

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**Tuesday, August 22, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.****Harbormaster's Conference Room****19 Harbor Loop****Gloucester, MA 01930****-Minutes-**

Councilors Present (in person): Council President, Councilor Val Gilman; Councilor Jason Grow; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Tracy O'Neil; Councilor Jeff Worthley (arrived at 6:05 p.m.)

Councilors Present (remote): Council Vice President, Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor Frank Margiotta; Councilor Jamie O'Hara

Absent: Councilor Tony Gross

Also Present (in person): City Clerk, Joanne Senos

Also Present (remote): CAO, Jill Cahill; CFO, John Dunn; Auditor, Kenny Costa; Director of Communications and Constituent Services, Pam Tobey

This meeting was conducted with the City Council in person and the public participating remotely through Zoom

All votes were ROLL CALL votes

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

Councilor Gilman 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 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."

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

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**Larry Russo, 56 Ye Olde County Road**

Mr. Russo asked that the City upgrade the seasonal water system on Rust Island to year-round distribution for the assurance of fire protection. He stated that he addressed the Council regarding this matter on June 27th and that he feels compelled to speak again due to the recent tragic fires on the island of Maui as he believes that similar circumstances exist on Rust Island including a highly combustible forestry that he feels has not been managed since the building of the bridge over 70 years ago, a likely ignition source from the aged National Grid electrical infrastructure, as well as no water for fire suppression. **Mr. Russo** demanded information regarding a

reliable timeline, as well as when there will be an appropriation of funds to install permanent water that satisfies the current Massachusetts residential fire codes.

Kevin O'Maley, 47 Crafts Road

Mr. O'Maley expressed concerns regarding the need for year-round deep water for Rust Island. He referred to page 2 of the City's Capital Improvement Plan for water mains and valve repair and replacement which lists fourteen target areas, including Rust Island. He stated that Rust Island is a public safety issue and should be the top priority of all fourteen areas and asked that Councilor Nolan, as well as At Large Councilors Grow, Gross, O'Hara and Worthley write letters to the Mayor in support of this matter. He asked that the Mayor takes action on his statement that he made when he was a councilor in 2013, "*I will continue to speak out for equity for all water rate payers regarding infrastructure updates.*"

Jeff Brown, 145 Essex Avenue

Mr. Brown referenced Sec. 10 of the GCO - Certificate of Election and Appointment; Oath of Office [City Charter, Article 10, Sec 10-10]. He read "*Every person who is elected, including those elected by the city council, or appointed by the mayor to an office shall receive a certificate of such election or appointment from the city clerk. Except as otherwise provided by law, before performing any act under his election or appointment, he shall take and subscribe to an oath to qualify him to enter upon his duties. A record of the taking of such oath shall be made by the city clerk. An oath required by this section may be administered by the mayor or any officer authorized by law to administer oaths. State law reference(s)—Oath of office for city officers, M.G.L.A. c. 41, § 107.*" He asked for the City's position on this and asked if the City abides by this law.

Joel Favazza, 28 Middle Street

Mr. Favazza expressed the need for a crosswalk at the top of Angle Street crossing over to Middle Street. He also requested that the no parking zone in this area be striped. He stated both issues are to promote pedestrian safety.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS: None.

CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**
 - **MAYOR'S REPORT**
1. New Appointments

Clean Energy Commission	Sarah Shemkus (<i>fulfilling unexpired term</i>)	TTE 2/15/24		(Refer O&A)
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 2. Memorandum from City Clerk re: Ocean Highlands petition for Repair of Private Ways pursuant to GCO Sec. 21-80 through 21-86 (Refer B&F)
 3. Memorandum from Asst. Public Works Director re: request to pay FY23 invoice with FY24 funds (Refer B&F)
 4. Memorandum from Economic Development Director requesting acceptance of Gloucester's Essex National Heritage Commission Grant 2023-24 season in the amount of \$2,500 (Refer B&F)
 5. Memorandum from Public Works Director re: request to pay FY23 National Grid invoices with FY24 funds (Refer B&F)
 6. Memorandum from Director of Elder Services requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$325 (Refer B&F)
 7. Memorandum from Executive Director of Gloucester 400+ re: Gloucester 400+ update (Info Only)
 8. Mayor's response to August 8, 2023 City Council oral communications (Info Only)
- **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
 - **INFORMATION ONLY**
 - **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
 - **COUNCILORS ORDERS**
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
1. City Council Meeting: 8/8/2023 (Approve/File)
 2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 8/17/2023 (under separate cover), O&A 8/14/2023, P&D 8/16/2023 (no meeting) (Approve/File)

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT CALENDAR:

• **ADDENDUM TO THE MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Memorandum from City Clerk re: Blueberry Lane petition for Repair of Private Ways pursuant to GCO Sec. 21-80 through 21-86

(Refer B&F)

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• **Budget & Finance – August 17, 2023**

1. **Memorandum from Sustainability Coordinator requesting acceptance of Road Vulnerability Study – MVP Action Grant in the amount of \$58,506**

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 accept, under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for the FY24 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Grant in the amount of \$58,506 to complete the project entitled “City of Gloucester Low-Lying Roads Project.” The purpose of this grant is to identify and prioritize the vulnerability of low-lying roads, consider conceptual design alternatives for two high priority road segments, and engage the community to receive feedback on analysis results and understand tolerance and support for potential solutions. The minimum local match is 25% of total project costs using cash or in-kind contributions. The total local match is \$19,697 from staff in-kind hours. The grant period is through June 30, 2024.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Memhard explained that this matter is for the acceptance of grant funding for the continuation of a project that addresses the vulnerability of low-lying roads from rising sea levels and storms.

Councilor O’Neil questioned the amount of the local match. The CAO, Jill Cahill, explained that the match is from in-kind staff hours (not cash) and stated that the City often provides additional staff time than the minimum requirement. The Auditor, Kenny Costa, explained that within the B&F packet material there is a page entitled “Gloucester Low-Lying Roads FY24 MVP Action Grant Scope/Budget” which shows the \$58,506 grant amount with a column called “In-Kind Match” that shows the different project tasks that City staff will be working on. He also pointed out that the total project cost is \$78,203.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Grow, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Gross) absent, to accept, under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) for the FY24 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Grant in the amount of \$58,506 to complete the project entitled “City of Gloucester Low-Lying Roads Project.” The purpose of this grant is to identify and prioritize the vulnerability of low-lying roads, consider conceptual design alternatives for two high priority road segments, and engage the community to receive feedback on analysis results and understand tolerance and support for potential solutions. The minimum local match is 25% of total project costs using cash or in-kind contributions. The total local match is \$19,697 from staff in-kind hours. The grant period is through June 30, 2024.

2. Memorandum from MIS Director requesting acceptance of State Earmark Funding in the amount of \$300,000

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 accept, under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED), a State Budget Earmark (Account# 1599-6090), in the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of broadband infrastructure improvements to the city of Gloucester and the towns of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Rockport and Essex. The grant period is from April 13, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and there is no local match or in-kind requirements.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Memhard explained that this is a longstanding project in collaboration with four surrounding communities to upgrade broadband infrastructure for municipalities.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Gross) absent, to accept, under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED), a State Budget Earmark (Account# 1599-6090), in the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of broadband infrastructure improvements to the city of Gloucester and the towns of Manchester-by-the-Sea, Rockport and Essex. The grant period is from April 13, 2023 through June 30, 2024 and there is no local match or in-kind requirements.

- **Ordinances & Administration – August 14, 2023 (no items under this heading)**

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

- **Planning & Development – August 16, 2023 (no meeting)**

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. **The application of Peter Castrichini (owner of property Nicholas M. Giacalone) for an Open Air Parking Space Permit pursuant to GCO Sec. 22-153 and MGL Ch. 148, Sec. 6, located at 2 Long Beach Road, Map 180, Lot 1 in the EB district**

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:31 p.m.

Those speaking in favor: Mr. Peter Castrichini, owner of 10 Twilight Avenue, stated that he is seeking to transfer the permit for the open air parking lot at 2 Long Beach Road. He stated that his children have helped run the lot under Mr. Giacalone and that he is looking forward to continuing that under his ownership.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Written communications: The City Clerk, Joanne Senos, stated that there is one written communication received on August 18, 2023, from abutters Paul and Karen Fitch of 12 Twilight Avenue expressing concerns that cars are being charged the fee to park, when the lot is full, on the street in front of 10 Twilight Avenue, as well as on the street next to the fence outside of the lot. They stated that these are ongoing issues that they hope will be addressed. (Communication is on file in the Clerk's Office.)

Questions from Councilors:

Q1. (Worthley): Asked if this matter was heard by the Planning & Development Committee or by the Ordinances & Administration Committee.

A1. (Grow): Stated P&D.

Q2. (Worthley): Asked if the matter should be heard by O&A as well.

A2. (Senos): Stated the matter is part of the Code of Ordinances in terms of the process and requirements, as well as following Mass General Law. As it is a land issue, historically these matters are heard by P&D. Added that when an application is received by the City Clerk's Office, the applicant receives relief from the Building Commissioner unless the matter needs to be heard by the ZBA. The Building Commissioner sends a memo regarding the matter.

Q3. (Worthley): Asked if the application is submitted through the Clerk's Office.

A3. (Senos): Confirmed that to be true.

Q4. (Worthley): Asked if there is an affiliation between this lot and another nearby lot that holds approximately 200 vehicles.

A4. (Castrichini): Stated that there is no affiliation.

Q5. (Worthley): Asked if the applicant has paid the fees associated with the permit.

A5. (Senos): Stated that the application needs to be approved by the City Council before payment of any associated fees. Also stated that the applicant needs to provide documentation showing ownership.

Councilor Nolan applauded the applicant for being willing to take ownership of the lot and involving his children in the business.

Q6. (O'Hara): Asked the applicant to address the concerns of the written communication from Paul and Karen Fitch.

A6. (Castrichini): Stated that it is usually his family's personal vehicle/s that are parking in front of 10 Twilight Avenue, as well as friends of his children. Stated he will ensure that those concerns are addressed.

Q7. (O'Neil): Asked if the applicant has any plans to pave the lot.

A7. (Castrichini): Stated that he has no intention of paving the lot. Stated he may stripe the grass to help with organization.

Q8. (Memhard): Asked if this is the lot formerly operated by Angela Procaccini. If so, asked that Mr. Castrichini operate the lot as outlined and detailed by law and permit, as was the way of Ms. Procaccini.

A8. (Castrichini): Confirmed that to be the lot and stated that he intends to operate the lot in the same way.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:45 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council grant a license for Peterbuilt LLC, pursuant to MGL c. 148, §56 & GCO Sec. 22-153, for an open air parking lot at 2 Long Beach Road, Gloucester, MA with the conditions and restrictions listed as follows:

1. The issuance of the license is conditioned upon the submission of documentation that proves ownership of the property pursuant to GCO 22-53(a);
2. That this License shall be valid from date of City Council approval through April 30, 2028, upon payment of appropriate fees to the City Clerk;
3. That prior to the issuance of the license by the City Clerk, the applicant shall pay over to Cape Ann Motor Inn the sum of \$100.00 for the maintenance of the Gloucester portion of Long Beach;
4. That the number of cars allowed to park on the lot at any one time is limited to 21;
5. That one space of the 21 spaces allowed is to be designated handicapped parking;

6. That the individual parking spaces shall be delineated and be in accordance with the lot plan approved by the Building Inspector dated June 22, 2016 and on file in the City Clerk's office and per the Building Inspector's memo dated July 7, 2021, and that the two spaces located in the middle of the lot be compliant to section 4.1.4 (9C) of the City Zoning Ordinance, which requires that the travel lane be 14-feet wide.
7. That the grass in the parking lot be kept short;
8. That an attendant shall be on duty at all times during hours of operation;
9. That the Fire Chief and Building Commissioner approve of the parking plan (see Building Inspector memo dated December 29, 2016, email from Fire Chief dated January 4, 2017, memo from Fire Chief dated July 6, 2021, memo from Building Inspector dated July 7, 2021, email from Fire Chief dated July 26, 2023, and email from Interim Building Commissioner dated August 1, 2023);
10. That the applicant obtains and keeps current a favorable restroom inspection from the Board of Health;
11. That the parking lot maintains a carry-in/carry-out trash policy and assures such a policy is adhered to by its paying patrons;
12. That four shrubs that were placed on the property abutting Cliff Road are maintained;
13. Signage: the following shall be posted on a sign to be erected by the applicant, the size and location of said sign to be agreed with the Building Commissioner:
 - a. Fee for parking
 - b. Number of cars allowed by the license
 - c. Location of restrooms and hours they are open
 - d. Hours of operation
 - e. Beach regulations
 - f. Parking lot trash policy of carry in/carry out;
14. That the License Fee is to be paid yearly to the City Clerk on April 30. The application is to be reviewed by the City Council in five years unless it deems there is a cause to review the License sooner due to any violations of conditions herein;
15. The City of Gloucester shall not be held liable for any claims incurred by the parking lot operation;
16. That the applicant obtain a certificate of insurance in the aggregate amount of \$1 million naming the City of Gloucester as the Certificate Holder and that the coverage run for the duration of the yearly license.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Grow stated that he had asked the **General Counsel** to address the issues brought up by concerned abutters including trash removal and signage regarding the lot that has been placed on public property. **Councilor Grow** offered a motion to amend the main motion, seconded by **Councilor Worthley**, as follows:

Add to condition #9:

9. The licensed parking plan entitled: Plot Plan, Map 180, Lot 1, 2 Long Beach Road, Gloucester, Massachusetts, Plan B prepared for Angela Procaccini, prepared by Griffin Engineering Group, LLC, 495 Cabot Street, 2nd Floor, Beverly MA, dated June 22, 2016 (the "2 Long Beach Road Plan B") shows the area to be used for parking and the number of vehicles permitted on site;
17. The applicant shall not park any vehicles in any areas other than the area of space to be actually used for parking vehicles as shown on the 2 Long Beach Road Plan B plan submitted and approved;
18. All trash shall be removed from the site on a daily basis;
19. The applicant shall not place or install any signs on public property. No A-Frame or other signs shall be placed on sidewalks, streets, or any other public property. The applicant shall comply with all city of Gloucester sign regulations and ordinances;
20. This license is granted with the above conditions, any violation of any of the conditions contained in this license may cause the revocation or suspension of the license pursuant to Gloucester Code of Ordinances, section 22-153(b).

Councilor Grow stated that the points addressed in the motion to amend will help provide a harmonious relationship with the neighboring community. **Councilor Worthley** referenced proposed condition #11 as well as condition #18 regarding trash and stated that the carry in/carry out policy means that the lot would have no trash barrels. **Councilor Grow** stated that with the proposed amendment if patrons leave trash in the lot then the applicant would be responsible for disposal. **Mr. Castrichini** stated that he had no intention of placing any trash barrels in the lot.

MOTION TO AMEND: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Gross) absent, to amend the main motion as follows:

By ADDING to condition #9:

The licensed parking plan entitled: Plot Plan, Map 180, Lot 1, 2 Long Beach Road, Gloucester, Massachusetts, Plan B prepared for Angela Procaccini, prepared by Griffin Engineering Group, LLC, 495 Cabot Street, 2nd Floor, Beverly MA, dated June 22, 2016 (the "2 Long Beach Road Plan B") shows the area to be used for parking and the number of vehicles permitted on site;

And by ADDING conditions #17 through #20 as follows:

17. The applicant shall not park any vehicles in any areas other than the area of space to be actually used for parking vehicles as shown on the 2 Long Beach Road Plan B plan submitted and approved;
18. All trash shall be removed from the site on a daily basis;
19. The applicant shall not place or install any signs on public property. No A-Frame or other signs shall be placed on sidewalks, streets, or any other public property. The applicant shall comply with all city of Gloucester sign regulations and ordinances;
20. This license is granted with the above conditions, any violation of any of the conditions contained in this license may cause the revocation or suspension of the license pursuant to Gloucester Code of Ordinances, section 22-153(b).

Councilor Memhard wished to note that this is a very busy beach neighborhood and that he did a walkthrough last weekend. He stated that it is important that the beach parking provisions be conducted in such a way that they do not interfere or detract from people who own real estate and have homes and families in the area. He wished **Mr. Castrichini** well with this endeavor. **Councilor Gilman** stated she grew up in this area and that the parking lot has been handled satisfactorily through the years and that she will be supporting this matter.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Worthley, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Gross) absent, to grant a license for Peterbuilt LLC, pursuant to MGL c. 148, §56 & GCO Sec. 22-153, for an open air parking lot at 2 Long Beach Road, Gloucester, MA with the conditions and restrictions listed as follows:

1. The issuance of the license is conditioned upon the submission of documentation that proves ownership of the property pursuant to GCO 22-53(a);
2. That this License shall be valid from date of City Council approval through April 30, 2028, upon payment of appropriate fees to the City Clerk;
3. That prior to the issuance of the license by the City Clerk, the applicant shall pay over to Cape Ann Motor Inn the sum of \$100.00 for the maintenance of the Gloucester portion of Long Beach;
4. That the number of cars allowed to park on the lot at any one time is limited to 21;
5. That one space of the 21 spaces allowed is to be designated handicapped parking;
6. That the individual parking spaces shall be delineated and be in accordance with the lot plan approved by the Building Inspector dated June 22, 2016 and on file in the City Clerk's office and per the Building Inspector's memo dated July 7, 2021, and that the two spaces located in the middle

of the lot be compliant to section 4.1.4 (9C) of the City Zoning Ordinance, which requires that the travel lane be 14-feet wide.

7. That the grass in the parking lot be kept short;
8. That an attendant shall be on duty at all times during hours of operation;
9. That the Fire Chief and Building Commissioner approve of the parking plan (see Building Inspector memo dated December 29, 2016, email from Fire Chief dated January 4, 2017, memo from Fire Chief dated July 6, 2021, memo from Building Inspector dated July 7, 2021, email from Fire Chief dated July 26, 2023, and email from Interim Building Commissioner dated August 1, 2023). The licensed parking plan entitled: Plot Plan, Map 180, Lot 1, 2 Long Beach Road, Gloucester, Massachusetts, Plan B prepared for Angela Procaccini, prepared by Griffin Engineering Group, LLC, 495 Cabot Street, 2nd Floor, Beverly MA, dated June 22, 2016 (the "2 Long Beach Road Plan B") shows the area to be used for parking and the number of vehicles permitted on site;
10. That the applicant obtains and keeps current a favorable restroom inspection from the Board of Health;
11. That the parking lot maintains a carry-in/carry-out trash policy and assures such a policy is adhered to by its paying patrons;
12. That four shrubs that were placed on the property abutting Cliff Road are maintained;
13. Signage: the following shall be posted on a sign to be erected by the applicant, the size and location of said sign to be agreed with the Building Commissioner:
 - a. Fee for parking
 - b. Number of cars allowed by the license
 - c. Location of restrooms and hours they are open
 - d. Hours of operation
 - e. Beach regulations
 - f. Parking lot trash policy of carry in/carry out;
14. That the License Fee is to be paid yearly to the City Clerk on April 30. The application is to be reviewed by the City Council in five years unless it deems there is a cause to review the License sooner due to any violations of conditions herein;
15. The City of Gloucester shall not be held liable for any claims incurred by the parking lot operation;
16. That the applicant obtain a certificate of insurance in the aggregate amount of \$1 million naming the City of Gloucester as the Certificate Holder and that the coverage run for the duration of the yearly license;
17. The applicant shall not park any vehicles in any areas other than the area of space to be actually used for parking vehicles as shown on the 2 Long Beach Road Plan B plan submitted and approved;
18. All trash shall be removed from the site on a daily basis;
19. The applicant shall not place or install any signs on public property. No A-Frame or other signs shall be placed on sidewalks, streets, or any other public property. The applicant shall comply with all city of Gloucester sign regulations and ordinances;
20. This license is granted with the above conditions, any violation of any of the conditions contained in this license may cause the revocation or suspension of the license pursuant to Gloucester Code of Ordinances, section 22-153(b).

FOR COUNCIL VOTE:

1. Warrant for September 19, 2023 Municipal Preliminary Election

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

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Worthley, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Gross) absent, to adopt the warrant for the Municipal Preliminary Election to be held on September 19, 2023.

The **City Clerk** asked that all councilors come into the City Clerk's Office to sign the warrant. She explained that the warrant needed to be posted at least seven days prior to the election. **Councilor Gilman** asked that all councilors sign the warrant within a week.

INDIVIDUAL COUNCILLOR'S DISCUSSION INCLUDING REPORTS BY APPOINTED COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEES:

1. City Council statement regarding the Gloucester 400th celebration

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor O'Hara** read a statement on behalf of the City Council in support of the Gloucester 400th celebration: "2023 marks 400 years since the English Dorchester Company landed on our shores. Gloucester sits on the ancestral homeland of the Pawtucket people and their neighbors, the Massachusetts Nipmuc and Penacook and Wampanoag tribes. Please enjoy the year-long and multiple events throughout 2023, most of which will be free or low cost. Visit Gloucesterma400.org for a list of upcoming events, like and share the Gloucester 400 Facebook page. To receive major event notifications by email, send a request to info@GloucesterMA400.org."



COUNCILORS' REQUESTS TO THE MAYOR:

- **Councilor O'Hara** requested to the Mayor to secure/purchase a fire tender/tanker which will allow the Fire Department to have an additional 3,000 gallons of water to battle a fire at Rust Island, or any other part of the City.
- **Councilor O'Hara** requested to the Mayor that the nonworking fire hydrant by Grand Banks on Crafts Road be replaced.
- **Councilor O'Hara** requested to the Mayor and State partners to not delay erecting cell phone towers throughout Gloucester, and for the entire Commonwealth. He stated very few residents have copper landlines any longer and cell phone towers are needed to make and receive emergency calls - such as what was done in Maui, HI with the devastating wildfires.
- **Councilor O'Neil** requested to the Mayor that he reach out to National Grid to request a cleanup of their property at 109 Rogers Street. She reminded the Council that she requested this two weeks ago.
- **Councilor O'Neil** requested through the Mayor to the Public Works Department to repair and/or replace sidewalks on Sadler Street, Mt. Vernon Street, lower Perkins Street, as well as pave Staten Street. She stated the sidewalks mentioned are "crumbling" and children need to walk on them to get to/from school.
- **Councilor Worthley** requested to the Mayor to reach out to resident Michael Militello regarding assistance with school bus service for his grandchild from Proctor Street to East Veterans Elementary School.
- **Councilor Worthley** requested to the Mayor to share the date, if known, of "his planned September follow-up presentation regarding the Good Harbor Creek."

COUNCILORS' THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

- **Councilor O'Hara** wished to acknowledge the wild fires that have recently devastated parts of the island of Maui in Hawaii. He noted the importance of cell phone towers to provide full coverage in the Cape Ann community.
- **Councilor Memhard** thanked the Mayor, DPW and all involved in the recent paving work on Eastern Avenue in the area of Webster Street.
- **Councilor Nolan** asked that members of the community be aware that not everything that is posted online is factual. He suggested anyone with questions or concerns reach out directly to a councilor or visit the City's website.
- **Councilor Gilman** stated that this Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Annisquam Farmers Market there will be an Ask a Councilor booth with Councilor Gross.

COUNCILORS' WARD UPDATES AND COMMUNITY NEWS:

- **Councilor Worthly** wished to draw attention to the Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit of \$1,200 for residents aged 65 and over.
- **Councilor Worthley** wished to highlight that the Fishbox Derby is on Sunday, September 17, 2023. There is a deadline of Sunday, August 27th, to have the cars inspected at 14 Kondelin Road (Extreme Truck and Auto).
- **Councilor Worthley** wished to remind everyone that school starts soon and asked that all drivers take additional caution.
- **Councilors Grow** and **Memhard** wished to inform the community that the Community Development Department is hosting a Comprehensive Plan Update Open House on Saturday, September 9th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. in the Kyrouz Auditorium.
- **Councilor Grow** highlighted that there has been a recent update to the MBTA TOD legislation regarding multiuse buildings.
- **Councilor Memhard** wished to draw attention to the upcoming open house at the new East Veterans Elementary School this Thursday, Friday and Saturday.
- **Councilor Nolan** stated that this Sunday at the Magnolia Community Farmers Market Councilors Gilman, Grow and Gross will be available at the "Ask a Councilor" table and invited the community to speak directly to a councilor.
- **Councilor Gilman** stated that this coming Saturday there will be a forum at the Lanesville Community Center hosted by Amy Shapiro starting at 6:30 p.m. in celebration of National Women's Equality Day. There will be a panelist of local community members including Vee Chipperini, Veterans Services Director, and Elise Sinagra, Director of Elder Services, and Sunny Robinson representing affordable housing and others. She stated that Amy Shapiro will be presented with a proclamation signed by the Members of the City Council.
- **Councilor Gilman** stated that at the City Council meeting of September 12, 2023, the Open Door has requested that the City Council support Hunger Action Month by wearing the orange Open Door shirts. She reminded everyone that the next City Council meeting will be held in person at Kyrouz Auditorium. **Councilors Nolan** and **Gilman** also reminded everyone to bring a nonperishable food item to the City Council meeting to donate to the Open Door. She will also provide a sheet cake for councilors and residents who attend the meeting to honor the Open Door Food Pantry.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Worthley, seconded by Councilor Grow, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Gross) absent, to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Submitted by: Sherry White, Clerk of Committees

Items submitted at the meeting: None.