

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL
AND
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 19, 2010 – 7:00 p.m.
Gloucester High School Library
Special City Council Meeting #2010-01
JOINT WORKSHOP

Present for City Council: Council President Jacqueline Hardy; Council Vice President, Sefatia Theken; Councillor Steven Curcuru; Councillor Joe Ciolino; Councillor Paul McGeary; Councillor Ann Mulcahey; Councillor Greg Verga, Councillor Bruce Tobey

Absent: Councillor Robert Whynott

Present for School Committee: Valerie Gilman, Chair; Amy Beth Healey, Vice Chair; Melissa Teixeira, Secretary; Kathy Clancy; Roger Garberg; Michelle Sweet, Mayor Carolyn Kirk

Absent: none

Also present: Superintendent of Schools, Christopher Farmer; Brian Tarr, Tom Markham, Marcia McInnis, Dana Griffin, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. Parsons.

Council President Hardy at 7:00 p.m. opened and called to order the Joint Workshop of the Gloucester City Council and the Gloucester School Committee. There being a quorum of the City Council present the City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. as well.

School Committee Chairwoman Gilman at 7:01 p.m. opened and called to order the Joint Workshop and the Gloucester School Committee and the Gloucester City Council. There being a quorum of the School Committee present, the School Committee meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. as well.

1. * Essex North Shore Agricultural and Technical School District

Chairwoman Gilman introduced **Superintendent Christopher Farmer** who presented a power point presentation, which included statistics, facts, figures and an array of frequently, asked questions with written answers thereto. (Copy of presentation in file)

Members of both the City Council and School Committee asked questions during the presentation and discussion followed accordingly.

Action Item: After thanking the Superintendent for his presentation, **Councilor Tobey made a request of Superintendent Farmer** for a **Business Plan** from the cost point of view that would reflect associated new costs the city and the school district would incur if the council voted NOT to become members of new NSTHS – for comparative purposes the Plan should also clearly reflect comparisons of what it will cost us if we do join vs. what it will cost us if we do not join --- additionally what it will save us if we do join vs. what it will save us if we do not join. He asked that the **Plan be made available to the Council prior to its vote on the issue.** He also asked if we were leaving the city open to legal issues if it were interpreted that we were not providing an adequate education.

Chairwoman Gilman introduced **Mayor Carolyn Kirk** who distributed handouts with a breakdown of related financial data. (Copy in file)

Members of both the City Council and School Committee asked questions during the Mayor's presentation and discussion followed accordingly.

2. Other School Committee Business

Chairwoman Gilman informed the School Committee and those present of dates of future meetings and that she will be meeting with the City Clerk to learn more about City Ordinances and the City Charter and invited others to contact her if they would also like to attend the meeting. The Ward Councillors were invited to let Chairwoman Gilman know if they would like their names and phone numbers added to the Superintendent's call list related to any school events, cancellations etc. pertaining to their Wards. Chairwoman Gilman also informed the Councillors present that at a recent School Committee meeting that it was unanimously voted (6-0) to support both the Local District Vocational School and North Shore Technical High School for their "Educational Merit", and that the minutes to that meeting should be made available shortly.

After thanking all for attending the joint meeting **Chairwoman Gilman moved and it was unanimously voted, at 9:10 p.m. to adjourn the School Committee meeting.**

3. Other City Council Business

Council President Hardy announced that B&F Chairman Curcuru had received a letter of resignation from City Auditor Marcia McInnis and that the matter needed to be addressed at the B&F level.

MOTION: On motion of Councillor Curcuru, seconded by Councillor Verga, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to refer the Auditors letter of resignation to the Budget and Finance Standing Committee.

Council President Hardy stated that at the last B&F meeting the City Auditor indicated that the council needed to approve continued deficit spending in the snow and ice account.

MOTION: On motion by Councillor Curcuru, seconded by Councillor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to refer the Snow and Ice Deficit Spending matter to Budget and Finance.

Council President Hardy stated that as a result of the recent visit to the Census 2010 ceremony in Beverly that she would like to establish an Ad Hoc Committee of the City Council, with Councillor McGeary as Chair and Councillor Whynott as Vice Chair.

Councillor McGeary added that he has been in touch with many of the contacts he had made at the Beverly ceremony and was anxious to get to work on helping to promote the 2010 census issues and pointed out how important it is to the community that every person be counted.

MOTION: On motion by Councillor Romeo-Theken, seconded by Councillor McGeary, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed that the matter of creation of a 2010 Complete Census Count Ad Hoc Committee be referred to Ordinances and Administration Committee.

Council President Hardy has been informed that the council needs to address the renumbering of the city ordinance related to the lighting ordinance that was approved by the city council in 2007 – the substance of the ordinance will not change, yet the numbering sequence of the ordinance is incorrect and needs to be formally amended.

MOTION: On motion by Councillor Ciolino, seconded by Councillor Verga, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to refer the Lighting Ordinance back to Planning and Development for possible reassignment of City Ordinance numbering and sequencing.

Council President Hardy thanked everyone for attending.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Jacqueline Hardy
Substitute Recorder

* The School Committee's recorder will produce additional minutes to this meeting that will highlight, in more detail, the presentations of both Superintendent Farmer and Mayor Kirk.