

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

7:00 P.M.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

City Council Meeting 2010-011

Present: Council President Jacqueline Hardy; Council Vice President, Sefatia Theken; Councilor Steven Curcuru, Councilor Joe Ciolino, Councilor Paul McGeary, Councilor Ann Mulcahey, Councilor Greg Verga; Councilor Robert Whynott

Absent: Councilor Tobey

Also Present: Linda T. Lowe; Jim Duggan; Scott Hitchcock; Barbara Berry

City Council Meeting 2010-011 was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Flag Salute and Moment of Silence

Oral Communications:

Kristin Ribeiro, 1 Vine Street wished to make a complaint about Gloucester's parking situation. For about five years she has been working for a local bank noting for the last year or so parking has been a 'disaster' between all the City work and finding the right time to leave her home [in order to get to work on time]. Recently she had been towed because she parked illegally without knowledge of a new sign when she parked on the corner of School Street and Proctor Street. After her 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. shift she found her car gone. The firemen told her yes, a Trailblazer and a Saab were towed around 1:30 p.m. at the request of a policeman on detail duty. She went to Tally's; paid the fee for the towing on her Trailblazer; and also got a \$15.00 parking ticket. She admitted she was wrong, that she did park illegally. On Monday of this week, she came to work and noticed a blue Corolla was also parked in the same spot where she had parked and been towed from. It was then 8:00 a.m. When she left for her lunch break at 12 noon she noticed the vehicle was still there. She called the police to let them know that yes, she was wrong when she parked illegally but felt everyone should be treated equally. She noticed on that vehicle now illegally parked had a firefighter's sticker on it. Whether the policeman had called the fire station from the police station and let them know that they needed to move it or it would be towed was up to them. She never got the second chance, which she believed there shouldn't be, to move her car as did the car on Monday. She spoke of another instance of five months prior when she was parked on Mason Street where more road work was underway and another police detail was in place. She was parked in front of a house and behind her there was an illegally parked car on a crosswalk and a car in front of her and was wedged into her space. It was her lunch hour, and she had a doctor's appointment and needed to leave. She asked a policeman on detail there for assistance to help direct her out of the space as she was hedged in with 3 or 4 inches between her vehicle and the illegally parked car behind her. The policeman asked for five minutes to see if the car would move. She returned to work and called her doctor's office informing them she'd be a little late. When she returned, the blue 4-door sedan was still parked behind her. She asked that they have the car towed, that it was illegally parked in the crosswalk, and she needed to leave. 'They' looked in the windows of the illegally parked car, doing as much as they could to find anything indicating the who the owner was or how to contact them and could see an employee's check with the name of the employer, and took a telephone number off of it; 'they' found that person by calling the employer and found this person was on business at Central Grammar [Senior Apartments]. The vehicle owner acknowledged they had parked in that crosswalk. She had to wait there for another 15 minutes for that car to be moved – without being towed – without a ticket. She was late for an appointment because of this incident. She felt she knew she had

been wrong to park illegally but either no one should be afforded a second chance as this person was or they all receive a second chance; but [everyone] should be treated equally.

Councilor's Request to the Mayor: All Councilor requests have been received in writing and forwarded to the office of the Mayor.

Confirmation of Appointments:

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Mary John Boylan to the Affordable Housing Trust, TTE 02/14/2012.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Mary John Boylan to the Affordable Housing Trust, TTE 02/14/2012.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Mary Elizabeth Works Cooke to the Affordable Housing Trust, TTE 02/14/2012.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Mary Elizabeth Works Cooke to the Affordable Housing Trust, TTE 02/14/2012.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Donald Fryklund to the Capital Improvement Advisory Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Donald Fryklund to the Capital Improvement Advisory Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

Councilor Theken stated that the Capital Improvement Advisory Board, a very important asset to the City, is losing members due to lack of use by the City, and at the O&A meeting spoke to Mr. Duggan on the matter.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of David ("J.J.") Bell to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint David ("J.J.") Bell to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Janis R. Bell to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Janis R. Bell to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

By unanimous consent the following motion was made to show the vote for Steven Dexter's reappointment to the City Hall Restoration Commission from showing in the O&A minutes of 5/3/2010 of "0 in favor, 0 opposed" to show that the actual vote was 3 in favor, 0 opposed".

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Steven Dexter to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Steven Dexter to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Stephen Pardee to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Stephen Pardee to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Mary Rhineland McCarl to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Mary Rhineland McCarl to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Margaret Rosa to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Margaret Rosa to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of William Sanborn, Building Inspector, to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint William Sanborn, Building Inspector, to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Mark Cole, Operations Manager-Public Properties to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Mark Cole, Operations Manager-Public Properties to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Michelle Dyer to the Clean Energy Commission, TTE 02/14/2012.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Michelle Dyer to the Clean Energy Commission, TTE 02/14/2012.

By unanimous consent the following motion was made to show Councilor Tobey as the "seconded" of the original O&A motion from the 05/03/2010 meeting.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor , the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Paul Shea to the Historic District Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Paul Shea to the Historic District Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Russell Jacobs to the Shellfish Advisory Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Russell Jacobs to the Shellfish Advisory Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of John Fleming to the Trust Fund Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint John Fleming to the Trust Fund Commission, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Peter Bent to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Peter Bent to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Vito Calomo to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Vito Calomo to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Anthony Gross to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2011.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Anthony Gross to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2011.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Mulcahey, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Arthur "Sooky" Sawyer to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint Arthur "Sooky" Sawyer to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/2013.

Councilor Theken thanked the Councilors who attended the meeting in addition to the O&A Committee members in helping to confirm these reappointments. Each board and commission was asked to be sure their minutes were being taken and filed appropriately and were reminded of the new Open Meeting Law. In addition, the reappointees were reminded that they need to State Ethics on-line exam and submit their proof of the testing to the City Clerk's office. She noted that Councilor Hardy and Ms. Lowe would be organizing a seminar for the Boards and Commissions very soon on the Open Meeting Law changes going into effect as of July 1, 2010.

Consent Agenda

• **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Special Budgetary Transfer Request (#10-32) from Treasurer's Office (Refer B&F)
2. Two Supplemental Appropriation Budgetary Requests (#10-SA-10 & #10-SA-11) from Treasurer's Office (Refer B&F)
3. Memorandum from Health Director re: acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$9,000.00 from Health Resources (Refer B&F)
4. Memorandum from Health Director re: approval of an amendment for the MassCALL Grant on Substance Abuse Prevention (Refer B&F)
5. Memorandum from Police Chief re: acceptance of a "Click It or Ticket" grant in the amount Of \$6,000.00 (Refer B&F)
6. Memorandum from Community Development Director re: Community Preservation Act Budget (Refer B&F)
7. Report from City Auditor re: account having expenditures which exceed their authorizations (Refer B&F)
8. Memorandum from Police Chief re: July 4, 2010 Lanesville Parade and Bonfire (Refer P&D)
9. Memorandum from Community Development Director re: grant application for proposed Community Wind Feasibility Study (Refer P&D)

• **INFO ONLY**

1. Gloucester-Route 128 over Annisquam River-Project Update from Paul Stedman, District Operations Manager (Info Only)

• **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. City Council Meeting 04/27/2010 (Approve/File)
2. Special City Council Meeting 05/04/2010 (Approve/File)
3. Standing Committee Meetings: O&A 05/03/10, P&D 05/05/10, B&F 05/06/10 (**under separate cover**) (Approve/File)

• **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**

1. PP2010-003: Installation of 2-3" pvc conduits from an existing pole #5233 to House #76 High

Popples Road

(Refer P&D)

- **COMMUNICATIONS**

1. COM2010-023: Proposed offering of gift to City from Joseph R. Grace

(Refer P&D)

- **INVITATION**

1. Memorial Day Ceremony

Items to be added/removed from the Consent Agenda:

The City Council voted by unanimous consent to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.

For Council Vote:

1. **CC2010-027 (Tobey)** Order that the Council and the Mayor join in a letter to the State's Congressional delegation urging them to co-sign and vigorously support the Legislation to be filed by Senator Nelson of Florida that would prohibit action on the Obama administration's plans to expand offshore drilling

Councilor Hardy explained that this matter was on the agenda for a Council vote as to whether or not the Council would join with Councilor Tobey in co-signing a letter to the Congressional delegation in opposition to expanding off-shore drilling. Councilor Tobey was absent this evening and asked her to read the following into the record received by email on May 8, 2010:

"I apologize that unavoidable business travel keeps me from speaking tonight in support of my order asking that the Council and Administration write to the entire Massachusetts Congressional delegation, urging it to join legislation being drafted by Senator Nelson of Florida prohibiting the United States Interior Department from acting to implement the Obama Administration's plans to expand offshore drilling.

There should be no expansion of offshore oil drilling now. While we all daily witness the power of the ocean that defines our coastal community, we also understand its fragility – the marine environment can be easily and irreparably damaged by the ill-considered actions of man. We should have learned that from previous oil spills off of Santa Barbara, Calif., in 1969 and from the Exxon Valdez tanker off the coast of Alaska in 1989. The consequences of each disaster still, decades later, haunt the coastal communities and the marine resources which suffered the effects of those spills.

The spill which still continues in the Gulf of Mexico in the aftermath of the tragic fire on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig off the Louisiana coast – which ironically occurred on the 40th anniversary of Earth Day – will devastate the marine environments and economic vitality of the many states this horrific spill will touch, just as it will inflict enormous hardship on the lives of the many fishing families who make their livings harvesting the vast fisheries resources in the Gulf.

At a time when the fishermen of Gloucester and New England are being pummeled by new and unfair fisheries regulation, it is absolutely unacceptable that we simultaneously entertain any suggestion that our coast should be threatened by the notion of oil exploration and drilling. Accordingly, I ask you all to join in support of this order.

Councilor Bruce Tobey
Councilor-at-Large"

Councilor Hardy further explained that Ms. Lowe had drafted a letter for Councilor Tobey, and the Council had an opportunity to review and consider it in advance (on file) of the meeting.

Councilor Whynott stated he will support this but noted several caveats being concerned about stopping off-shore drilling. The Exxon Valdez was mentioned; no one is trying to stop oil tankers. If we can't drill in Alaska; we can't put wind farms off shore; and we can't have nuclear plants because people are so much against them, he wondered where we would be 20 years from now. He felt the letter was probably harmless; he would vote for it.

Councilor Verga would support this. He was concerned that the people who line up to fight this also line up to fight wind turbines. At some point a distinction needs to be made between pollution and non-pollution. Some people might find wind turbines ugly, but felt that was better than smoke billowing from a stack. Hopefully the people that are pushing this agenda with think a bit friendlier towards wind turbines, solar and government spending on things like that. He also supports this because he would hate that slick to make its way to Gloucester right now.

Councilor Curcuru would also be supporting this, calling it a "no-brainer". The catastrophe going on was simply amazing.

Councilor McGeary stated he, too, will be supporting this. He believed the resources off our coast are far too valuable to be endangered by the kind of thing that we're seeing going on in the Gulf. He did share the concerns of Councilors Whynott and Verga of the need to get serious about getting off [the dependence of] oil which means examining other methods of providing energy needed in a 21st century economy. With that caveat, he will strongly support the sending of the letter. We do need to think about where is the energy is going to come from and how are we going to get it.

Councilor Ciolino noted he comes from a long family history of fishermen, father, grandfather, uncles and cousins. He knew first-hand how tough it is to earn a living as a fisherman. What is happening in the South will work to make fishermen extinct there by the time the water is clean enough; and the seafood is clean enough to harvest. The President wanted to expand off shore and didn't think he wanted to ban it. But a generation ago there was a group of people who fought to ban drilling off of George's Bank. He felt they still needed to protect that, and need to protect Gloucester's waterfront. We need to focus on getting off of fossil fuels. He agreed with the rest of the Councilors on the alternatives needing to be looked at. This is a disaster. Unfortunately, when they come to us, and LNG did the same thing, they say we have all the mechanisms in place if this happens. They had that there [in the South], and it didn't work. And they're still experimenting trying to plug up the hole. They lied to all the government panels and inspectors. They are clueless when it comes to stopping an oil leak like that. A lot of people have lost their lives, and it's a sad situation. He was in wholehearted support.

Councilor Mulcahey supported this 100% because of the research she's done on these sectors, they've crowded out fishermen into areas so that they can have more ocean. They've almost destroyed our fishing industry now. If we have a disaster with oil this whole City will disappear. There are 80,000 people on the East Coast working in the fishing industry. Having drilling, it's one step after another and before you know it you'll have most of the ocean with oil wells. Everyone who uses the ocean for anything, even recreation will be out. It is dangerous. She doesn't want this for our area and was fully supporting this letter.

Councilor Theken would also support this and agreed with some of her fellow Councilors that they need to look at clean energy. Since she was a young girl she worked to stop the drilling on George's Banks. She recalled she had always said we have to stop the drilling as they're killing the fishermen. It's all about greed not about what we need in 20 years. There is so much drilling. We can survive the next 100 years. Wind farms can exist but where. When the Linquata's wanted to do aquaculture off our shore here producing a positive economic situation – jobs, fish, and food - everyone was against it. Now we're all saying we want aquaculture farms and wind farms. With regard to LNG, she pointed out she hasn't been exaggerating the dangers; and she was ridiculed in editorials saying she was overstating the dangers. Look what happened with the oil spill. You can never say never. Of course we need to look at these things. We have to make sure that if wind farms want to come here it's not going where we have economic development; where we do have a waterfront. We can't forget who we are. As long we're all saying this together and on record, then she felt pretty good because they're all getting educated. It's never to late to jump on board and learn what we have in this City, to promote it, protect it and expand it

and work together. We have to start by doing this. She was glad Councilor Whynott was on board with the letter. And while he thought this letter was harmless, to this community it shows they care. Enough is enough, and felt it was great they were doing this. She thanked her fellow Councilors.

Councilor Hardy, for all of the reasons stated previously by her fellow City Councilors, would also be supporting this. For any municipal boards beyond our own on Cape Ann and the North Shore, she urged any other selectmen, city councilors, or anyone else, to send a letter to their congressional delegations letting them know how they feel. If you're on the coast, it's going to affect you. Please join with the City of Gloucester and get on board to support this. They were also inviting Mayor Kirk to sign their letter this evening and will await her decision in the next day or two.

Councilor Ciolino wondered if other towns and cities like Beverly, Salem, New Bedford, Newburyport signed on to something like this. He suggested that the City Clerks have a network. Perhaps they could put that request on that network asking those cities and towns to join with Gloucester with this letter.

Councilor Hardy feeling it was a good suggestion asked Ms. Lowe if she would network with her fellow City Clerks to get the word out which Ms. Lowe stated she would.

MOTION: The City Council voted unanimously to co-sign a letter sponsored and authored by Councilor Tobey which supports Florida's Senator Nelson's proposed prohibition against President Obama's plans to expand offshore drilling.

Councilor Hardy stated that on behalf of Councilor Tobey, she thanked her fellow Councilors.

Ms. Lowe reminded the Councilors she had the original letter for their signature before they concluded their business that evening and noted to the Council that at Councilor Tobey's request, should this vote be successful, she would be signing for him on his behalf.

2. Request from Cape Ann YMCA to approve use of roads, Good Harbor Beach Parking Lot and restroom facilities re: the Backshore 5 Mile Road Race on Friday, May 14, 2010 (under unanimous consent)

Councilor Hardy stated by way of introduction that this had not been in front of the Council before and was coming up quite rapidly. In order for them to vote on this matter that evening Councilor Ciolino had asked for unanimous consent to even discuss it this evening so that a vote can take place.

By unanimous consent the City Council voted to take up the matter of the Cape Ann YMCA "Backshore 5 Mile Road Race of Friday, May 14, 2010.

Councilor Ciolino stated this is a road race that for one reason or another, the timing was wrong for P&D and the Council to take up earlier. The race will be run on May 14th. It's a race that's been going on for 30 years and is the gold standard for how races are run in the City of Gloucester.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Theken, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to grant the use of City roads, Good Harbor Beach Parking Lot and restroom facilities re: The Cape Ann YMCA's Backshore 5 Mile Race on Friday, May 14, 2010 starting at 6:30 p.m., at the Good Harbor Beach Footbridge at the Beach Club on Nautilus Road to proceed onto Atlantic Road to Farrington Avenue to Eastern Point Road to Grapevine Road back to Atlantic Road to Nautilus Road to the finish line, at the Beach Club at the Good Harbor Beach Footbridge. A copy of the Certificate of Insurance is on file with the City Clerk's office and a sign-offs by the DPW and the Police Department are also on file.

Scheduled Public Hearings:

1. PH2010-005: Extension of SCP of Windover Properties, LLC re: 14 Cliff Avenue

This public hearing is opened.

Councilor Hardy informed the Council that at the request of Attorney Miranda Gooding of Glovsky & Glovsky on the behalf of the applicant, Windover Properties, LLC, they are withdrawing their application of the extension of the Special City Council Permit of February 14, 2008 decision. Without taking action and because the matter has been withdrawn by the applicant she will close the public hearing.

This public hearing is closed.**Committee Reports:**

- **Ordinances & Administration Committee: 05/03/2010**

Councilor Theken noted the minutes were completed and most actions required advertisements for public hearings. They took up many reappointments. They also did discuss rules and procedures of the Council, the Charter Committee to review the City Charter, noting particularly that the public hearing on the debt exclusion will take place during the May 25th City Council meeting.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Tobey, seconded by Councilor Mulcahey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council that the City Clerk be elected for an additional two year term.

Discussion:

Councilor Ciolino stated he was part of the selection committee. He recalled at that time there were several elections on the horizon. The position had been vacant for a while. Everyone [in the City Clerk's office] was overworked. Ms. Lowe came through the elections and seems to have things coming together. Through his conversations with the public and some of his fellow City Councilors, he believed she was doing a good job. But he also felt she was still in training but happy with the selection they made when in hiring her.

Councilor McGeary echoed Councilor Ciolino as the "aging rookie" noting he couldn't do his job at all without the help of the City Clerk and her staff, commending them on the work they do and how they help him as he learns the in's and out's of City government.

Councilor Hardy added that being her first term of as Council President she didn't know where she'd be without Ms. Lowe, and thanked her for her advice and assistance.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed that the City Clerk, Linda Lowe be elected for an additional two year term.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Tobey, seconded by Councilor Mulcahey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of the Assistant City Clerk, Joanne Senos, with a term to run concurrently with that of the City Clerk.

Discussion:

Councilor Theken stated the reappointments and reviews were done properly noting the initial concern for the possible difficulty Ms. Lowe may have with the transition into the City Clerk's job, with high regard of how they expect the City Clerk's office to be run and what the expectations of the Council were

and continue to be of the City Clerk and her staff. Now with the new rules and procedures coming up, State ethics rules changes; she felt Ms. Lowe jumped right in. The Assistant City Clerk has worked phenomenally hard and well; they were very fortunate to have her. As Councilor Whynott knows [as former City Clerk] the City Clerk's office is understaffed and overworked. Hopefully now the staff there will want to stay continuing their high quality of service. She had observed the office over time and had to ask questions and make suggestions in her role as Chair of O&A, acting as a 'supervisor'. She recommended the office as a whole and felt that office is running as a team and making a difference for the City.

Councilor Hardy thanked Councilor Theken for her job well done on behalf of the City Council.

Councilor Whynott asked if there had been a change in procedure. For the last 30 years it was the City Clerk that appointed the Assistant City Clerk, and the City Council then confirmed the appointment, as opposed to a reappointment, the way it was being done now.

Ms. Lowe stated she agreed with Councilor Whynott that yes, that was the procedure; but at the last O&A she stated she was reappointing Ms. Senos. It was agreed that they would bring it here for a confirmation. She followed up on the Councilor's remarks that she was thrilled to have the staff that she has. The office runs extremely well thanks in large part to the Assistant City Clerk but to the other staff as well. It is a very good group of very hard working people. We're really lucky to have them all.

Councilor Ciolino wanted to note that Ms. Senos did a tremendous job as Interim City Clerk. She was a tremendous resource for that office and has a phenomenal institutional memory. Her interim City Clerk stint was superior. She was under tremendous pressure; they were very short staffed, working on elections and all of the other every day things that have to be done regardless. He recalled they had spoken at one point of putting a letter of commendation in her file for her outstanding stint as Interim City Clerk and wanted to be sure the letter went on file.

By unanimous consent the City Council referred the matter of a letter for the Assistant City Clerk's file to the Ordinances & Administration Committee.

Councilor McGeary stated for the benefit of the public that in front of him was a large three-ring binder noting it was that kind of paperwork the Council deals with regularly and couldn't do it without the help of the City Clerk's office who organizes all this for the Councilors. He noted he's a bit more new age and has an I-pad joking that prior to Council packets being sent out [in preparation for each Council meeting] his I-Pad is 1-1/2 lbs. and once the packet is received it goes to 2 lbs. He felt it was important to the public to understand what this office does; and that it is the big things and little things that are invisible, that the Clerk's Office does for them that makes their job much easier.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to reappoint the Assistant City Clerk, Joanne Senos, with a term to run coterminous with that of the City Clerk.

Councilor Hardy asked about the Hesperus Circle matter taken up at O&A as to whether or not the [stop] sign was in place and the matter resolved so that there would be no need for a public hearing.

Councilor Verga responded at O&A there was question of whether in the Code of Ordinance already.

Ms. Lowe noted that in her follow up for the May 3rd meeting that there is a listing in the traffic code for Hesperus Circle; and there is an indication that there should be a the stop sign where Hesperus Avenue and Norman Avenue come together which turns out to be in front of Hesperus Circle. The understanding at the O&A meeting was that if Councilor Verga was satisfied with the location of the sign that has re-appeared in the last few months, then there wouldn't be a need to go forward with another stop sign in that vicinity.

Councilor Verga felt that was the case because there are two roads that feed to the circle, and then two more roads that feed onto Hesperus. The two roads on Hesperus seem to be OK. With that that stop sign calms the 'free for all'. He didn't know who put the sign there, but it's doing the trick

Councilor Hardy stated after asking for Councilor Theken's assent that it was the will of the Council that they not move ahead with the advertising for a public hearing. If there was a need in the future, the matter could come back to the Council; therefore the matter was disposed of.

- **Planning & Development Committee: 05/05/2010**

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Verga, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to grant approval for a temporary use of the outdoor premises of Latitude 43 Restaurant and a temporary extension of said premises located at 25 Rogers Street and at the adjoining properties at 29 Rogers Street, 37R Rogers Street and 39 Rogers Street a.k.a. Fishermen's Wharf Parking Lot all as shown on a plan submitted by the applicant, Latitude 43 Restaurant and signed and dated by the Chairperson of Planning & Development. Said use is permitted only for the 2010 St. Peter's Fiesta, specifically from June 24 (3:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.); June 25 (3:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.); June 26 (12:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.); and June 27 (12:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.). Said use may include construction and installation of two tents as shown on said plan which depicts size and location of the tents. This temporary use shall be restricted to service of food and drinks as depicted on said plan and as presented to Planning & Development. This grant of approval and permission shall not include any necessary approvals which the applicant must obtain from the City Licensing Board for food, drink and entertainment. Further, this grant of approval and permission does not authorize the applicant to in any way obstruct or close the public pedestrian walkway known as The Harbor Walk. This approval is further conditional upon the applicant providing proof of the right to use the adjoining premises, and proof of all necessary insurance certificates to the appropriate City agencies including the City Council.

Discussion:

Councilor Ciolino stated Latitude 43 Restaurant is intending to expand to their parking area, for a Family Fish Fry, which is the Fisherman's Walk area. They already lease the land and use it for parking. They'll construct some tents. The idea is to help out the Fiesta and the City Hall Restoration Fund which is the public good to come out of this. There will be fish fry; another area where fishermen can sell their product, to utilize Gloucester's fishing industry. The Committee thought by spreading out the number of people at more venues it would reduce the area's congestion; and thereby have fewer problems in the area. They wanted to get rid of the idea of people standing around on the sidewalks because they can't get into already overcrowded venues. The Committee felt they could approve this to see how it would run. He noted the great security plan in place. The Committee did a site visit to confirm the restaurant's plans, feeling it's all workable and doable. He urged his fellow Councilors to vote for it.

Councilor Mulcahey didn't believe they're [Latitude 43] helping the Fiesta in any way. This is a business helping themselves. They're business people who want to expand and take advantage of the fact that there will be a lot of people there, and she does understand that. Her constituents who live across the street and Police Chief Lane had the same concerns she did with the music being loud until all hours, along with the drinking and food, extending their business from the building into the parking lot. They have now instituted special bracelets which most restaurants already have that have drinking and entertainment. She didn't feel they should have this and will cause more trouble for the police, already stretched thin during this time. The residents and the people over in East Gloucester will be complaining. She didn't feel this was a good thing would not vote for this.

Councilor Theken thought when they did the site visit that we can't tell them what to do on their own property or property that they're leasing. She thought the issue was based on some City property and asked for a clarification.

Councilor Ciolino responded that they are in the Marine/Industrial (MI) district; and in order to have a restaurant in the MI, they need the Council's permission. It is permission to expand their premises for the four days of the Fiesta. When it comes to the entertainment and hours, we can put some general hours,

but that's the purview of the Licensing Board. Rebutting Councilor Mulcahey's statement saying there was no benefit to the Fiesta. He reiterated they were going to donate 5% of the proceeds of the Family Fish Fry to the City Hall Restoration and to the Fiesta Committee. There was a public good coming out of this.

Councilor Whynott had some of the same concerns that other Councilors had; but it's a tough life for business people. Everybody's struggling. This could turn out badly, and they won't do it again. He wanted to give them a shot and try it once.

Councilor Theken asked if they're going to pay for their own police patrol.

Councilor Ciolino stated Chief Lane has made it a policy that none of the policemen or women will be working details inside any of these venues. Latitude 43 is hiring their own security using very high tech equipment and strategies, very sophisticated. They do know how to handle the crowd.

Councilor Hardy believed everyone deserves a shot. But as far as spreading out the Fiesta she didn't believe that was a reason to do it. She was most concerned about the noise. She knew there was a lot of noise for the Fiesta. But if this ends up being a "battle of the bands" from one end of the Fort to East Gloucester, that will create trouble. We need to let people know this is a trial basis. If this doesn't work out this year, they won't be supporting this next year. There aren't enough police to go around on a daily basis, let alone the Fiesta. The special security people they're bringing in she hopes they do their job properly and have the proper training. But if she got any complaints from that residents were listening to a "battle of the bands" or the Fort or any other place, it will not bode well with her and didn't think it would with other Councilors. She will support this because they need to give people a chance, especially in these economic times.

Councilor Theken will support this tonight. She noted that the Friday evening of the Fiesta she goes to each of the venues, bars, and restaurants, to see what the situation is in the area to see how things are being controlled; and how the restaurants and bars contain themselves. Rogers Street is a gathering place. It's very difficult to get into all these venues. Young people need a place to go. If you're putting them under tents, feeding them and entertaining them they'll have a place to go and could actually lower the noise level. If they have complaints then they'll know. She'll give them a chance.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Verga, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 1 (Councilor Mulcahey) opposed to grant approval for a temporary use of the outdoor premises of Latitude 43 Restaurant and a temporary extension of said premises located at 25 Rogers Street and at the adjoining properties at 29 Rogers Street, 37R Rogers Street and 39 Rogers Street a.k.a. Fishermen's Wharf Parking Lot all as shown on a plan submitted by the applicant, Latitude 43 Restaurant and signed and dated by the Chairperson of Planning & Development. Said use is permitted only for the 2010 St. Peter's Fiesta, specifically from June 24 (3:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.); June 25 (3:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.); June 26 (12:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.); and June 27 (12:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.). Said use may include construction and installation of two tents as shown on said plan which depicts size and location of the tents. This temporary use shall be restricted to service of food and drinks as depicted on said plan and as presented to Planning & Development. This grant of approval and permission shall not include any necessary approvals which the applicant must obtain from the City Licensing Board for food, drink and entertainment. Further, this grant of approval and permission does not authorize the applicant to in any way obstruct or close the public pedestrian walkway known as The Harbor Walk. This approval is further conditional upon the applicant providing proof of the right to use the adjoining premises, and proof of all necessary insurance certificates to the appropriate City agencies including the City Council.

Budget & Finance: 05/06/2010

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the acceptance of a \$30,116.66

one-time, unrestricted grant from the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund to the City of Gloucester and establish an Other Special Revenue/Grant/Gift Fund.

Discussion:

Councilor Curcuru stated this was gift by Roger Owen Davis, a 1955 graduate of GHS and Sawyer Medal winner who left this money in his will to the City to do with what they felt they needed to do with the funds. He confirmed that the Administration would be sending a letter would be sent to the family. **Councilor Theken** stated it was obvious this wasn't a matching grant but wanted to know how long the City has had this gift of money to which Councilor Curcuru stated it was just a gift.

There was unanimous consent by the City Council to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Duggan, Chief Administrative Officer, to respond to the Councilors' question on the matter.

Mr. Duggan stated they received this three weeks ago.

Councilor Hardy, noting she was unable to attend that meeting, asked if the motion was simply to receive and approve the receipt of the money or are they also indicating what it should be spent on.

Councilor Curcuru clarified they were doing both.

Councilor Hardy responded that this motion was to receive the money and to create an account into which to receive it which Councilor Curcuru confirmed.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Theken, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to accept a \$30,116.66 one-time, unrestricted grant from the Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund to the City of Gloucester and establish an Other Special Revenue/Grant/Gift Fund.

At this juncture, there was some confusion as to what questions had actually been confirmed as answered. The Chair, Councilor Hardy, asked if there was to be another vote that followed the one just taken or whether this was simply to create an account. Councilor Curcuru responded on the matter just voted there was, in fact, one motion for the acceptance of the money. The motion didn't specify how it was to be spent. It was up to the determination of the Administration. There was no other motion for the matter. Councilor Hardy reminded the Councilors if they wished they could make an appropriate motion to reconsider the vote just taken from now until the end of the meeting. Councilor Hardy felt she was led to believe there would be another motion to follow as to how the money would be spent and had asked that question for that specific reason, not having been at the meeting. Councilor Curcuru reiterated that the only motion voted on at the B&F meeting of May 6, 2010 was the acceptance of the charitable gift, and the creation of the account to deposit it into.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the payment of Polaris Consultants LLC invoices Nos. 1058 and 1072 dated 12/30/2008 respectively for a total of \$3,269.75.

Discussion:

Councilor Curcuru stated this was an old invoice, and the consultants came forward asking to be paid.

Councilor Hardy asked if the goods and services were received, and why the consultants hadn't been paid sooner.

Councilor Curcuru noting that this had all been responded to in the B&F meeting of the 6th, stated this was for consultant services with regard to the sewer treatment plan and that the invoices had been at the DPW and hadn't been brought to light. The Polaris Group is a consulting group who has been working continuously with the City and weren't pursuing this as actively as they should.

Councilor Hardy questioned how many auditors this invoice had been passed over by and a Treasurer or two; and understanding that all the City departments are short-handed, she wondered how many more invoices they could anticipate coming in late as they were in budget hearings for FY11; what are we doing about this.

Mr. Duggan responded that was one of the first questions Councilor Curcuru did ask that of the DPW Director, how many more were out there. Polaris Consultant Group was asked to review with Rick Clark, then acting City Engineer, to review the engineering services for the wastewater treatment plant. This was a third party review; it was an RFP for the first phase of the CSO. The consultants reviewed the bid proposals. It was considered a small bill by Polaris. Mr. Ventimiglia, Assistant City Engineer, was stretched thin who for many months was the entire Engineering Department; and this fell threw the cracks. This was no fault of any Auditor or Treasurer. They strongly feel the DPW Director has his house in order financially and with operations and didn't think they'd see any more.

Councilor Hardy didn't blame the City, she blamed the vendor questioning as to why the vendor didn't send statements of what was being carried forward. This is not just a hit or miss invoice. She asked for reassurance that the due diligence had been done that the services were received and that it is, in fact a bill that we do owe.

Mr. Duggan stated without doubt the services were received. Mr. Clark, Mr. Hale and himself did review the proposals, and they brought these people on board and had a few discussions on who will provide the engineering services for the City for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Councilor Hardy thanked Councilor Ciolino during his tenure on the last B&F Committee for getting on the record the number of the invoice, its date and amount owed so these matters could be easily tracked through their minutes in the future.

Councilor Curcuru reiterated these questions being asked this evening were questions that were asked at B&F.

Councilor Hardy felt it important that the public know how the Council does business when it comes to paying past due bills.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed the payment of Polaris Consultants LLC invoices Nos. 1058 and 1072 dated 12/30/2008 respectively for a total of \$3,269.75.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to authorize the write-off of \$138,138.32 in uncollectible, outstanding ambulance billing.

Councilor Curcuru stated this is money that is over 180 days owed to the City, and most of the individuals that owe this money are indigent, having no address and are unable to be located. This is the second year in a row that they've written this amount of money off.

Councilor Ciolino stated the auditors who do our books have wanted us to clean up our books. Some of these balances are never going to be paid for one reason or another. We have to do this every year, and a lot of businesses do this. A lot of homeless people have to be treated and transported; and it is pointless to keep this on the books – it's good business practice. Our third-party billing company just can't find these people. It's pointless to keep this on our books. It's money that won't be collected.

Councilor Whynott stated years ago it could be not just the indigent, it could have been someone with insurance who were elderly who couldn't afford to pay the balance. The City used to forgive those.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to authorize the write-off of \$138,138.32 in uncollectible, outstanding ambulance billing.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the acceptance of the ambulance billing policy as presented increasing the billing rates from Medicare +80% to Medicare +120%.

Discussion:

Councilor Curcuru explained that this is a billing practice that the City ambulance service charges Medicare and they're raising the rates. Noting the complexity of the issue asked Mr. Duggan to respond through the Chair on the matter.

Councilor Theken stated she spoke with Sander Schultz, EMS Coordinator for the Fire Department. She asked him what are the other communities were doing and asked for an explanation of the +120. She noted, due to her job, she understood the procedures but wanted to be sure the public understood the procedure for billing as well.

Mr. Duggan stated he attends a monthly meeting of a North Shore coalition of various town administrators and Mayors. This specific issue was discussed; communities are charging well above Medicare +120; Medicare +150%, up to +200%. So +120% is not unusual, and felt this was a smart, good approach, and is being conservative. The Medicare billing is based upon a specific amount for a specific service, such as Advanced Life Support (ALS). When a patient has a private insurance company, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Harvard Pilgrim, etc., we receive Medicare +80%. For example, on an ALS run, hypothetically it's \$1,000. They would receive \$1,800; Medicare being \$1,000 fee plus 80% of that \$1,000 fee is \$1,800. If it's only Medicare involved, and the patient doesn't have private insurance, we'd only receive that \$1,000. It gives municipalities an opportunity to capitalize on what the insurance companies recognize what is actually required to run a service and what they allow.

Councilor Mulcahey, referring to the information that was presented at the B&F meeting, stated that the City's policy is to bill all transported patients regardless of whether there is a 3rd party billing and wondered if patients personally get a bill.

Mr. Duggan stated they are sent a bill.

Councilor Mulcahey followed up with if a patient is in the hospital and then they passed away or were in rehabilitation, they wouldn't get that bill. That may be a reason the City didn't get the money; that the bill should be sent directly to the insurance carrier.

Mr. Duggan stated the City has a billing company, Comstar, who has been with the City for a number of years. They will pursue collecting on a bill whether it's through a patient's insurance company, with them directly or not. It's when they feel through their expertise and experience that it's uncollectible, then they'll put it into the uncollectables. If after pursuing every single avenue to get that money, after a certain length of time they must let it go. The City is going to become more aggressive with their billing/collection policy. There was a conclusion based on an opinion by previous City staff that only 1% of our uncollectible back into the City. They will have a meeting with Mr. Schultz and Mr. Towne, CFO, who has been successful in getting other uncollectables into the City coffers and as they will now pursue more vigorously these uncollectables, and believed they will have a better rate [of return] than suggested in the past.

Councilor Theken stated \$138,000 is really good, compared to what other cities have. She explained if you have Medicare, they will bill them. If you have a secondary insurance it goes to you. They'll also get an explanation of benefits (EIB) to the patient. If you have this ambulance run it will show how many miles, what services were received during that transport. If you have a secondary insurance you won't see a bill. Your EIB will say, "you may be billed". If you have a co-pay or deductible you'll have to pay that. Then there's the Health Safety Net that you have to apply for if you can't pay the bill. The only time you're billed personally is if they had no information on the patient. Then you would get that bill and can call Comstar. When you call 911 you're not worrying about grabbing your medical card. If you do have insurance, you can call Comstar, and they will then pursue the payment from the insurance company. You have 90 days to pay. You're responsible to give us that information. If you don't, we're

stuck. We have 90 days to bill. As far as the +120, the governor of MA put a cap on health care increases – no higher than 4.8%. Someone has to pay for it. Friends of hers at Mass General Hospital told her Blue Cross said they're going to have to eat that bill. That 4.8%, we won't give you dollar for dollar. It's the same with Medicare. Just because we bill \$1,000 doesn't mean we get \$1,000 back. That's why you'll see it on your EIB. If you went to the doctors, he charges you \$250, you'll see what Medicare paid him and then you'll be billed a percentage. Other towns that go to Medicare +150 or more will never get it. The insurance companies will give them below that what they are asking – that's what you're going to have to "eat". Our \$138,000, other communities are going to see double or triple that number. The +120 is a slight increase. It is something they will get back. The health care is first, but this is a practical increase and a measure to sustain ourselves and surviving while the economy is changing.. **Councilor Curcuru** asked for clarification on the anticipated aggressive pursuit of collection – this is after Comstar does their part, then the City would proceed after that. So that would be after 180 days which Mr. Duggan affirmed.

MOTION: On motion of Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed to accept the ambulance billing policy as presented increasing the billing rates from Medicare +80% to Medicare +120%.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend to the City Council the transfer (#10-SBT-30) of \$7,000.00 from Fire Department, Other Equipment Maintenance Unifund Account #101000.10.220.52690.0000.00.000.00.052 to Fire Department, Sal/Wage-Overtime, Unifund Account #101000.10.220.51300.0000.00.000.00.051.

Discussion:

Councilor Curcuru stated this is part of the boil water order for equipment for the Fire Department. **Councilor Hardy** stated she will be abstaining.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor , the City Council voted by Roll Call 7 in favor, 0 opposed 1 Abstention (Hardy), to transfer (#10-SBT-30) of \$7,000.00 from Fire Department, Other Equipment Maintenance Unifund Account #101000.10.220.52690.0000.00.000.00.052 to Fire Department, Sal/Wage-Overtime, Unifund Account #101000.10.220.51300.0000.00.000.00.051.

The following motion had the amount of \$10,500.00 inserted after "(10-SBT-31)" by friendly amendment.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend to the City Council the transfer (#10-SBT-31) of \$10,500.00 from Engineering Sal/Wage Perm Pos., Unifund Account #101000.10.411.51100.0000.00.000.00.051 to Veterans Services – OB, Unifund Account #101000.10.543.57710.0000.00.000.00.057.

Discussion:

Councilor Curcuru stated this is a void in the Veteran's budget and because of a lag in a DPW account, the DPW Director offered to help fill that gap out of his budget. **Councilor Ciolino** stated that it was a hard winter for a lot of people, including some of our veterans; and more veterans came in for assistance so they ran short of money. This is making up that deficit.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Curcuru, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted by Roll Call 8 in favor, 0 opposed, the transfer (#10-SBT-31) of \$10,500.00 from Engineering Sal/Wage Perm Pos., Unifund Account #101000.10.411.51100.0000.00.000.00.051 to Veterans Services – OB, Unifund Account #101000.10.543.57710.0000.00.000.00.057.

Councilor Curcuru noted there was a discussion on the debt shift and that they will be having a public hearing on the matter. A few weeks ago Councilor Hardy made a statement regarding appearing at Standing Committee and City Council meetings. This vote is going to be a debt exclusion for the CSO taken off the rate payers to be placed on the full tax base of the City to bear the burden. He appealed the rate payers to show up on the 25th and let their voice be heard. The Councilors will only hear the people that come before them. It is imperative to show up and let your voice be heard. Also, they're looking at the candidates for City Auditor and hope in the next two weeks to have that position filled soon.

Councilor Ciolino felt there was a great deal of misinformation in the community on the debt shift and urged the local newspapers to do more articles to help educate the public and really explain what is the debt exclusion, the stormwater billings, the rates and all the rest. People are just lumping this all together – these are two separate issues.

Councilor's Requests Other Than to the Mayor:

Councilor Curcuru noted that budget hearings have started, and it's nice to see the public there. Last year no residents showed up at any of the meetings. If people get a chance he suggested going on the City website, look at the schedule; and come to one of the meetings to better understand where the money is going and how it's being spent. He encouraged the public to show up.

Councilor McGeary called the attention to the Empty Bowl Dinner, Thursday 4:00 p.m. to 8 p.m., \$12 per ticket at the Cruiseport. It benefits the Open Door Food Pantry which is a great institution in the City that has risen to the challenge in these difficult times. He will have a bowl on sale and expects very high bids.

Councilor Ciolino also will have a bowl on sale and wished good night to fellow residents of the City.

Councilor Mulcahey asked the Administration to take some of the priorities of the sidewalks that there are dangerous areas in the City. She has spoken with Mike Hale about it. Her priority is safety, especially in the West End. She'd like to see that specifically taken care of.

Councilor Hardy suggested to Councilor Mulcahey to avail herself of the Requests to the Mayor in this matter.

Councilor Theken thanked all the children of the City for the wonderful artwork decorating City Hall. This weekend there was poetry, dancing, photography, sculpture, and painting. She sent her congratulations to Sinikka Nogelo. She wanted the public to know that during May and June the budget meetings consume the three City Councilors on the Budget & Finance Committee constantly, so they can't be out in the community. If you see one of the other Councilors at an event, know that they represent all of them. She thanked the Budget & Finance Committee for their service and dedication during the City budget review time. While some of the other Councilors are out in the community, meeting and greeting, those three Councilors are working hard for us all. It's not that the other Councilors don't want to be there so if you see one, think that you see all of them; they are all supporting our community.

Councilor Hardy let the public know the business that they see the Council conducting that this meeting isn't all the work the Council does – they don't just come to one meeting every other week to conduct the business of the City. There's many standing committee meetings and other meetings including ward meetings they attend throughout the week and in the off weeks of City Council. Most of the tough work, a lot of the discussion with the department heads and Administration, research, gathering data, has to be done and goes on at those Standing Committee meetings. Those standing committee meetings are public meetings that you are very welcome to attend. The budget review meetings are being conducted now.

The public is invited to those meetings. They are not hearings, but on occasion the public can speak at those meetings, which is at the discretion of the Chair. It is worthwhile to come and learn how the government is run and what it takes for them to make and reach their decisions before they get to the full City Council. On another note, she stated they discussed and gave kudos to the City Clerk, Linda T. Lowe, who was re-nominated and reappointed along with and the Assistant City Clerk, Joanne Senos earlier. She mentioned another member of the City Clerk's staff who gives an unbelievable amount of work specifically to the City Council, naming Clerk of Committees, Dana Jorgensson. She thanked her for all her hard work in helping to keep her on track, and that she was doing a great job.

It was moved, seconded, and voted UNANIMOUSLY to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of the Committees**