

**GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR OF BUSINESS**

**TUESDAY, July 18, 2023**

**6:00 P.M.**

**REMOTE MEETING**

**SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING #2023-004**

**MEETINGS ARE RECORDED**

CITY CLERK  
GLOUCESTER, MA  
2023 JUL 13 AM 8: 21



As the recent amendments to the open meeting law allows, the City Council will continue to hold meetings remotely. Adequate alternative access to the meeting is provided through the zoom link below.

Join from Computer, Smart Device: <https://gloucester-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/81845443702>

Join via Phone: 1-309-205-3325 or 1-646-931-3860

Meeting ID: 818 4544 3702

Please visit <http://gloucester-ma.gov/remote-public-meetings> for instructions and guidance on how to join a remote meeting

**FOR COUNCIL VOTE**

1. City Charter 2-11(c)(O'Neil): PH2023-035: Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally" by ADDING "Webster Street, at its intersection with Eastern Avenue traffic shall use the dedicated turning lanes" (*For City Council discussion and vote*) (Cont. from 7/11/23)

**ROLL CALL – Councilor Frank Margiotta**

City Clerk

Meeting dates are subject to change. Check with City Clerk's Office

**NEXT REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING, July 25, 2023**

**NOTE: The Council President may rearrange the Order of Business in the interest of public convenience.**

The listing of matters is those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



# GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL 2023 PUBLIC HEARING

**PUBLIC HEARING NUMBER:** PH2023-035 *City Charter 2-11(c)(O'Neil)*  
**SUBJECT:** Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally" by ADDING "Webster Street, at its intersection with Eastern Avenue traffic shall use the dedicated turning lanes"

**DATE OPENED:** 7/18/2023 *(For City Council discussion and vote)*  
**CONTINUED TO:**  
**CONTINUED FROM:** 7/11/2023  
**COMMITTEE:** O&A 7/10/2023

#### **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

As the recent amendments to the open meeting law allows, the City Council will continue to hold meetings remotely. Gloucester City Council will hold remote public hearings on **Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.** relative to the following:

**AMEND GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Article VI "Traffic Schedules," Sec. 22-270 "Parking Prohibited at all times," and Sec. 22-291 "Tow-away zones"** by ADDING "Washington Street, westerly side, from its intersection with Centennial Avenue in a northerly direction for a distance of 110 feet."

**AMEND GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Article VI "Traffic Schedules," Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally"** by ADDING "Washington Street, RIGHT LANE, RIGHT TURN ONLY, westerly side, from its intersection with Centennial Avenue in a northerly direction for a distance of 110 feet."

**AMEND GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Article VI "Traffic Schedules," Sec. 22-277 "One hour parking – Generally"** by DELETING "Washington Street, at its intersection with Centennial Avenue from its southeasterly corner to its first utility pole."

**AMEND GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Article VI "Traffic Schedules," Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" and Sec. 22-291 "Tow away zones"** by ADDING "Washington Street, westerly side, from its intersection with Centennial Avenue in a southerly direction for a distance of 30 feet."

**AMEND GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Article VI "Traffic Schedules," Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally"** by ADDING "Grove Street at its intersection with Washington Street, RIGHT TURN ONLY."

**AMEND GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally"** by ADDING "Webster Street, at its intersection with Eastern Avenue traffic shall use the dedicated turning lanes"

Adequate alternative access to the remote meeting/public hearings is provided through the zoom link listed on the agenda at [www.gloucester-ma.gov](http://www.gloucester-ma.gov). The President reserves the right under the law to re-schedule the date and/or deadline for this and any other public hearing at any time provided that the applicant and the public are notified as quickly as is reasonably possible. At the public hearings, all interested persons will have the opportunity to be heard based on the procedures determined by the Council. **All written communications to the Council must be received by the office of the City Clerk no later than 3 business days (excluding holidays and weekends) prior to the scheduled hearing date or any continuation by the Council of such date in order to be submitted to the Council prior to the public hearing.**

By vote of the City Council  
Joanne M. Senos, City Clerk  
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GT - June 30 2023

**Special Ordinances & Administration Committee**  
Monday, July 10, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.  
**Harbormaster's Conference Room, 19 Harbor Loop**  
**and via Zoom**  
-Minutes-

**Present (in person): Chair, Councilor Sean Nolan**

**Present (remotely): Vice Chair, Councilor Jamie O'Hara; Councilor Frank Margiotta**

**Other Councilors present: Councilor Val Gilman (remotely); Councilor Scott Memhard (remotely); Councilor Tracy O'Neil (remotely)**

**Also Present: General Counsel, Suzanne Egan (remotely); School Superintendent, Ben Lummis (remotely); Clerk of Committees, Sherry White (in person)**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.**

*This meeting was conducted in person and remotely through ZOOM. All votes conducted by ROLL CALL.*

**Councilor Nolan** announced the names of City councilors and City staff in attendance.

**1. Memorandum from General Counsel re: Proposed amendment to GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally"**

**Summary of Discussion:** The **General Counsel, Suzanne Egan**, stated that she submitted a memo to the City Council at the request of the Superintendent and School Department to make changes to the Webster Street turning at Eastern Avenue to accommodate the new East Veterans School.

The **Superintendent, Ben Lummis**, stated that adding a left-turn lane exiting Webster Street onto Eastern Avenue has been a recommendation from the traffic consultants, as well as the Traffic Commission. He added that the DPW will stripe the lower part of Webster Street where vehicles will turn onto Eastern Avenue with a dedicated right turn lane and left turn lane. The **General Counsel** added that it is a practical change.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** stated this proposed change needs to be done to help with traffic flow and safety once the new school opens. The **Superintendent** reminded everyone that the twenty minutes before and after the school day is when the traffic around any school is most intense and that the primary way to reduce the number of cars is to utilize school buses. **Councilor Nolan** agreed that busing is the most practical way to send children to school.

**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 AMEND Gloucester Code of Ordinances Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Article VI. "Traffic Schedules," Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally" by **ADDING** the following:

*Webster Street, at its intersection with Eastern Avenue traffic shall use the dedicated turning lanes.*

**The Public Hearing will be held at the City Council meeting of July 11, 2023.**

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

**Submitted by:** Sherry White, Clerk of Committees

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

**Meeting Recording:** <http://gloucester-ma.gov/1097/Past-Remote-Public-Meetings>

City Hall

Nine Dale Avenue  
Gloucester, MA 01930



TEL 978 281-9727

FAX 978 281-9734

## **CITY OF GLOUCESTER**

**LEGAL DEPARTMENT**

### **Memorandum**

**To: Mayor Verga**

**From: Suzanne P. Egan, General Counsel**

**Date: June 16, 2023**

**Re: Proposed Amendment to Section 22-265, Turning Movements**

For your consideration and inclusion in the mayor's report to the city council, at the request of Superintendent Lummis, I have prepared the attached amendment to the Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, Article VI Traffic Schedules, Section 22-265 which will create designated turning lanes at the intersection of Webster Street and Eastern Avenue. Superintendent Lummis has provided the attached memorandum supporting this amendment.



The Gloucester Public Schools

Ben Lummis  
Superintendent  
2 Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930  
Phone: 978-281-9800

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Greg Verga  
Mayor of Gloucester

**DATE:** June 9, 2023

**SUBJECT:** East Veterans Elementary School - Turning Lanes at the Webster Street and Eastern Avenue Intersection

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As you know, the East Veterans' Elementary School continues to be on schedule and under budget. We are looking forward to opening the school on time at the beginning of the new school year. This summer, we will be putting into place arrival and dismissal procedures to make sure that students and families can easily drop off and pick up students every day. Mike Hale and the Department of Public Works are working with us and Nitsch Engineering to put into place the recommendations made by the traffic study. While these recommendations are not extensive, they will help traffic flow more easily and make daily arrival and dismissal safer for students and families. Thank you for your support in allocating Chapter 90 funding to make improvements in sidewalks, crosswalks, and signage around the school.

There remains one more recommended change we need to make to help the school traffic flow as smoothly as possible each day. It is necessary to create dedicated turning lanes for cars turning from Webster Street onto Eastern Avenue. Without these dedicated lanes, the traffic engineers, Principal Matt Fusco, and I are concerned that cars will back up on Webster Street and block cars from exiting the school. These dedicated turning lanes will make it easier for cars to exit onto Eastern Avenue and keep the traffic flowing smoothly, especially during dismissal. Suzanne Egan has prepared an amendment to the traffic ordinance. Your support in getting approval for this change will benefit the Webster Street neighborhood as well our school families.

I also want to assure you that, in addition to the work being done by the City to improve sidewalks, crosswalks, and signage, Principal Fusco, Assistant Principal Lambert and I are making a number of efforts to ensure arrival and dismissal is well organized, safe, and quick. Like we have at other elementary schools, school employees will assist students and families at all times. We are creating clear drop-off and pick-up procedures and will communicate those instructions to families in multiple languages. We will also promote riding the school bus as the preferred method of transportation because it is safer, more environmentally sound, and reduces traffic in the neighborhood and across the city. One challenge we continue to face is hiring crossing guards. We are open to any and all ideas about sources of crossing guards or ways to advertise our need, so please feel free to pass along any ideas you may have.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me

*B.L.*

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**Sec. 22-265. Turning movements—Generally.**

Turning movements at the following locations are hereby restricted in the manner indicated below when official signs are in place giving notice thereof in accordance with section 22-75:

*Addison Street*, at its intersection with School Street, right turn only.

*Amero Court*, at its intersection with East Main Street, left turn only.

*Angle Street*, no left turn.

*Chapel Street*, at its intersection with Davis Street Extension ascending from East Main Street, right turn only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and 2:45 p.m. on school days when school is in session. Chapel Street, at its intersection with Davis Street Extension descending from Mt. Pleasant Avenue, left turn only between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. on school days when school is in session.

*Concord Street*, no left turn onto the West Parish School property from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., and on early release days from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. while school is in session.

*Elm Street*, at its intersection with Main Street, right turn only.

*Hancock Street*, northbound into Main Street, left turn only.

*Hancock Street*, southbound into Main Street, right turn only.

*Liberty Street*, at its intersection with Pleasant Street, right turn only.

*Old County Road*, near rear property entrance of 168 Eastern Avenue onto Old County Road.

*Pleasant Street*, 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. while school is in session.

*Smith Street*, at its intersection with Pleasant Street, left turn only.

*Washington Street*, at Grant Circle, for vehicles leaving shopping center, right turn only.

*Washington Street*, southerly direction, at its intersection with Wheeler Street, right turn prohibited.

*Webster Street*, at its intersection with Eastern Avenue traffic shall use the dedicated turning lanes."

*West Parish School property*, no left turn onto Concord Street from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., and on early release days from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. while school is in session.

~~(Code 1970, 5-21-155(a); Ord. of 9-19-1978, 5-1; Ord. of 11-13-1979, 5-II; Ord. of 1-22-1980, 5-II; Ord. of 3-23-1982, 5-I; Ord. of 4-3-1984, 5-I; Ord. of 1-28-1986, 5-I; Ord. of 10-12-2010(02); Ord. of 7-10-2012(01); Ord. No. 2014-264, 8-12-2014; Ord. No. 2016-152, 7-26-2016; Ord. No. 2018-117, 6-26-2018; Ord. No. 2018-138, 8-14-2018; Ord. No. 2021-123, 8-10-2021; Ord. No. 2022-155, 10-25-2022)~~