

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**Tuesday, August 23, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.****REMOTE MEETING****-Minutes-**

Councilors Present: Council President, Councilor Val Gilman; Council Vice President, Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor Tony Gross; Councilor Jason Grow; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Jamie O’Hara; Councilor Tracy O’Neil; Councilor Jeff Worthley

Absent: Councilor Frank Margiotta

Also Present: CAO, Jill Cahill; Fire Chief, Eric Smith; City Clerk, Joanne Senos; Public Works Director, Michael Hale; Auditor, Kenny Costa; Deputy Fire Chief, Robert Rivas; Environmental Engineer, Dana Martin; City Engineer, Ryan Marques; Director of Communications and Constituent Services, Pam Tobey

This meeting was conducted remotely through Zoom

All votes were ROLL CALL votes

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Gilman announced: “In the interest of government transparency, consistent with chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, 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 to be recognized to speak.”

“It is the finding of the City of Gloucester that no individual should be denied equal treatment or opportunity because of their age, ancestry, color, disability, including intellectual and developmental mental disability, family status, immigration status, gender identity or expression, military status, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation. In this vein, we as City Councilors do not condone language that is discriminatory or offensive and will not accept it at City meetings.”

Councilor Gilman introduced the City Council members and City staff in attendance.

Matters were taken out of order. The minutes reflect the order in which matters were taken.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: **Councilor O’Hara** led the Council in a moment of silence in remembrance of the first anniversary of the thirteen brave American soldiers, including one from Lawrence, Massachusetts, who gave their lives evacuating Americans from Afghanistan Kandahar International Airport when a suicide bombed detonated.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Pamela Steele, [address not learned]

Expressed safety concerns regarding parking on sidewalks. Stated she is an avid walker on Haskell Street where, she stated, many residents park on the sidewalk instead of in their driveways. Also stated that East Main

Street is “ridiculously” dangerous when cars are on the sidewalk due to the narrowness of the street when two cars in opposite directions are trying to pass each other.

Mike Lucido, 9 Sunset Hill Road

Expressed concern regarding the condition of certain private ways including Ferry Street, Sunset Hill Road and Periwinkle Lane. Stated that he is of the belief that 50% of the City’s roadways are private and that all residents pay real estate taxes and/or excise taxes and that it is not fair that the cost burden falls onto the residents to repair the roads. Stated a previous sewer project destroyed the particular roads mentioned and that they continue to fall into greater disrepair. Also stated that there is water runoff in the area of the hospital that is destroying the corner of Ferry Street. Also stated that the intersection of Sunset Hill and Periwinkle have runoff from the Pole’s Hill fire.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:

1. Fire Chief Smith re: Update on Pole’s Hill Brush Fire

Summary of Discussion: The **Fire Chief, Eric Smith**, stated that there was a smaller fire in the area of Pole’s Hill prior to August 1st which was extinguished and felt to be set by humans. He stated that the larger Pole’s Hill fire call for help came in on August 1st, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. and that he assumed command from the Deputy at approximately 12:45 p.m. as the fire continued to escalate. He explained that four hours into the fire, at approximately 2:30 p.m., he felt that the fire was about 90% contained and explained the personnel on scene including the Command Unit, as well as ten engine companies, one ladder company, one rescue company, an ambulance, five forestry trucks, a rehab unit, drill and spotting operations (including three drone operators) and four staff cars, with some personnel being through mutual aid assistance. He stated that there was a total of forty-eight of the City’s firefighters on scene the first day, with approximately seventy-five personnel on scene that day at various times, with approximately six DCR [Department of Conservation & Recreation] on scene every day to help clear brush and about twelve DCR folks on scene in the last couple of days to help with the final push for containment, including water drops by the Army National Guard (approximately eighty water drops at 600 gallons a drop in total over two days) to help create a barrier around the fire. He stated that he also estimates that the Fire Department used another 50,000 gallons of water through the fire hoses.

The **Fire Chief** explained the topography of the area as well as soil conditions that led to deep, underground fires which burnt for days, particularly in the drought conditions that the area has been experiencing. He explained that when the ground is so dry it creates almost a barrier in which the water is unable to pass through and that even with the minor rainfall the area has had the underground fires are not able to be fully extinguished. He explained that the City’s fire trucks have thermal imaging equipment that was unable to be utilized due to the severe drought conditions as the fire was 2 to 3 feet below the soil in spots, which in essence insulates the underground fires.

The **Fire Chief** explained that the initial fire burnt about ten acres of land, which grew to approximately fourteen total acres until containment was achieved. He explained that some of the fire was allowed to consume vegetation that was overgrown in areas that were going to burn regardless and explained that this is an effective method of controlling the fire to create containment. He stated that the effort to contain and control the fire is now about twenty-three days in and stated that today’s rain has helped, as well as the cooler temperatures. He stated thus far there have been a total of twenty-three reports written based on this one incident.

The **Fire Chief** stated that there have been extra expenses incurred due to the fire with approximately \$40,000 in overtime costs to date, which includes the three injured personnel (with one out for approximately two weeks, one coming back soon and one that will be out for a while with surgery on broken bones). He also explained that there is another \$12,000 to \$13,000 in supply costs, as well as for replacement of damaged uniforms and damaged equipment. The **Fire Chief** also explained that the investigation into the fire started almost immediately in conjunction with the Police Department and that arrests have been made and that the

matter is now before the District Attorney. The **Fire Chief** thanked **Deputy Fire Chief, Robert Rivas**, for his work and efforts in getting the fire under control.

The **Deputy Fire Chief, Robert Rivas**, wished to thank the community for their support in helping to provide cold drinks and food. He also thanked the National Guard for help provided by them.

Questions from Councilors:

Q1. (O'Neil): Asked for the definition of a fire road and asked if there are any in the area of Pole's Hill.

A1. (Smith): Stated that fire roads are basic paths and roadways that are good enough for heavy equipment to travel on. Explained that there is a fire road that runs through Pole's Hill/Sunset Road. Explained that there was a significant amount of access and water supply on that road. Further stated that the City's firefighters were also running up the side of the hill with hose lines as the fire was approaching homes and neighborhoods.

Q2. (O'Neil): Asked if the fire roads on Pole's Hill are sufficient for the area.

A2. (Smith): Stated fire roads are expensive to maintain and is a budget issue and that the matter needed more than just his input and opinion.

A2. (Cahill): Stated that as the former Community Development Director, as part of the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) planning process, which included a stakeholder meeting in 2018 or 2019, the fire road was put on the list of priorities. With this Administration, she stated it will be made a priority and that the Administration would be working with Dave Ciolino from the Massachusetts State Forestry Service.

A2. (Gilman): Stated that there is a link to a full presentation of the above-referenced MVP meeting on the Community Development page of the City's website.

Q3. (Grow): Asked if the Council could anticipate funding requests for brush/wildfire training, as the **Fire Chief** had previously mentioned that many of his staff had not seen this type of fire previously.

A3. (Smith): Stated that there has been training through the State's Fire Academy which solidifies the mechanics of fighting this type of fire but not real-world practice. Stated he has been with the City for ten years and this is the first of its type that he has seen.

Q4. (Worthley): Asked if the City was delayed in fighting the fire due to boulders blocking the fire road which needed to be moved by the State's Forestry Department.

A4. (Smith): Stated the State's Forestry Department came out to perform clearing and to create some cuts to help with containment. Stated that the boulders being referred to were on the southerly edge by Sunset and Periwinkle, which were put in place to keep people from trying to use a four-wheeler up the hill in private vehicles. Stated that there were no obstructions on the Riverview side.

Q5. (Worthley): Asked if the boulders were on private or public property.

A5. (Smith): Stated that he is of the belief that the boulders were at the base on the publicly-owned side of Sunset.

Q6. (Gilman): Asked if there is a way to get fire updates circulated on the City website and Facebook if a fire is on public land.

A6. (Smith): Stated that there is difficulty with having a dedicated staff person (24/7) who is authorized to post on the City or Fire Department's behalf. Stated that there needs to be governance and City policy in terms of what information is shared with the public.

Q7. (Memhard): Asked the **Fire Chief** to speak about the health impact of persistent smoke in neighborhoods.

A7. (Smith): Stated that if a member of the public has concerns that first and foremost they should contact their personal doctor. Also stated that the Health Department may be able to offer advice.

Q8. (Worthley): Asked if the **Fire Chief** anticipated additional costs to the City for this fire.

A8. (Smith): Stated that he did not anticipate any additional extensive operations in the area but there might be some minor costs. Stated that there may be additional personnel costs due to the injured firefighters.

Q9. (Gilman): Asked the **Public Works Director, Mike Hale**, to elaborate on emergency trail clearing that had occurred over the past few years.

A9. (Hale): Stated that robust fire road clearing has not occurred in twenty-five years. Stated that there has been clearing at the request or the suggestion of the Fire Department along the Babson Reservoir and Old Rockport Road. Stated that when something needs to be done, it can be addressed, and that the volunteers through the Cape Ann Trail Stewards have also performed trail clearing. Also stated that the City does not have the resources it once had and that priorities have shifted resources to other places.

Q10. (O'Hara): Asked if the **Fire Chief** can speak on efforts that the general public can do to help with the dry land throughout the City going forward.

A10. (Smith): Stated that the public needs to be cognizant and careful particularly when using power equipment on dry grass. Stated that his department deals with mulch fires constantly and asked the public to be aware.

Q11. (Worthley): Asked what kind of fires are allowed in the woods.

A11. (Smith): Stated that no fires are permitted at any time.

Q12. (Worthley): Asked the Fire Chief to explain what one should do if you hear or see fireworks.

A12. (Smith): Stated that all fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts.

2. Ryan Marques, City Engineer and Dana Martin, Environmental Engineer re: Update on Drought Conditions

Summary of Discussion: The City's **Environmental Engineer, Dana Martin**, stated that her responsibilities include participation in the oversight of the drinking water and wastewater facilities. She explained that the State has a Drought Task Force that declares drought status and that the northeast region is in a level 3 critical drought. She explained that as part of the drought the City has enacted water-use restrictions, the latest of which began on August 2, 2022, which limits outdoor water use to handheld watering before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. and also restricts watering by traditional irrigation or sprinklers. She stated that the City has seen a great reduction in water use as a result of the restrictions and that capacity is lower than normal. She stated that the City's water use always drops off significantly after Labor Day and stated that she is feeling optimistic with the City's current resources.

The **Public Works Director, Mike Hale**, stated that the City pulls water from the East System or the West System depending on supply and stated that both supplies are down significantly from where the City would prefer them to be heading into the fall season. He confirmed that water use does fall dramatically after Labor Day and explained that there is little that the City can do about the current drought situation as the City already manages the reservoir levels well with leak detection ongoing daily. He stated that it is up to each individual resident in the City to make sure that they are playing their part. He explained that the Public Works Department is frequently receiving calls that some residents are still using automated irrigation systems to water their lawns which violates the water restrictions if not using well water. He stated that the City is fortunate that the watersheds rebound quickly (the East system faster than the West system).

Councilor Gross suggested that the flashing sign at the rotary show a message that states: "Water Enforcement Hotline Report Phone Number" (whether a working number or not) to catch residents' attention. **Councilor Gross** relayed a personal story about his brother-in-law (former Council President Paul Lundberg) receiving a letter from the DPW stating that his water usage had risen significantly and to please check for running toilets,

etc. within his home; **Councilor Gross** recognized the great customer service by the DPW as part of water conservation efforts.

Questions from Councilors:

Q1. (Worthley): Asked if there is a way to capture the water in the spring that is lost into the ocean for use later in the summer.

A1. (Hale): Stated that when the East System is full from spring rain, so is the West system. Stated water can be moved from Babson to Goose Cove and Goose Cove to Babson, as well as water from Haskell’s to Dyke. Stated that water can be managed at Wallace that comes from Fernwood (and stated that Fernwood does not have any supply to speak of, but that it is a constant flow of water that can be diverted to Wallace) and that the DPW is learning more about how that system works. Other than raising the reservoir levels (which last happened in the early 1980s) to capture more water, he stated, he believes that the City is at capacity. Stated that not much more can be done to salvage the spring water. Stated that the City does not have a system in place to transfer raw water from East to West or West to East and explained that raw water is water that has yet to be treated.

Q2. (Worthley): Stated that the Dyke’s Meadow Reservoir can hold 705 million gallons of water which, he stated, is significantly higher than Babson and Goose Cove. Asked the **Public Works Director** to confirm that there is no mechanism to transfer water from Babson to Goose over to Dyke’s Meadow.

A2. (Hale): Confirmed that to be true.

Q3. (Grow): Asked what the actual percentage of water is in the reservoirs. Asked if the City is in danger of running out of water.

A3. (Martin): Shared her screen to provide the following information.

Current Reservoir Capacities

Date	East System		West System (Current)			E&W Total
	Babson	G. Cove	Wallace	Dykes	Haskell	
Full (MG)	177	297	56	705	330	1565
8/22/2022	120	185	30	365	145	845
Current Capacity (MG)	68%	62%	54%	52%	44%	54%



Ms. Martin stated that reservoir levels were taken on Monday, August 22, 2022, and stated that the City is currently using the West System. She explained the above slide and stated that overall, system-wide, the City is at 54% of total water capacity and explained that if there was no rain within the City there would be a couple of more months of water supply; with rain and usage dropping off, she expects that the City will be in good shape with the typical recharge in the Fall.

Q4. (Grow): Asked if the City is near the point of instituting further water restrictions for residents to further manage their own personal water use inside their homes.

A4. (Martin): Stated that the current restrictions are in place through the end of the month and that the issue will be reevaluated at that point. Stated that she did not think additional further restrictions would be put in place.

Q5. (O’Hara): Asked how the current percentages of the current reservoir capacities are compared to one year ago.

A5. (Martin): Stated that the City fluctuates generally in the range of 60% to 70% over the last ten years. Stated that capacity levels previously this low have been seen in the past twenty or thirty years, as well as lower levels.

Q6. (Gilman): Asked the CAO to explain enforcement of the water restrictions.

A6. (Cahill): Stated that the Mayor signed an Emergency Order for the water ban which gives the Police Department the power to enforce the matter. Stated that the ban is difficult to enforce because by the time the Police show up to a residence after receiving a call the water is not on anymore. Stated that the ban is generally a public information campaign.

Q7. (Worthley): Asked if there is water lost in the spring.

A7. (Hale): Stated water is lost when capacity is reached in all reservoirs no matter the season.

Q8. (Worthley): Asked if the City can monitor if restrictions are actually reducing the water usage totally and, if so, asked if that data can be used to have a conversation with residents that are using water excessively.

A8. (Martin): Stated that part of the remote collection system is in place today and that the City has been able to identify the traditional leaky toilet. Stated that he does not believe that water restrictions can be enforced with that type of data as it is unknown what water is being used for.

Q9. (Worthley): Asked if there is a way to determine if the water restrictions have an impact.

A9. (Hale): Stated that he has seen a decrease in water consumption City-wide right now.

CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS:

The CAO, on behalf of Mayor Verga, thanked all of the volunteers.

Committee of the Arts

Judith Hoglander

TTE 2/14/24

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Judith Hoglander to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/24.

Summary of Discussion: Ms. Judith Hoglander stated that she has been a member of the Committee for the Arts for a long time. She stated that she started out as an opera singer and that when she stopped singing she started using her voice to advocate for the arts. She stated that she is looking forward to serving the community in this capacity. Councilor Grow stated that this Committee is essential to the community in ensuring that the creation of public art is supported. Councilor Worthley stated that he was in support of this appointment as well and that Ms. Hoglander has been an active member in the community for decades.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to appoint Judith Hoglander to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/24.

Committee of the Arts

Karen Ristuben

TTE 2/14/23

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Karen Ristuben to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/23.

Summary of Discussion: Ms. Karen Ristuben stated that she is currently employed by the Essex County Community Foundation and that she is also the Program Director for the Creative County Initiative which is

investing in arts and culture throughout the communities within Essex County. She stated that she was also the Director of the Rocky Neck Art Colony for ten years.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to appoint Karen Ristuben to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/23.

Committee of the Arts

Miranda Aisling

TTE 2/14/25

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Miranda Aisling to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/25.

Summary of Discussion: Ms. Aisling stated that she moved to Cape Ann approximately two years ago at the Manship Arts Retreat Studio and since then has been fully invested in the City. She stated that she is head of Education and Engagement at the Cape Ann Museum where she has been for a year and a half. She stated that she is also a practicing interdisciplinary artist, including visual art, pottery and music, and has become Chair of the Diversity and Equity Committee for the Gloucester 400 Committee.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to appoint Miranda Aisling to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/25.

Council on Aging

Stephen M. Aiello

TTE 2/14/25

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Stephen M. Aiello to the Council on Aging, TTE 2/14/25.

Summary of Discussion: Mr. Stephen Aiello stated that he recently retired from the Fire Department and was the liaison to the Council on Aging and a member of the Triad Committee that provided public education for the Council on Aging regarding fall prevention, carbon monoxide detector, insulation and things of that nature. He stated that he was also an EMS Officer at Brooksby Village providing emergency medical services to the aging population. Councilor Worthley stated that Mr. Aiello goes above and beyond in every job he performs. Councilor Gilman stated that she is an ex-officio member of the Council on Aging board representing the City Council and that she believes Mr. Aiello will be a great addition to the Council on Aging.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to appoint Stephen M. Aiello to the Council on Aging, TTE 2/14/25.

Gloucester Cultural Council

John Hicks

TTE 2/14/25

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint John Hicks to the Gloucester Cultural Council, TTE 2/14/25.

Summary of Discussion: Mr. John Hicks stated that he is a former member of the Cape Ann Repertory Theater back in the 1970s and that he has a background in theater and music, as well as directing musicals in local school systems. He stated that he is currently working with elementary school band kids in the City. He also performed at last week’s Harbor Loop concert.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to appoint John Hicks to the Gloucester Cultural Council, TTE 2/14/25.

Committee of the Arts

Rebecca Reynolds

TTE 2/14/23

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Rebecca Reynolds to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/23.

Summary of Discussion: Ms. Reynolds was not in attendance at the time of her appointment (but had been on the call previously). Without objection, Ms. Reynolds’ appointment was moved forward. Councilor Memhard stated that he has known Ms. Reynolds for a long time and that she is an active member of the arts community. Councilor Gilman stated she worked closely with Ms. Reynolds on the Manship Board and that she is a great leader and is passionate in the work she does.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to appoint Rebecca Reynolds to the Committee of the Arts, TTE 2/14/23.

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

1. New Appointment
Committee for the Arts Philip Storey TTE 2/14/25 (Refer O&A)
2. Memorandum from General Counsel re: Proposed amendments to GCO, Part II, Ch. 22, Art. V, Stopping, Standing and Parking and Article VI, Traffic Schedules (Refer O&A)
3. Memorandum from Fire Chief and #2022-SBT-3 in the amount of \$1,194.24 (Refer B&F)
4. Memorandum from Director of Elder Services requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$1,495 (Refer B&F)
5. Mayor’s response to Oral Communications made at the August 9, 2022 City Council meeting (Info Only)
 - **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
 - **INFORMATION ONLY**
 - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
 - **COUNCILLORS ORDERS**
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
1. City Council Meeting: 8/9/2022 (Approve/File)
2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 8/18/2022, O&A 8/15/2022, P&D 8/17/2022 (Approve/File)

UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR

- **INFORMATION ONLY**

1. MBTA questions submitted to Mayor Verga on 7/29/2022 re: MBTA update on Washington Street train crossing gates (Info Only)

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

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Worthley, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to accept the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED/REMOVED FROM THE UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Gilman removed the one agenda item regarding MBTA questions off of the Unanimous Consent Agenda (UCC) for the purpose of offering an explanation. Councilor Gilman explained where to view the UCC from the City’s website and stated that all questions from councilors to the Administration could be found there as well. She stated that there are ten questions submitted to Mayor Verga on July 29, 2022, from Mr. Steve Aiello, four submitted by herself and one submitted by Bob Ryan. She explained that the questions represented the totality of all the issues that have been heard from members of the public. She stated that a summary was

also submitted by **Councilor Worthley** of comments from Facebook and reported incidents regarding this matter. There was also a document included from Steve Aiello; it included the specific incident experienced by his wife and son. **Councilor Gilman** explained that this matter is for information only and placed the matter back on the UCC.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to accept the Unanimous Consent Agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Budget & Finance – 8/18/2022

1. Memorandum from Library Director requesting acceptance of a FY23 LSTA Grant Award-Anytime STEM Learning Grant in the amount of \$9,860

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept, under MGL c. 44, §53A, a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services passed through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant program entitled “Anytime STEM Learning” special project for \$9,860 for the purpose of supporting the Sawyer Free Library’s Young Gloucester Scientists Club for elementary and middle school students that supports learning both in and outside of the Library through continued access to physical collections, materials, and programming. The grant period is from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. There is no local match for this grant.

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor Memhard** stated that the **Executive Director of the Sawyer Free Library, Jenny Benedict**, as well as her staff, provided an informative presentation at the previous B&F meeting. He added that it is a great hands-on program which involves coordination with the City’s teachers for older elementary school and middle school students.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to accept, under MGL c. 44, §53A, a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services passed through the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) Grant program entitled “Anytime STEM Learning” special project for \$9,860 for the purpose of supporting the Sawyer Free Library’s Young Gloucester Scientists Club for elementary and middle school students that supports learning both in and outside of the Library through continued access to physical collections, materials, and programming. The grant period is from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023. There is no local match for this grant.

2. Memorandum and #2023-SA-2 from the DPW Director in the amount of \$181,408.08

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Gross, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2023-SA-2 in the amount of \$181,408.08 (One Hundred Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred and Eight Dollars and Eights cents) from the DPW - Highway Force Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, Account #32085-596001, to the DPW - Public Services, R&M - Paving, Account #0147052-524014 for the various paving projects and road surface repairs throughout the City.

Summary of Discussion: The **Public Works Director** stated that the City works closely with National Grid (primarily gas). He explained that when National Grid performs work in City streets the City requires National Grid to meet a certain paving standard and that it is easier for City staff to manage the paving projects which, in

turn, National Grid submits a check to the City to be deposited into the Highway Force account which is transferred back out to pay for the City's paving vendor. **Councilor Memhard** thanked the **Public Works Director** for his management of this process and stated that he believes the City benefits from this process.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2023-SA-2 in the amount of \$181,408.08 (One Hundred Eighty One Thousand Four Hundred and Eight Dollars and Eights cents) from the DPW - Highway Force Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Fund, Account #32085-596001, to the DPW - Public Services, R&M - Paving, Account #0147052-524014 for the various paving projects and road surface repairs throughout the City.

3. Memorandum and #2023-SA-2 from the CFO in the amount of \$25,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer #2023-SBT-2 in the amount of \$25,000 from the Pension, Retirement Fund, Account #0192151-517004, to City Clerk, Salaries & Wages Temporary, Account #0116151-512000, for the purpose of part-time assistance with the extra duties required for elections during Fiscal Year 2023.

Summary of Discussion: The **City Clerk, Joanne Senos**, explained that the new election laws were passed on June 22, 2022, which occurred after the City's FY23 budget was passed. She stated that with the additional duties, including vote by mail, absentee voting and certifying initiative petitions that are year-round, it was realized that there was a lot of extra pressure on the other staff in the City Clerk's office, as well as the Election Specialist, and that extra help is needed with a part-time person to assist moving forward. She stated elections used to need approximately a two-week preparation and now it was about two months for just one election. She stated that the Election Specialist also handles the census, confirmation mailings and the annual street listing book. **Councilor Nolan** stated that this will be money well spent and thanked **Councilor Gilman**, the **City Clerk** and the Administration for their work on this matter. **Councilor Worthley** stated that this part-time position would allow the City Clerk's office to continue to provide the level of service customers have become accustomed to.

Councilor Grow wished to remind students heading off to college to make sure they submit the form for an absentee ballot to vote in the upcoming elections. The **City Clerk** stated that the deadline to request a vote by mail application, as well as absentee voting application, is Monday, August, 29, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. **Councilor Gilman** recognized the hard work and efforts by the **City Clerk** and her staff. The **City Clerk** stated that on Saturday, August 27, 2022, the City Clerk's office would be open from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. for voter registration (and updates to voter registration) and also for early voting in person from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Kyrouz Auditorium. **Councilor O'Hara** wished to thank the **Assistant City Clerk, Grace Poirier**, for her work in the City Clerk's office and for updating the Council previously when filling in for the City Clerk regarding the new mandates from the State. He also stated that he believes that there is some funding available for these mandates. **Councilor O'Neil** echoed the sentiments of her fellow councilors.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Gross, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to approve Special Budgetary Transfer #2023-SBT-2 in the amount of \$25,000 from the Pension, Retirement Fund, Account #0192151-517004, to City Clerk, Salaries & Wages Temporary, Account #0116151-512000, for the purpose of part-time assistance with the extra duties required for elections during Fiscal Year 2023.

4. Memorandum and #2023-SA-3 and #2023-SA-4 from the CFO in the amount of \$300,000

Supplemental Appropriation 2023-SA-3:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Gross, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation Transfer #2023-SA-3 in the amount of \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7700-359000, to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund, Replace GHS Heat Exchanger Equipment – Building Improvements, Account #770015-582003, for the purpose of replacing failing equipment at Gloucester High School.

Summary of Discussion: There was a brief discussion regarding the difference between an SBT (supplemental budgetary transfer) and SA (supplemental appropriation). The Auditor, **Kenny Costa**, explained that an SBT is taking from an account of one department to another account and that an SA is actually adding to the budget and that the funds are coming from an outside funding source which is outside of the General Fund.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to approve Supplemental Appropriation Transfer #2023-SA-3 in the amount of \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7700-359000, to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund, Replace GHS Heat Exchanger Equipment – Building Improvements, Account #770015-582003, for the purpose of replacing failing equipment at Gloucester High School.

Supplemental Appropriation 2023-SA-4:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation Transfer #2023-SA-4 in the amount of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7700-359000, to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund, Energy Control Software Update – Building Improvements, Account# 770016-582003, for the purpose of updating building energy control software in various buildings throughout the City.

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

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Gross, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to approve Supplemental Appropriation Transfer #2023-SA-4 in the amount of \$100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) from the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance, Account #7700-359000, to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund, Energy Control Software Update – Building Improvements, Account# 770016-582003, for the purpose of updating building energy control software in various buildings throughout the City.

- **Ordinances & Administration – August 15, 2022 (no items)**

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Nolan stated that there were no action items for the Council's consideration.

- **Planning & Development – August 17, 2022 (no items)**

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor Grow** stated that there were no action items for the Council's consideration. He stated there is a site visit scheduled for SCP2022-006: Rocky Neck Avenue #75 on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. and that at P&D it was requested that the applicant notify the abutters of the site visit.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

FOR COUNCIL VOTE: None.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR'S DISCUSSION INCLUDING REPORTS BY APPOINTED COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES: None.

COUNCILORS' REQUESTS TO THE MAYOR:

- **Councilor Memhard** requested through the Mayor to the Public Works Department that the potholes on Traverse Street be addressed in the interim before paving.
- **Councilor O'Hara** requested to the Mayor his consideration for appointing a Parks and Recreation Commission which, he stated, is a five-member commission, with one member from each ward. By way of background, the City has lost three fields including the Charles Thomas Fuller School Field, the Joseph Matos Field and the Milton L. Fuller Playground.
- **Councilor Worthley** requested through the Mayor to the Traffic Commission to review keeping or replacing the crosswalk near the train track crossing on Washington Street.
- **Councilor Worthley** requested through the Mayor to the Health Department to test every public beach. **Councilor Gilman** stated that she believes that testing is done regularly and that the results are posted on the State's website.
- **Councilor Worthley** requested through the Mayor to the Public Works Department to fix/redo the sign at Good Harbor Beach that says "Creek Open Closed for Swimming".
- **Councilor Grow** requested through the Mayor to the Public Works Department that the potholes on Highland Street and Mt. Pleasant Street be addressed. He also requested an update on where these two streets stand in terms of repaving.
- **Councilor Worthley** requested through the Mayor to the Public Works Department to remove the overgrowth of weeds/high grass near the Fitz Henry Lane statue.

COUNCILORS' THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- **Councilor Nolan** thanked the DPW, the Police Department and the Fire Department for all their work over the last month between City events, cleanups, fires and other issues. He further stated that all departments have done an exemplary job.
- **Councilor O'Hara** offered an apology to **Councilor Gilman** concerning a previous conversation regarding the appointment of the Director of Elder Services.
- **Councilor O'Hara** thanked **Councilor Gilman** for allowing the Moment of Silence for the thirteen American soldiers who lost their lives in Afghanistan, including one soldier from Lawrence, Mass., Johnny Rosario Pichardo, age 25; a 20-year-old man from Riverside, California, Lance Corporal Kareem Mae'Lee Grant Nikoui; and his brother, Dakota Halverson, age 28, who just took his own life at the memorial of Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui from the stress of losing his brother.

COUNCILORS' WARD UPDATES AND COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Councilor Worthley** wished to remind everyone that school will be starting next week and to please drive carefully.
- **Councilor Gilman** wished to remind everyone that on Thursday, August 25, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. there will be an unveiling ceremony for the City's historic cannon on Stacy Boulevard.
- **Councilor Gross** wished to thank David Dow for his work surrounding Stage Fort Park and for his work in helping to restore the cannon.

- **Councilor Gilman** thanked **Councilors Grow, Worthley, Gross, O'Hara** (who called in), and **O'Neil** who attended the community meeting regarding the taco truck.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Margiotta) absent, to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Submitted by: Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees

Items submitted at the meeting: None.