

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**Tuesday, December 14, 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: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; City Clerk, Joanne Senos; Auditor, Kenny Costa; Interim CAO, Chris Sicuranza; Harbormaster, TJ Ciarametaro; Public Works Director, Michael Hale; Superintendent, Ben Lummis; School Committee Chair, Jonathan Pope; Administrative Assistant to DPW Director, Rose Lopiccolo; Waterways Board Chair, Tony Gross; Senator Bruce Tarr; State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante

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 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 and the public hearing to be recognized to speak.

Councilor Memhard stated that he had requested that the Farrington Avenue matter [on the agenda for Public Hearing this evening, PH2021-033] be sent back to Ordinances & Administration for further reconsideration, vetting and public input. He explained that the Traffic Commission minutes regarding this matter were not available to the O&A Committee on the evening that this matter was on the O&A agenda.

Councilor LeBlanc announced that the Public Hearing, PH2021-032, regarding zoning “Dimensional Requirements” and “Building Heights in Excess of 35 Feet” will be continued to January 25, 2022.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**Mary Ann Albert Boucher, 93 Mt. Pleasant Avenue**

Expressed her appreciation to the City Council for continuing the use of Zoom during City Council meetings as it encouraged resident participation. Stated she had attended many City Council meetings, had learned a lot, and thanked the **Members of the City Council** for their service.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:**1. Citations to outgoing City Councilors**

The following citations were presented to outgoing councilors: **Councilor Cox** made a presentation of a citation to honor **Council President, Councilor Steve LeBlanc** for his ten years of dedicated service as an elected official to the City. **Councilor LeBlanc** made a presentation of a citation to honor **Councilor Cox** for her ten years of dedicated service as an elected official to the City. **Councilor Gilman** made a presentation of a citation to honor **Councilor John McCarthy** for his two years of dedicated service as an elected official to the

City. **Councilor Sean Nolan** made a presentation of a citation to honor **Councilor Holmgren** for her four years of dedicated service as an elected official to the City. **Councilor Memhard** made a presentation of a citation to honor **Councilor Barry Pett** for his two years of dedicated service as an elected official to the City. **Councilor LeBlanc** made a presentation of a citation to honor **Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken** for her years of dedicated service as an elected official as both a City Councilor and as Mayor to the City.

Senator Bruce Tarr thanked, on behalf of **Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante** and himself, the **Members of the City Council** for the positive working relationships and partnerships. **Senator Tarr** made a presentation of citations on behalf of the Massachusetts State Senate to the outgoing City Councilors (**Councilors Cox, Holmgren, McCarthy, Pett and LeBlanc**) for their years of dedicated service to the City Council; he wished all of the outgoing councilors the best with their future endeavors. **Senator Tarr** also made a presentation of Governor's citations, at the request of **Representative Ferrante** and himself, and signed by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, to the outgoing City Councilors (**Councilors Cox, Holmgren, McCarthy, Pett and LeBlanc**) in recognition for their years of dedicated and committed service to the City of Gloucester and Gloucester City Council. **Senator Tarr** then made a similar presentation of citations to the **Mayor** from the Massachusetts State Senate and from the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

Representative Ferrante also thanked the **Members of the City Council** for their level of service and dedication and she recognized the hard work and decisions that needed to be made while going through a pandemic. **Representative Ferrante** made a presentation of citations to the outgoing councilors (**Councilors LeBlanc, Cox, Pett, McCarthy and Holmgren**) on behalf of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in recognition of their service to and love of the City.

2. Update from the Administration on downtown parking meters and kiosks

Summary of Discussion: The **CFO, John Dunn** explained that there was a snafu when the kiosks were originally ordered, as they did not arrive with change meters. He explained that the kiosks were then reordered at no additional costs except for the cost of the change meters. He stated that approximately 70 kiosks were installed throughout the City and ready to accept credit cards via an app, as well as coin at the kiosk, and that the remaining meter heads and posts would be uninstalled within the next couple of weeks.

Councilor Cox stated that the City had lost revenue due to the delay of installation of the correct kiosks for the first six months of the fiscal year and asked the **CFO** if he foresaw any issue with balancing revenues and expenses. The **CFO** stated he did not foresee any issues and stated that the City was conservative in projecting revenues in the budget each year. He added that there were some revenues projected that would fall short, but that he was confident that there were a number of revenues that would exceed budgeted expectations. **Councilor Pett** asked where input from residents regarding the placement of the kiosks be directed to. The **CFO** stated any input should be directed to the Mayor's office. **Councilor Memhard** stated that the technology upgrade with the installation of the kiosks was a citizen and tourist-friendly step and thanked the **CFO** and **Administration** for their work on moving the City forward. He asked that the **Administration** consider implementing an electronic system for beach parking to limit the handling of cash. The **CFO** informed the **Members of the City Council** that there were discussions underway regarding an electronic system for beach parking.

CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. Memorandum from Veterans Services Director requesting accepting donations in the amount of \$500 (Refer B&F)
2. Memorandum and Grant Application from Fire Chief for a SAFE/Senior Grant in the amount of \$6,100 (Refer B&F)
3. Memorandum from Police Chief requesting approval of a FY22 State 911 Training Grant in the amount of \$91,791.11 (Refer B&F)
4. Memorandum from DPW Director requesting acceptance of a donation for Langsford Street Cemetery in the amount

- of \$500 (Refer B&F)
5. Memorandum from Director of Elder Services requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$3,148 (Refer B&F)
 6. Memorandum from CFO: loan authorization request in the amount of \$1,400,000 for the purchase of water and sewer meters (Refer B&F)
 7. Mayor's response to November 23, 2021 City Council oral communications (Info Only)
 8. Report of the Committee on Assisted Living (Info Only)
 - **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
 - **INFORMATION ONLY**
 - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
 1. Application of Islands End Realty Trust for the storage of propane at 132 Coles Island Road, Assessors Map 259, Lot 7 (Refer P&D)
 - **COUNCILLORS ORDERS**
 1. CC#2021-022 (O'Hara/Pett): Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-289 "Parking meter zones – on street," Sec. 22.284 "Service or loading zones" and Sec. 22-270.1 "Resident sticker parking only" re: 67 Middle Street (Refer O&A & TC)
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
 1. City Council Meeting: 11/23/2021 (Approve/File)
 2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 12/9/2021 (under separate cover), O&A 12/6/2021, P&D 12/8/2021 (no meeting) (Approve/File)

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

Councilor Holmgren wished to apprise the **Members of the City Council** of the report issued by the ad-hoc Committee on Assisted Living (page 70 in the packet) to evaluate the feasibility of constructing an assisted living residence in the City to help meet the housing and care needs of the City's residents, as ordered by **Councilor Gilman** and former Councilor Lundberg during the previous City Council term. She thanked Sunny Robinson for her work in keeping momentum on this matter during the pandemic. She explained that the report pointed to a need for an assisted living residence, but different from the traditional model.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (O'Hara) technical difficulties to accept the Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Budget & Finance – December 9, 2021

Summary of Discussion: There was no discussion on these matters.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (O'Hara) technical difficulties, to accept the Budget and Finance Unanimous Consent Agenda.

1. Memorandum, Grant Application & Checklist from the Shellfish Constable re: Sea Grant COVID-19 Response Funding for Municipal Shellfish Programs

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 a federal grant under MGL c. 44, §53A, a U.S. Department of Commerce, FY22 Sea Grant COVID-19 Municipal Shellfish Program passed through the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and MIT Sea Grant programs in the amount of \$10,000, for the purpose of increasing shellfish productivity in two unproductive clam flats. The grant period is from November 16, 2021 through June 30, 2022, with an in-kind contribution of the Shellfish Department salaries for the duration of the project.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (O'Hara) technical difficulties, to accept a federal grant under MGL c. 44, §53A, a U.S. Department of Commerce, FY22 Sea Grant COVID-19 Municipal Shellfish Program passed through the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and MIT Sea Grant programs in the amount of \$10,000, for the purpose of increasing shellfish productivity in two

unproductive clam flats. The grant period is from November 16, 2021 through June 30, 2022, with an in-kind contribution of the Shellfish Department salaries for the duration of the project.

2. Memorandum from the Archives Committee requesting the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$500

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 (Memhard) absent, to recommend that the City Council to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a donation from the Cape Ann Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the amount of \$500.00 for the Archives Department for the purpose of funding the Archives Committee Donation Fund in Fund 3305.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (O’Hara) technical difficulties, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a donation from the Cape Ann Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the amount of \$500.00 for the Archives Department for the purpose of funding the Archives Committee Donation Fund in Fund 3305.

3. Memorandum from the Veterans Services Director requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$759

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 (Memhard) absent, 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 \$759 from the following members and business partners within our community:

Linda and Ed Comeau	\$50
Bank Gloucester	\$500
Barbara Newmark	\$25
Stop and Shop	\$184

	Total: \$759.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (O’Hara) technical difficulties, to accept various cash donations, under MGL c. 44, §53A, to support Cape Ann Veterans Services in the amount of \$759 from the following members and business partners within our community:

Linda and Ed Comeau	\$50
Bank Gloucester	\$500
Barbara Newmark	\$25
Stop and Shop	\$184

	Total: \$759.

- **Ordinances & Administration – December 6, 2021 (no items under this heading)**
- **Planning & Development – December 8, 2021 (no meeting)**

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. PH2021-032; RZ2021-003: In accordance with GZO Sec. 1.11.2(a), amend GZO Secs. 2.3.1 “Residential Uses”; 3.2 “Dimensional Table”; 3.2.2 “Dimensional Requirements for Multi-family Dwellings and Their Accessory Uses (other than signs)”; and 3.1.6(b) “Building Heights in Excess of 35 Feet” (TBC 01/25/2022)

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:50 p.m. and continued until the January 25, 2022, City Council meeting.

2. PH2021-033: Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” and Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away zones” by ADDING Farrington Avenue, northerly side, from its intersection with Eastern Point Boulevard in an easterly direction to its intersection with St. Louis Avenue”

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Memhard requested that this matter be referred back to Ordinances & Administration for further vetting and public input as the Traffic Commission meeting minutes regarding this matter were not available to the **Members of the O&A Committee** when this matter was on the agenda.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted by **ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (O’Hara) technical difficulties, to refer the matter regarding parking restrictions on Farrington Avenue back to the Ordinances and Administration subcommittee for further review.**

3. PH2021-027: Loan order 2021-004: loan authorization request in the amount of \$410,000 for the purchase of a new Harbormaster patrol boat (Cont. from 11/09/2021)

The Public Hearing opened at 6:54 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: The **Harbormaster, TJ Ciarametaro** stated he was requesting the purchase of a new patrol boat from SAFE Boat International (the industry leader and standard in building these types of boats, he stated) and added that it would be a long-term asset to the City for twenty-plus years. He stated that due to supply chain issues the boat would not be delivered for approximately fourteen to eighteen months. The **Harbormaster** explained that the asset being replaced with the proposed SAFE Boat was a thirty-year old asset that was at the end of its service life.

Tony Gross (Waterways Board Chair), 18 Nashua Avenue

Stated the proposed SAFE Boat would be a great long-term asset for the **Harbormaster** and the City. He stated other boat manufacturers that were explored lacked the durability, ruggedness and the utility of a SAFE Boat. He stated, at present, the funds would be bonded against the Waterways Enterprise Fund with no burden on the City budget.

Written communications: The **City Clerk, Joanne Senos**, stated that there were no communications regarding this matter.

Questions from Councilors:

Q1. (Gilman): Asked if the City would be eligible for the Port Security Grant that opened up in late February/early March.

A1. (Ciarametaro): Stated that he intended to apply for the Port Security Grant, which would be a 50/50 match in funding, which could be applied to the debt service for the SAFE Boat. He added that it was a highly competitive grant and that he was bringing in an outside consultant for guidance in applying for the grant which, he added, would be paid for out of the Waterways Enterprise Fund.

Q2. (Pett): Asked if the Harbormaster would continue to look for outside funding sources besides the Port Security Grant.

A2. (Ciarametaro): Stated affirmatively that other funding sources would be sought.

Q3. (Memhard): Asked if the scope of the purchase included a fire pump.

A3. (Ciarametaro): Stated the current price did not include funding for the fire pump. He stated the cost of adding the fire pump to the SAFE Boat would be approximately \$60,000 to \$68,000 depending on the configuration, and added that there was time to identify funding for this possible addition if it was determined that a fire pump was needed. He added that he believed that the funding for the possible fire pump (and future maintenance of the fire pump) should not come out of the Waterways Enterprise Fund.

A3. (Gross): Agreed with the Harbormaster regarding the funding of a possible fire pump, but added that he did not foresee any issue in working out the details if it was determined that adding a fire pump was possible.

Mr. Gross asked if the City Council would consider a reconsideration vote on this matter (after a positive vote) to help move the process forward.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:07 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 Four Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$410,000) to pay costs of the purchase of a new Harbormaster patrol boat, 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, Section 7, 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 Gilman** stated she would be supporting this matter. She explained she had attended some of the B&F meetings where this matter was discussed and stated she appreciated the collaboration with the Waterways Board and Harbormaster in moving this matter forward. **Councilor McCarthy** stated he would be supporting this matter. He mentioned that the company that the Harbormaster hired to seek funding opportunities had also pointed out approximately five supplemental funding sources for the boat. He stated that the City should look into outfitting the SAFE Boat with a fire pump and he agreed that the purchase and maintenance of a fire pump for the SAFE Boat should not come out of the Waterways Enterprise Fund. **Councilor Pett** stated he would be supporting this matter and added that the **Harbormaster** and the **Waterways Board** were assets to the City. **Councilor Cox** stated she would be supporting this matter. She thanked **Councilors Memhard** and **McCarthy** for their diligence in following proper procedure in her absence for a capital purchase of this size. **Councilor LeBlanc** stated he would be supporting this matter. He thanked the efforts of the Harbormaster over the past six years in making the City a destination instead of a drive-by community with transient boating. **Councilor Cox** also wished to thank **Discover Gloucester** for their efforts in promoting the City as a destination.

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 the following loan authorization as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Four Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$410,000) to pay costs of the purchase of a new Harbormaster patrol boat, 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, Section 7, 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 FOR RECONSIDERATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider the vote for Loan order 2021-004: loan authorization request in the amount of \$410,000 for the purchase of a new Harbormaster patrol boat.

The motion to reconsider failed.

The **Harbormaster** thanked the **Members of the City Council** for their support. He wished the outgoing councilors the best with their new endeavors.

4. PH2021-034: Loan Order 2021-006: loan authorization request in the amount of \$3.5 million dollars for the renovation/repair of the modular buildings located at the Beeman and Plum Cove elementary schools

The Public Hearing opened at 7:22 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: The **School Superintendent, Ben Lummis** stated both Beeman and Plum Cove elementary schools were over fifty years old and that Plum Cove had six modular classrooms and Beeman had nine. He stated the original thought was that the modular classrooms would need to be replaced from the ground up, but stated through the work of the **DPW Director, Michael Hale** it was determined that the modular classrooms could be refurbished at half the cost of replacement with a timeframe of summer of 2022. He explained if the modular classrooms were to be replaced it would cost over \$7 million dollars with an estimated timeframe of completion of 2023. He stated that the interiors of the modular classrooms were in good shape, but the envelope of the classrooms needed repair. The **School Committee Chair, Jonathan Pope** stated the repairs to these buildings would provide a safe and accessible facility for the City's youngest students.

The **DPW Director** added that the facilities were maintained regularly but stated certain items need attention beyond regular maintenance. He added that he believed the repair path was the best path for the district.

Greg Verga, Mayor-elect, 381 Essex Avenue

Stated he was in favor of this matter. Stated he was a member of the School Committee when these modular classrooms were initially purchased almost twelve or thirteen years ago.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Written communications: The **City Clerk** stated there were no communications regarding this matter.

Questions from Councilors:

Q1. (Gilman): Asked if the cost of painting the exterior of the modular classrooms was included in the loan order.

A1. (Lummis): Stated the cost of painting was included in the loan order.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:33 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 Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) to pay costs associated with the renovation and repair of modular buildings at both the Beeman and Plum Cove elementary schools 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, Section 7, 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: The **Rules of Procedure** were suspended to allow the **Mayor** to speak. The **Mayor** thanked the **Members of the City Council** and her **Administration** for everyone's hard work through the years. She stated that due to the hard work of many, including her Administration, the City had a sound budget which allowed these types of repairs to be funded.

Councilor Gilman stated that she had spent a lot of time in both Beeman and Plum Cove elementary schools, as both were located in Ward 4, and that she would be supporting this matter as the students were well-served by the modular classrooms. She thanked the **DPW Director** and **Members of the School Committee** for their efforts in determining the best path to take with the refurbishment/replacement of the modular classrooms. **Councilor Holmgren** stated she fully supported this matter; she also stated that the President of the Beeman PTO, Amanda Silva, was unable to attend the Public Hearing this evening, but asked **Councilor Holmgren** to share her support on this matter on her behalf. **Councilor Pett** thanked the **Superintendent**, the **School Committee Chair** and the **DPW Director** for their work on this matter. **Councilors Nolan** and **LeBlanc** stated they would also support this matter. **Councilor O'Hara** stated it was important that the City's students had a safe and comfortable building structure to learn in, as well as a safe building for the teachers to instruct in.

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 the following loan authorization as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Three Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,500,000) to pay costs associated with the renovation and repair of modular buildings at both the Beeman and Plum Cove elementary schools 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, Section 7, 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.

5. PH2021-035: Loan Order 2019-009: loan authorization amendment for the Concord Street Bridge over Walkers Creek in the amount of \$1.2 million from \$1.0 million

The Public Hearing opened at 7:47 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: The **DPW Director** stated that this matter was originally before the City Council approximately two years ago and explained that the bridge that extended Concord Street across Walker Creek towards Essex was deemed in need of replacement from a DOT inspection. He stated that the City applied for the MassDOT Small Bridge Replacement Grant and received approximately \$500,000, with a City match of \$500,000. He stated that due to the rising costs of building materials the cost to replace the bridge was now in excess of a million dollars and in discussing the matter with MassDOT he stated that they were gracious enough to award another \$200,000 to the project, with a City match of the same. He explained that the construction was scheduled to begin late winter, with completion expected in the late summer of 2022.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Written communications: The **City Clerk, Joanne Senos**, stated there were no communications regarding this matter.

Questions from Councilors:

Q1. (Pett): Asked if the loan order should be for \$1.4 million instead of \$1.2 million.

A1. (Hale): Stated with the original million dollar appropriation the City was required to authorize the full amount even though MassDOT was going to be granting the City almost \$500,000. He stated it was his understanding that the same conditions were not placed on the additional \$200,000. He stated the total cost of the project would be around \$1.4 million, with the total cost to local tax dollars around \$700,000.

Q2. (Memhard): Asked the **DPW Director** to explain the considerations that were taken in the design of the new bridge regarding erosion.

A2. (Hale): Stated that the current bridge abutments were cut stone that were parallel to the channel. He stated any significant water, upstream or downstream, would eddy around the abutments and would swirl. He stated this caused the abutments to fail a few years ago. He stated the new bridge would have abutments with flared wings that would allow the water to funnel.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:54 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 Loan Order 2019-009, Certificate of Vote 2019-143, of this Council approved August 27, 2019 authorizing the borrowing of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) to pay costs of the complete replacement of the Concord Street Bridge over Walkers Creek, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, is amended in its entirety to provide as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000) to pay costs of the complete replacement of the Concord Street Bridge over Walkers Creek, including the payment of all 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, Section 7, 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 Nolan stated he supported this matter, particularly in terms of safety. He stated that it was his understanding that part of the current bridge was from the old Route 1A from Newbury many years ago. Councilor LeBlanc stated he would also be supporting this matter. Councilor Holmgren, on behalf of the Mayor, thanked the Lieutenant Governor for her help in obtaining the extra funding due to the rising costs

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 the following loan authorization as follows:

Ordered: That Loan Order 2019-009, Certificate of Vote 2019-143, of this Council approved August 27, 2019 authorizing the borrowing of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) to pay costs of the complete replacement of the Concord Street Bridge over Walkers Creek, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, is amended in its entirety to provide as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates One Million Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,200,000) to pay costs of the complete replacement of the Concord Street Bridge over Walkers Creek, including the payment of all 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, Section 7, 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.

6. PH2021-036: Loan Order 2020-005: loan authorization amendment for security upgrades at Gloucester High School and O'Maley Innovation Middle School in the amount of \$2.0 million from \$1.6 million

The Public Hearing opened at 8:00 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: The **DPW Director** stated this was a project deemed necessary by the School Committee, Police Department and Fire Department. He stated that the high school and middle school were built in times when school security was not well thought out and the need was not as prevalent. He stated since inception the scope of the project had grown slightly from \$1.6 million to \$2 million and that there was a very small punch list that needed to be completed to finish the project to make both schools as safe as possible.

The **Superintendent** stated this project was another example of the impact of the pandemic on construction with supply chain issues and rising costs. He stated that he felt confident that with the security upgrades all of the City's schools would be prepared for the "just in case".

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Written communications: The **City Clerk** stated that there were no communications regarding this matter.

Questions from Councilors: None.

The Public Hearing closed at 8:05 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 approved, to recommend that the City Council approve the following loan authorization as follows:

Ordered: That Loan Order 2020-005, Certificate of Vote 2020-075, of this Council approved May 12, 2020 authorizing the borrowing of One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000) to pay costs of security upgrades at Gloucester High School and O'Maley Innovation Middle School, including costs incidental or related thereto, is amended in its entirety to provide as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to pay costs of security upgrades at Gloucester High School and O'Maley Innovation Middle School, 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, Section 7, 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: There was no further discussion on this matter.

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 the following loan authorization as follows:

Ordered: That Loan Order 2020-005, Certificate of Vote 2020-075, of this Council approved May 12, 2020 authorizing the borrowing of One Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,600,000) to pay costs of security upgrades at Gloucester High School and O'Maley Innovation Middle School, including costs incidental or related thereto, is amended in its entirety to provide as follows:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) to pay costs of security upgrades at Gloucester High School and O'Maley Innovation Middle School, 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, Section 7, 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.

The DPW Director thanked all the outgoing councilors for their work over the past two years. Councilor Gilman thanked the School Committee Chair, Jonathan Pope for his many years of service to the City. The School Committee Chair stated he appreciated the hard work of everyone on the school side and the City side.

FOR COUNCIL VOTE:

1. Decision to Adopt: SCP2021-004: Essex Avenue #65-73, Map 217, Lots 20 & 22, GZO Secs. 5.5.2 for a Lowlands Requirements exception and 5.31.4 "Use Allowance and Special Permit Procedures" for a marijuana establishment in the EB district

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Gilman thanked the other Members of the P&D Committee for their level of detail in vetting this matter and stated she would be supporting the Decision to Adopt.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to adopt decision: SCP2021-004: Essex Avenue #65-73, Map 217, Lots 20 & 22, GZO Secs. 5.5.2 for a Lowlands Requirements exception and 5.31.4 "Use Allowance and Special Permit Procedures" for a marijuana establishment in the EB district.

2. Decision to Adopt: SCP2021-005: Whistlestop Way #9, Map 24, Lot 51, GZO Secs. 2.2, 2.3 and 5.31 to construct a retail marijuana establishment, in the EB district

Summary of Discussion: There was no discussion on this matter.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 1 (O'Hara) opposed, to adopt decision: SCP2021-005: Whistlestop Way #9, Map 24, Lot 51, GZO Secs. 2.2, 2.3 and 5.31 to construct a retail marijuana establishment, in the EB district.

3. City Council acceptance of the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) process modification

Summary of Discussion: There was no discussion on this matter.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept the Tax Increment Finance (TIF) process modification proposal dated November 19, 2021.

COUNCILORS' REQUESTS TO THE MAYOR:

- **Councilor Cox** requested through the Mayor that the Calendar on the City's webpage contain live links to all City meetings. By way of background, she stated that over the past few months she had noticed that the Calendar on the landing page of the City website did not contain much information.
- **Councilor Cox** requested through the Mayor that Duncan Street be painted with the appropriate parking space lines ("Ts" and "Ls") as the street was repaved over two years ago. She stated that several parking tickets had been issued to vehicles not parked in the appropriate spaces, but stated it was unclear where to park as there were no lines.

COUNCILORS' THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- **Councilor Memhard** wished to express his gratitude to the Administration for allowing him to use the East Gloucester School Auditorium for a Ward 1 community meeting with the new developer for 116 East Main Street.
- **Councilor Nolan** thanked the **Mayor** for her many years of service to the City. He also thanked his fellow councilors.
- **Councilor McCarthy** thanked his fellow councilors, as well as the City Clerk, for all their help over the past two years.
- **Councilor Pett** thanked the Administration, as well as all City departments including the staff of the City Clerk's office, for all their help with helping him navigate his two years as a new councilor.
- **Councilor Holmgren** thanked her fellow councilors, Administration, all City employees and all of the engaged constituents for all their hard work.
- **Councilor Gilman** thanked her fellow councilors and City staff for their hard work and support.
- **Councilor Cox** thanked her fellow councilors, past and present, as well as the Administration for the opportunity to work with everyone for the past ten years.
- **Councilor LeBlanc** thanked his fellow councilors, past and present, the Administration, the City Clerk and her staff, as well as the City's residents, for everyone's hard work throughout the years.
- **Councilor O'Hara** thanked the Mayor for her service to the City. He also thanked outgoing councilors, **Councilors LeBlanc, Pett, Cox, Holmgren and McCarthy** for their service to the City. **Councilor O'Hara** also thanked City staff and wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- **Councilor O'Hara** thanked all the members of the community who have participated in donating blood at the blood drives held at the Magnolia Library. He stated over 1000 units of blood had been donated this past year and explained that 200 units of blood were being sent to the tornado-stricken states of Kentucky and Iowa.
- **Councilor O'Hara** thanked the men and women of the Armed Forces for their service, including the Coast Guard station in the City.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to adjourn the meeting 8:39 p.m.

Submitted by: Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees

Items submitted at the meeting: None.