

SPECIAL GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, January 8, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

-MINUTES-

Present: Chair, Councilor Paul McGeary; Vice Chair, Councilor Sefatia Theken; Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Steve LeBlanc, Jr.; Councilor Greg Verga; Councilor Paul Lundberg; Councilor William Fonvielle; Councilor Robert Stewart

Councilor Robert Whynott participated in this meeting via conference call. An appropriate sign-off for remote participation in a City Council meeting is attached to these minutes.

NOTE: As a result, while a Councilor participates in a City Council meeting remotely all votes are taken by ROLL CALL.

Absent: None

Also Present: Linda T. Lowe; Sal DiStefano; Kenny Costa; James Pope; Jonathan Pope; Gregg Cademartori; Rick Noonan; Tom Daniel; Joanne Senos

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Flag Salute & Moment of Silence: **Councilor Lundberg** dedicated the Moment of Silence to Dr. Harold White who passed away recently. He was a long-time resident of Gloucester, a distinguished physician and medical educator at the Harvard Medical School who was known as the owner of the iconic house overlooking Good Harbor Beach.

- 1. Letter of resignation from Carolyn A. Kirk dated December 31, 2014 which states that under Section 3-11(b) of the charter she is resigning from the office of Mayor effective January 6, 2015**

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Fonvielle, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept the resignation of Carolyn A. Kirk as Mayor of the City of Gloucester effective immediately.

For Council Vote:

- 2. Election of Interim Mayor pursuant to Section 3-11(b) of the City Charter to serve out the remainder of Carolyn A. Kirk's tenure to December 31, 2015**

Council President McGeary outlined the procedures previously distributed to the Council (on file) for the election of a Councilor to the office of Mayor of the City of Gloucester as follows:

1. In accordance with Gloucester City Charter, Sec. 3-11(b), the candidate to be elected interim mayor must be a member of the City Council.
2. At the time of election only those candidates who have been nominated and seconded by a member of the City Council shall be considered for election.
3. Councilors shall be limited to one (1) nomination and one (1) second of any candidate.
4. Election to the post of interim mayor shall require a majority vote of the Council (five votes).
5. Balloting shall continue until a candidate receives five votes.
6. Once nominated and seconded, no candidate shall be removed from consideration unless the candidate or his or her designee indicates that the candidate no longer wishes to be considered.

By a ROLL CALL VOTE of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, the City Council adopted the rules governing voting for a Mayor to fill the term of Carolyn A. Kirk as presented.

Council President McGeary said should an event similar to this happen again seeing as the last time this occurred was in 1991, future Councils can look back and use these procedures as a model.

Prior to the start of the nominations and voting for a Mayor by the City Council, **Councilor LeBlanc** made the following statement: "I want to state that under MGL c. 268A, §23(b)(3) that I am disclosing for the record that I am related to Councilor Theken as a second cousin which is not a conflict under MGL c. 268A, the state's Conflict of Interest Law, as she is not part of my "immediate family" as that term is defined in MGL c. 268A."

Nominations of City Councilors to the position of Mayor were put forward as follows:

- **Councilor Verga** nominated **Councilor Sefatia Romeo Theken** for Mayor, seconded by **Councilor LeBlanc**.
- **Councilor Fonvielle** nominated **Councilor McGeary** for Mayor, seconded by **Councilor Cox**.

Councilor LeBlanc expressed his support for Councilor Theken to complete the Mayoral term. He did not support a requirement that a Councilor take a pledge to not run for reelection in November, noting neither did he support it when the Council was electing a Ward 4 Councilor. If they are doing a good job they should have the right to run for reelection, he said. He pointed out that the Councilor who is voted as Mayor should be At Large Councilor because they had to present themselves to the entire community and be chosen by the voters on a city-wide basis versus a Ward Councilor who is chosen by one-fifth of the city's voters. He also noted Councilor Theken is the longest-serving Councilor among their colleagues, and has topped the vote since 2005 as well as the longest serving Councilor amongst the sitting Council. He also pointed out that Councilor Theken has laid out a plan for the rest of 2015 that is strong. He said she would do much good for the city that no one else could beat and were the reasons he would support her as Mayor.

Ms. Lowe then called the ROLL, the results of which were as follows:

Councilor Theken voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.
Councilor Verga voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.
Councilor Whynott voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.
Councilor Cox voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.
Councilor Fonvielle voted for **Councilor Paul McGeary**.
Councilor LeBlanc voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.
Councilor Lundberg voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.
Councilor McGeary voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.
Councilor Stewart voted for **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.

Prior to the declaration of the balloting, **Councilor Fonvielle** changed his vote to **Councilor Sefatia Romeo-Theken**.

FINAL VOTE: 9 City Councilors voted by **ROLL CALL** in favor of **Councilor Sefatia Romeo Theken** to the office of Mayor with a term to expire **December 31, 2015**.

Councilor Verga made a motion to reconsider the Council's vote, with **Councilor Stewart** seconding. On a **ROLL CALL VOTE** of **0** in favor, **9** opposed, the **MOTION FAILED**.

Councilor Sefatia Romeo Theken therefore was unanimously elected as Mayor of the City of Gloucester with a term to expire December 31, 2015 and declared the elected Mayor of the City of Gloucester by **Council President Paul McGeary**.

3. Oath of Office to Interim Mayor

Linda T. Lowe, City Clerk swore in Councilor Sefatia Romeo Theken as Mayor of the City of Gloucester, with a term to expire December 31, 2015.

Mayor Theken said she stood before the city as a team. She lauded her colleagues on the Council assuring them she would not be running for Mayor in November. She also assured she can bring peace and will work as a team player. She noted that there is a great city administration. She asked everyone to work together to move the city forward. She said she is in place for a year to make Gloucester vibrant, and continue the processes in place.

She said she will be encouraging economic development and promoting the city's wonderful schools. She will go across the bridge and show the world how wonderful the city is, she said.

Council President McGeary made the following announcements:

- There will be a swearing in of new Councilor at Large Joseph Ciolino at the beginning of the Tuesday, Jan. 13 City Council Meeting.
- On Friday, Jan. 16 at 1 p.m. in Kyrouz Auditorium there will be a joint session of the City Council and the Fisheries Commission with stakeholders from government and other sectors to hear what is happening from people who are on the water and on the ground for what the future bodes for the fishing industry and by extension the city.
- On Jan. 22 there will be a joint meeting of the City Council and the School Committee with one of the main matters of a review of a number of options for the city's elementary schools developed by a School Department consultant.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: See attached pages.



GLoucester City Council
REMOTE PARTICIPATION REQUEST

I, Robert Whynoff (print name) hereby request to participate remotely at the meeting of the January 8, 2015 City Council [~~Committee~~] held on Special Meeting (date). I certify to the Chair that my absence is the result of one or more of the following factors which make my physical presence unreasonably difficult or not possible:

- (1) Personal Illness or Disability
- (2) A Family or Other Emergency
- (3) Military Service
- (4) Geographic Distance (Employment or Council Business)

Brief Explanation:

Vacation

During the meeting I will be at the following location: 941-388-8065 Land
14823 Leopard Creek 978-729-3504 cell
Address Lakewood Ranch, Braintree, MA Phone Number

Signature of Member see attached e-mail Date January 6, 2015

Please sign and return to Council President/Committee Chairperson

Request received by: Wendy P. Lowe 1/6/2015
Signature City Clerk Date

Method of Participation _____ (i.e. speakerphone, etc.)

Request Approved [Signature] Request Denied _____

Signature of Council President/Committee Chair _____ Date 1/6/15

Forward a copy of this signed form to the City Clerk's Office.
*All denied Requests are final.

Linda Lowe

From: Linda Lowe
Sent: Tuesday, January 06, 2015 5:20 AM
To: Robert Whynot
Subject: RE: Voting for Mayor

Bob, I will use this email as your request. Can you also please tell us where you are as part of the request? Thanks and hope you're enjoying the warm weather

*Linda Thomas Lowe
City Clerk
City of Gloucester
City Hall
Gloucester, MA 01930 978 281 9720*

From: Bob [mailto:robert.whynot@verizon.net]
Sent: Monday, January 05, 2015 6:14 PM
To: Linda Lowe; Linda Lowe
Subject: Voting for Mayor

As you know, I would like to remotely take part in the vote for Mayor. Since no formal procedures were ever voted, this email should suffice, just as it did several time for Bruce Tobey. My cell phone as you know is 978 729 3504, and the land line at my cousins house is 941 388 8065. Please let me know if anyone has a problem with this. Thanks, I'll try to bring back some sunshine.