

**GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, August 10, 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 Senos; Auditor, Kenny Costa; CFO, John Dunn**

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

**Meeting called to order at 6:01 p.m.**

**Councilor LeBlanc** announced in the interest of government transparency with regards to deliberations and decisions made by the City Council and according to open meeting law, since this meeting was posted as a Zoom meeting, this meeting is recorded by video and audio and 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 “raised 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 to speak. Additionally, all votes taken by the City Council during this and future remote meetings will be by roll call vote.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

**Karen Favazza Spencer, 67 Langsford Street**

Expressed concerns regarding fluoride exposure in the City’s drinking water; asked the City Council to petition the State for Home Rule over fluoridation. Ms. Favazza Spencer was not allowed to continue with her comments as they violated the rules of Oral Communications.

**Kathy Clancy, School Committee member**

Expressed gratitude to the City Council for their support and leadership regarding the new combined school project.

**PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:** None.

**CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**
- 1. Economic Development & Industrial Corp. Jerrold Oppenheim TTE 6/30/24
- **MAYOR’S REPORT**
- 1. Memorandum from Interim Health Director requesting acceptance of a Prevention in Early Childhood Grant in the amount of \$156,250 (Refer B&F)
- 2. Memorandum from Interim Health Director requesting acceptance of a Youth Mental Health Grant in the amount of \$150,000 (Refer B&F)
- 3. Memorandum from Chief Financial Officer requesting acceptance of a Community Grant from the Cape Ann Community Foundation, Inc. in the amount of \$1,500 (Refer B&F)
- 4. Memorandum from Assistant to CAO and IT Director re: Hybrid Meeting Planning & IT Assessments (Info Only)

5. Response from the Mayor to the July 27, 2021 City Council meeting Oral Communications (Info Only)
- **ADDENDUM TO THE MAYOR'S REPORT**
1. Appointments to the Police Building Committee:
- Police Chief Edward G. Conley
  - Deputy Chief Joseph Fitzgerald
  - CFO John Dunn
  - City Councilor John McCarthy
  - Melissa Teixeira Prince
  - Building Inspector Bill Sanborn
  - Officer Shawn Bouchie
  - Officer Heidi Fialho
  - Sgt. Joseph Balbo
  - IT Director Ryan Knowles
- **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
  - **INFORMATION ONLY**
  - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
1. Special Event Permit Application: Request for street closures for a ceremony on Shore Road on September 25, 2021 (Refer P&D)
- **COUNCILLORS ORDERS**
  - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
1. City Council Meeting: 7/27/2021 (Approve/File)
2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 8/5/2021 (under separate cover), O&A 8/2/2021, P&D 8/4/2021 (Approve/File)

#### **UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA:**

- **COUNCILLORS ORDERS**
1. CC#2021-016 (Gilman): Request that the City Council vote to extend the use of Plum Cove School as the Ward 4, Precinct 2 polling location for the September 14, 2021 Preliminary Election and the November 2, 2021 Municipal Election and future elections (Refer to O&A)

**Summary of Discussion:** Councilor LeBlanc wished to recognize EDIC reappointment, Jerrold Oppenheim, for his past work on the EDIC and thanked him for his willingness to continue to serve the City.

**ITEMS TO BE ADDED/REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA/UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA:** Councilor Nolan removed *Special Event Permit Application: Request for street closures for a ceremony on Shore Road on September 25, 2021*. Councilor Nolan invited anyone who had any questions or concerns regarding the street closure for the Shore Road wedding ceremony on September 25, 2021, to reach out to the Planning & Development Committee, Councilor Gilman or the City Clerk.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to refer **Special Event Permit Application: Request for street closures for a ceremony on Shore Road on September 25, 2021** to the Planning & Development Standing Committee.

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

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Budget & Finance – August 5, 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 the Budget and Finance Unanimous Consent Agenda.

1. *Memorandum from Planning Director requesting acceptance of a Climate Action & Resilience Plan (CARP) – MVP Action Grant*

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget and Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Grant in the amount of \$69,890 to complete the project entitled “Gloucester Climate Action and Resilience Plan” (CARP). The purpose of this grant is to conduct an in-depth inventory of the City’s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and help develop goals, targets and strategies for the community to reduce its impact. The minimum local match is 25% of total project costs using cash or in-kind contributions. The total local match of \$30,705 and 31% will comprise of a cash match of \$19,685, funds of which will come from the Energy Stabilization Fund 7601; and \$11,020 from staff in-kind hours. The grant period is through June 30, 2022

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept, under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Grant in the amount of \$69,890 to complete the project entitled “Gloucester Climate Action and Resilience Plan” (CARP). The purpose of this grant is to conduct an in-depth inventory of the City’s contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and help develop goals, targets and strategies for the community to reduce its impact. The minimum local match is 25% of total project costs using cash or in-kind contributions. The total local match of \$30,705 and 31% will comprise of a cash match of \$19,685, funds of which will come from the Energy Stabilization Fund 7601; and \$11,020 from staff in-kind hours. The grant period is through June 30, 2022.**

**2. Memorandum from Veterans Services Director requesting the acceptance of donations in the amount of \$330**

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 \$330.00 from the following members within our community:

Donald and Cynthia Fitzgerald	\$ 50.00
Mary C. Williams	50.00
David and Bernice Cardillo	100.00
Robert and Janice Arsenault	100.00
<u>Natalie and Robert Balzarini</u>	<u>30.00</u>
Total	\$330.00

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<b>Donald and Cynthia Fitzgerald</b>	<b>\$ 50.00</b>
<b>Mary C. Williams</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>David and Bernice Cardillo</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Robert and Janice Arsenault</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b><u>Natalie and Robert Balzarini</u></b>	<b><u>30.00</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$330.00.</b>

**3. Memorandum from Police Lieutenant for Community Impact Unit requesting acceptance of car seats from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' 2021 Car Seat Distribution Program with a value of \$7,491.20**

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 Ch. 44, §53A-½, a gift of tangible goods to the City of Gloucester Police Department, Community Impact Unit, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' 2021 Car Seat Distribution Program for 91 car seats with a value of \$7,491.20

**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 Ch. 44, §53A-½, a gift of tangible goods to the City of Gloucester Police Department, Community Impact Unit, from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' 2021 Car Seat Distribution Program for 91 car seats with a value of \$7,491.20.**

**4. Memorandum and Supplemental Appropriation-Budgetary Request (#2022-SA-2) from the CFO in the amount of \$75,000**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2022-SA-2 in the amount of \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars) from the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7700-359000 to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund - Council on Aging Emergency Generator – Building Improvements, Account #770011-582003 to install a natural gas-fired emergency generator at the Rose Baker Senior Center

**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 2022-SA-2 in the amount of \$75,000 (Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars) from the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7700-359000 to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund - Council on Aging Emergency Generator – Building Improvements, Account #770011-582003 to install a natural gas-fired emergency generator at the Rose Baker Senior Center.**

**5. Memorandum and Supplemental Appropriation-Budgetary Request (#2022-SA-3) from the CFO in the amount of \$88,049**

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 2022-SA-3 in the amount of \$88,049 (Eighty-Eight Thousand Forty-Nine Dollars) from Capital Project Stabilization Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7600-359000 to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund – DPW - Boulevard/Stage Fort Park - Site Improvements, Account #760029-584000 for improvements at Fisherman's Memorial and Stage Fort Park, and design work for the Vietnam War Memorial relocation

**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 2022-SA-3 in the amount of \$88,049 (Eighty-Eight Thousand Forty-Nine Dollars) from Capital Project Stabilization Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7600-359000 to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund – DPW - Boulevard/Stage Fort Park - Site Improvements, Account #760029-584000 for improvements at Fisherman's Memorial and Stage Fort Park, and design work for the Vietnam War Memorial relocation.**

• **Ordinances & Administration – August 2, 2021 (no items under this heading)**

• **Planning & Development – August 4, 2021 (no items under this heading)**

**SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. PH2021-024: Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-265 “Turning Movements-Generally” and Sec. 22-159 “Same-Between certain hours and on certain days” re: Pleasant Street and Smith Street

**The public hearing opened at 6:16 p.m.**

**Those speaking in favor:** None.

**Those speaking in opposition:** None.

**Written communications:** None.

**Questions from Councilors:** None.

**The public hearing closed at 6:17 p.m.**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-265 “Turning movements – Generally,” Sec. 22-159 “Same-Between certain hours and on certain days,” Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” and Sec. 22-283 “Bus stops and taxi stands” re: Pleasant Street and Smith Street

**Summary of Discussion:** Councilor Cox stated there would be a few more adjustments moving forward due to the curb bump-out and the turning radius of the buses, in addition to what was in place for the swing space when West Parish students were temporarily at the St. Ann’s location. She added that the Police Department would work with the school on temporary signage.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-265 “Turning movements – Generally,” Sec. 22-159 “Same-Between certain hours and on certain days,” Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” and Sec. 22-283 “Bus stops and taxi stands” re: Pleasant Street and Smith Street.

**Summary of Discussion:** Councilor Cox further stated that she had spoken to the DPW and Police Department at a recent site visit and stated that it was determined that temporary signage would be used instead of the City Council enacting an emergency order as there were only 8 to 10 days of the school year that would be affected before the order went into effect. Councilor Pett thanked Councilor Cox for her work, particularly with the public and residents, on this matter. Councilor Gilman stated that she was happy that the Traffic Commission’s recommendation was added into the motion as it added further clarification to the preciseness of the order.

**MOTION TO AMEND:** On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-265 “Turning movements – Generally,” and Sec. 22-159 “Same-Between certain hours and on certain days” as follows:

Amend Sec. 22-265 “Turning movements-Generally” by ADDING:

“While school is in session, Pleasant Street in a northerly direction, no left turn onto Smith Street between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.;

Amend Sec. 22-159 “Same-Between certain hours and on certain days” by ADDING:

(4) Pleasant Street. While school is in session, Pleasant Street, from a point beginning at its intersection with Prospect Street, westerly side, in a northerly direction to Smith Street, **no parking** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

(5) Smith Street. While school is in session, Smith Street, southerly side, from its intersection with Pleasant Street in a westerly direction to Maplewood Avenue, **no parking** between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Bus pick-up and drop-off only.

#### **COUNCILORS’ THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

- **Councilor Memhard** wished to recognize and thank the Mayor and the City Councilors that were in attendance at the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and ribbon-cutting ceremony by the Chamber of Commerce of former City Councilor Joe Ciolino’s business, The Weathervane, on Main Street, and also thanked those who participated in the Fishermen’s Wives Memorial celebration
- **Councilor Nolan** stated he had seen derogatory remarks on social media regarding the Department of Public Works and wished to recognize the DPW for their continuous hard work throughout the City; he requested that the public refrain from posting derogatory remarks and comments on social media, particularly when an issue was due to budgetary restraints
- **Councilor Pett** echoed the sentiments of **Councilors Memhard** and **Nolan** regarding the celebrations at The Weathervane and Fishermen’s Wives Memorial and the DPW
- **Councilor Cox** stated she had also seen the derogatory remarks on social media and asked the public to reach out to any member of the City Council for an update or explanation on any issue before “fueling the fire” on social media
- **Councilor Gilman** wished to thank **Councilor Nolan** for his work, and **Assistant City Clerk, Grace Poirier** and the **DPW Director, Mike Hale** for their work, on the Betterment Policy. She added that parcel abutters at a recent meeting for the betterment for Squam Rock Road commented on the professionalism and accessibility of both **Ms. Poirier** and **Mr. Hale**

#### **COUNCILORS’ WARD UPDATES AND COMMUNITY NEWS:**

- **Councilor Holmgren** stated there would be a Public Hearing in the evening of August 25, 2021, being held by the School Committee regarding the reopening of the City’s schools
- **Councilor Pett** stated that this year’s Labor Day fireworks display would contain only 10 to 15 salutes (the noise-making portion of the firework) at the very end of the finale, as compared to 100 salutes in a typical display
- **Councilor Gilman** informed the public that the Annisquam Village Players was hosting an outdoor show called “Nothing to Hyde” with tickets available at [www.annisquamvillageplayers.com](http://www.annisquamvillageplayers.com). She added that the show was produced and co-written by Mary Curtis, who recently passed away.
- **Councilor LeBlanc** wished to acknowledge the success of the City’s Sidewalk Bazaar held last week

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council vote by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.**

**Submitted by Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees**

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