update to the City Council on April 27, 2021 (Info Only)
 - **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
 - **INFORMATION ONLY**
 1. 2021 Yearly Operational Plan from Keolis Commuter Services re: herbicide application
 - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
 - **COUNCILLORS ORDERS**
 1. CC#2021-004(Cox/O'Hara/LeBlanc): Amend GCO Ch. 21, "Art. V – West Gloucester Firing Range", Sec. 21-87 "West Gloucester Firing Range" by DELETING "Art. V – West Gloucester Firing Range", Sec. 21-87 "West Gloucester Firing Range" in its entirety and ADDING "Article V. – Sec. 21-87. - Reserved." (Refer O&A)
 2. CC#2021-005(LeBlanc): Amend GCO Ch. 22, Art. VI "Traffic Schedules," Sec. 22-280 "Fifteen-minute parking" by ADDING "Grove Street, westerly side, beginning at a point 20' from its intersection with Washington Street in a northerly direction for a distance of 22'" (Refer O&A)
 3. CC#2021-006(Gilman/Cox/McCarthy/O'Hara/Memhard/LeBlanc): City of Gloucester Code of Conduct Resolution (Refer O&A)
 4. CC#2021-007(Cox): Request that the Board of Health and Conservation Commission recommend whether the City should opt-out of spraying activities conducted by the Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board pursuant to MGL Ch. 252, Sec. 2A (Refer Mayor, Bd. Of Health & Conservation Commission)
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
 1. City Council Meeting: 3/23/2021 (Approve/File)
 2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 4/8/2021 (under separate cover), O&A 4/5/2021, P&D 3/17/2021 (Approve/File)

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA:

- **COUNCIL ORDERS**
- 1. **CC#2021-008 (Memhard/McCarthy/Nolan/Gilman): AMEND GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-270.1 "Resident Sticker Parking Only" (6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. May 1st to September 15th), and Sec. 22-291 "Tow-away zones" regarding streets and roads throughout the city**

ITEMS TO BE ADDED/REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA/UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA: None.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman wished to clarify that Council Order CC#2021-008 included 45 streets throughout the City. She stated this matter was being brought forward in anticipation of a busy summer and encouraged other members of the City Council to reach out to neighborhoods in their wards for any further feedback.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Holmgren, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to accept the Consent Agenda.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to accept the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Budget & Finance – April 8, 2021

1. Memorandum from the Police Chief, and #2021-SA-16 in the amount of \$70,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor McCarthy, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent (Memhard) to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2021-SA-16 in the amount of \$70,000 (Seventy Thousand Dollars) from the Capital Project Stabilization Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7600-359000, to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund - Police Dept. - Public Safety Equipment,

Account #760028-585021 for the purpose of repairing and repowering the Police Dept.'s 2009 WAC SAFE Boat.

Summary of Discussion: Police Chief, Ed Conley stated a significant amount of the funds requested would be for repowering the boat. He stated these engines have reached the end of their life so the funds would be used to purchase new Suzuki outboard engines to repower the boat. He stated the other funding (approximately \$13,000) would be used to do maintenance including updating the skin pads, repairs to the external parts of the boat and electronics. He stated with these repairs the boat would be operational for many years.

Councilor Pett stated his support for the repairs.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor McCarthy, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2021-SA-16 in the amount of \$70,000 (Seventy Thousand Dollars) from the Capital Project Stabilization Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7600-359000, to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund - Police Dept. - Public Safety Equipment, Account #760028-585021 for the purpose of repairing and repowering the Police Dept.'s 2009 WAC SAFE Boat.

• **Ordinances & Administration – April 5, 2021 (no items under this heading)**

• **Planning & Development – April 7, 2021 (cancelled)**

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. PH2021-009: Loan Order 2021-002: loan authorization request in the amount of \$1,200,000 for Water Capital Projects

Public hearing opened at 7:05 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: DPW Director, Mike Hale stated this was a water authorization of \$1.2 million for water improvement projects to the Bertoni/York Road neighborhood. He stated this neighborhood was once a private subdivision with relatively inadequate infrastructure that failed frequently. He stated repairs would also be made to the Upper Millett/Forest/Warner Streets where gas and sewers repairs have already been completed.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Written communications: None.

Questions from Councilors:

Q1. (O'Hara): Asked the DPW Director about the condition of the pipes and/or vintage that were being replaced.

A2. (Hale): Stated the two neighborhoods were very different. He stated Upper Millett/Forest/Warner were old public infrastructure that have run their course as far as life expectancy. He stated the mains were probably installed in the 1930s and were cast iron mains that corroded from the inside. York and Bertoni were subdivisions from the 1950s with very undersized infrastructure. He stated it was a 2-inch water main that would not provide adequate fire protection or adequate volume to all of the development in the neighborhood.

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

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 following loan authorization as follows:

ORDERED: That the City of Gloucester appropriates One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000) to pay costs associated with various water improvement projects including, but not limited to, the Bertoni/York Road neighborhood water main replacement and Upper Millett/Forest/Warner Streets water repairs, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Pett asked if there was a timeline as to when this work would be completed. The DPW Director stated the City work was completed last June, so the issue was National Grid's ability to work during the pandemic. He stated National Grid demobilized from the site approximately 10 days ago and the City now has control of the site. He stated once approval of the loan order was received, the funds could be encumbered to the contractor and would be able to begin work immediately. He believed the work would be completed by midsummer, which would include completed water and sewer work, roads restored and sidewalks done.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor McCarthy, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by **ROLL CALL 7** in favor, **0** opposed, **2** absent (Cox, Memhard) to approve the following loan authorization as follows:

ORDERED: That the City of Gloucester appropriates One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000) to pay costs associated with various water improvement projects including, but not limited to, the Bertoni/York Road neighborhood water main replacement and Upper Millett/Forest/Warner Streets water repairs, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

FURTHER ORDERED: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

2. PH2021-010: Loan Order 2021-003: loan authorization request in the amount of \$3,225,000 for Sewer Capital Projects

Public hearing opened at 7:18 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: **DPW Director, Mike Hale** stated work would include East Gloucester I&I (infiltration and inundation). He explained East Gloucester had a very old sewer system with clay tile pipe and asbestos concrete pipe with dry-fit joints; if the joints were below the water table, ground water could enter those pipes from, for example, heavy rains and inundate the sewer systems, which leads to taxing the pumping systems, costs money for electricity to move the water from one station to the next and which costs the City to treat the rainwater. He stated the sewer interceptor at Mansfield Street (the main drain for the entire city) was an early 20th century brick and clay tile pipe which the City had lined occasionally to provide integrity and prevent ground water from entering the pipes. He stated this authorization also included sewer work for the Bertoni/York Road neighborhood. He stated the City also had begun a 3-year program to clean and spot line the interceptor sewer that runs through Main Street and Rogers Street. He stated the last piece would be completing the sewer work at Grove and Colonial Streets that had begun last fall.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Written Communications: None.

Public hearing closed at 7:25 p.m.

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 following loan authorization as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Three Million Two Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$3,225,000) to pay costs associated with various sewer improvement projects including, but not limited to, East Gloucester I&I work, Mansfield Street sewer interceptor cleaning and lining, Bertoni/York Road neighborhood sewer relay, Rogers/Main Street interceptor cleaning and lining and Grove/Colonial Street sewer repairs, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor McCarthy, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to approve the following loan authorization as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Three Million Two Hundred Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$3,225,000) to pay costs associated with various sewer improvement projects including, but not limited to, East Gloucester I&I work, Mansfield Street sewer interceptor cleaning and lining, Bertoni/York Road neighborhood sewer relay, Rogers/Main Street interceptor cleaning and lining and Grove/Colonial Street sewer repairs, including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the City upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the

payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

3. PH2021-011: Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Art. V "Stopping, standing and parking," Sec. 22-176(a) "Penalties for parking violations" by DELETING \$15 and ADDING \$25 for "Improper Angle Parking" and by ADDING a new code and violation for "Resident only sticker, non-beach zone" with a \$50 fine

Public hearing opened at 7:28 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: City Clerk, Joanne Senos read the following statement:

"In researching the parking fines at the request of Councilor Gilman, it was discovered that the online Code of Ordinances, Sec. 22-176 "penalties for parking violations" was not updated in 2001 when the City Council voted on June 25, 2001 to increase the penalties for certain parking violations referenced in the Code of Ordinances, and the City Council voted on May 13, 2003 to increase the meter violation from \$10.00 to \$15.00.

The republication and the updating of the amendments to the online GCO started in 2010 going forward. Before 2010, I am not aware of how the amendments to the code were updated.

As a result, it appears that the fines we have been enforcing have been at the old rates and not reflecting the votes from 2001 and 2003, and I recommend that these fines be reflected as soon as new ticket books have been ordered.

To be clear, no one has been charged at the higher rate.

The GCO Municode that will update Sec. 22-176 will be updated to reflect these increases and previously voted City Council fines. This matter does not change the council order being heard tonight at this hearing."

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Written Communications: None.

Public hearing closed at 7:31 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances and Administration voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council raise parking fines pursuant to Section 20A½ of Chapter 90 of the General Laws by AMENDING GCO Chapter 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Article V "-Stopping, Standing and Parking" section 22-176(a) "Penalties for Parking Violations" by DELETING \$15.00 fine in "code 25" and ADDING a \$25.00 fine for "Improper angle parking;" and by ADDING a new "code 26" and ADDING violation for "Resident only sticker, non beach zone" with a \$50.00 fine

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman offered an amendment to the motion stating that "code 26" should be amended to "code 12", as "code 26" already existed.

MOTION TO AMEND: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to AMEND “code 26” to “code 12”, as ‘code 26’ already existed

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to raise parking fines pursuant to Section 20A½ of Chapter 90 of the General Laws by AMENDING GCO Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles” Article V “-Stopping, Standing and Parking” section 22-176(a) “Penalties for Parking Violations” by DELETING \$15.00 fine in “code 25” and ADDING a \$25.00 fine for “Improper angle parking;” and by ADDING a new “code 12” and ADDING violation for “Resident only sticker, non beach zone” with a \$50.00 fine

FOR COUNCIL VOTE:

1. Decision to Adopt: SCP2020-006: Modification of SCP2017-012: School House Road #2-4, Map 262, Lots 37 & 38, GZO Secs. 4.3 “Sign Regulations,” 5.17 “Drive-Through Facilities,” 5.29.3.3 “Additional Uses,” 5.29.6.1 “Off-Street Parking Requirements,” 5.29.8 “Drive-Through Facilities,” and 5.29.10 “Relief by Special Permit” in the R-10/Mixed Use Overlay District

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman stated this matter was completely vetted at P&D and City Council.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to adopt SCP2020-006: Modification of SCP2017-012 to grant to Cape Ann Savings Bank, (GX-PH4, LLC owner of real property known as 4 School House Road, and Young Men’s Christian Association of the North Shore, Inc. owner of real property known as 2 School House Road) a modification of SCP2017-012 for a Special Council Permit (SCP2020-006), for the property located at School House Road #2-4, Assessors Map 262, Lots 37 & 38, pursuant to Gloucester Zoning Ordinance Sec. 5.29.3.3 “Additional Uses” 5.29.6.1 “Off-Street Parking Requirements,” 5.29.10 “Relief by Special Permit,” 5.17 and 5.29.8 “Drive-through Facilities,” and 4.3 “Sign Regulations,” to (i) modify existing permit SCP2017-012; (ii) allocate 8 (eight) parking spaces at School House Road #4 to the parking space count of School House Road #2; (iii) obtain a new drive-through permit; and (iiii) receive relief from signage requirements.

2. Council action to amend Certificate of Vote #2021-034 re: Off-cycle funding to Action, Inc. Tenant Based Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program

Original vote on March 9, 2021:

IN CITY COUNCIL:

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to appropriate up to \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Community Preservation Act Funds as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, to provide off-cycle funding for the purpose of the Action, Inc. Tenant Based Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program. The appropriation will be allocated to the Community Housing category and be funded by up to \$100,000 from the Community Housing Reserve Fund #4530. The project will be tracked in the Community Preservation Fund - Community Housing Projects Fund #4904.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor LeBlanc stated the City Council was asked to amend the previous vote and to add the following: *The appropriation will be allocated to the Community Housing category and be funded by up to \$63,000 from the Community Housing Reserve Fund #4530 and \$37,000 from Unrestricted Reserves in Fund #4500.* Auditor, Kenny Costa stated when the motions were put together he didn’t take into account the \$200,000 from the previous Budget & Finance meeting, as he was waiting for a public hearing. He stated now the \$100,000 needs to be split-funded by the Community Housing Reserve Fund for \$63,000 and \$37,000 from the Unrestricted Reserves.

MOTION TO AMEND: On a motion by Councilor McCarthy, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) TO AMEND to appropriate up to \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Community Preservation Act Funds as recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, to provide off-cycle funding for the purpose of the Action, Inc. Tenant Based Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program. The appropriation will be allocated to the Community Housing category and be funded by up to \$63,000 from the Community Housing Reserve Fund #4530 and \$37,000 from Unrestricted Reserves in Fund #4500. The project will be tracked in the Community Preservation Fund - Community Housing Projects Fund #4904.

3. B&F minutes 3/4/2021 and City Council minutes 3/9/2021 re: Council action to amend minutes and motion re: Vote for off-cycle funding to Action, Inc. Tenant Based Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program

MOTION TO AMEND: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) TO AMEND the Budget & Finance Minutes of March 4, 2021

MOTION TO AMEND: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) TO AMEND the City Council Minutes of March 9, 2021

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. City Council discussion re: 2020 Civility Resolution

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Holmgren explained that due to the large volume of hate crimes that continue in the United States she asked the Human Rights Commission to examine and make a recommendation to update the Council's Civility Resolution. She stated the Human Rights Commission was currently working on a draft of suggestions for the City Council and will meet to discuss the suggestions on April 26, 2021. Councilor LeBlanc stated when the resolution was enacted a few years ago the Human Rights Commission didn't exist, so he agreed it was a wonderful idea to have the Commission review it, particularly with the current events happening in the world. Councilor Nolan stated the resolution was very important for those who feel they do not have a voice. Councilor Gilman stated the City was fortunate to have Hannah Kimberley as the chair of the Human Rights Commission.

This matter will be referred to O&A through a Council Order submitted by Councilor Holmgren.

COUNCILORS' REQUESTS TO THE MAYOR:

- Councilor McCarthy requested from the Mayor an update on the status of the marijuana permits and what the City was receiving for funding on the host agreements.
- Councilor Nolan requested to the Mayor for an update on where the City stands with watershed, the City's anticipated population and what the City can sustain with modern developments and new developments; he also requested to the Mayor the same info for the sewer infrastructure.
- Councilor Gilman requested through the Mayor that Attorney Payson provide to the City Council either a report or presentation on his findings on the Article 97 matter as it pertains to the decisions made at the firing range at Haskell Pond and West Gloucester Firing Range. She also asked for any use restrictions as a result of the findings.
- Councilor LeBlanc requested through the Mayor that the DPW provide a listing of streets in the City that are due to be fixed (not just dug up).

COUNCILORS' THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- Councilors Pett, McCarthy, Nolan and Holmgren gave their best wishes to Councilors Cox and Memhard for a speedy recovery.
- Councilor Nolan expressed his thanks to Councilor Gilman, Councilor McCarthy and Police Chief Ed Conley for their work on the parking fines.

- **Councilor Holmgren** thanked Councilor Nolan for bringing up watershed to the Mayor. She reminded everyone to wear masks and social distance.

COUNCILORS' WARD UPDATES AND COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Councilor O'Hara** wished to remind everyone of the upcoming Blitz Blood Drive hosted by the Red Cross at the Magnolia Library and at Gillette Stadium on April 19, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. If you would like to donate, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to set up an appointment.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent (Cox, Memhard) to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Submitted by Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees

Items submitted at the meeting: Slides from presentation of Jenny Benedict, Sawyer Free Library Director