

Inaugural Ceremony 2016

Friday, January 1, 2016 – 1:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

- Minutes -

Present: City Council: Joseph Ciolino; Melissa Cox; Steve LeBlanc, Jr.; Paul Lundberg; Valerie H. Gilman; R. Scott Memhard; Sean P. Nolan; James W. O’Hara; Joseph M. Orlando, Jr.

Absent: None.

Mayor-Elect Sefatia Romeo Theken

School Committee members: Mayor Sefatia Theken; Jonathan Pope; Kathleen Clancy; Joel Favazza; Tony Gross; Melissa Teixeira; Michelle Sweet

Absent: None.

Also Present: Linda T. Lowe; State Senator Bruce Tarr, State Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante; Sherriff Fred Cousins; Former State Representative Anthony Verga; Former Mayors Bruce Tobey, John Bell; William Squillace; Former City Councilors Greg Verga; Christine Rasmussen Police Chief Leonard Campanello; Fire Chief Eric Smith; Mike Hale; Chip Payson; Jim Caulkett; Tom Daniel; Nancy Papows; James Pope; Kenny Costa; Lucy Sheehan; Joan Whitney; Max Schenk; Dr. Richard Safier; Joanne Senos; Dana Jorgenson; Christine Pantano

Prelude: Gloucester High School Docksidiers

Welcome: Jeanne Blake

God Bless America: Gordon Baird

Presentation of Colors: Gloucester High School Junior ROTC

Pledge of Allegiance: AJ Romeo-Oliver; Bianca Oliver; Emma Trombly; Lia Numerosi

National Anthem: Alexandra Grace

Invocation: The Rev. Rona Tyndall; Father James Achadinha

Guest Speaker: Peter Anastas

“Gloucester, Always Gloucester”: Alexandra Grace, Josh Cominelli

Oath of Office: Mayor-Elect Sefatia Romeo Theken

Linda T. Lowe, City Clerk administered the oath of office to Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken.

Oath of Office of Gloucester School Committee Members-Elect administered by Linda T. Lowe, City Clerk to:

Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; Kathleen Clancy; Anthony Gross; Jonathan Pope; Melissa Teixeira; Joel Favazza; Michelle Sweet

Special Meeting of the School Committee – Election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary of the School Committee: The special meeting of the Gloucester School Committee meeting was called to order at 1:41 p.m. by Mayor Theken.

MOTION: On a motion by Tony Gross, seconded by Melissa Teixeira, the School Committee voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, to elect Jonathan Pope as Chairperson of the School Committee.

MOTION: On a motion by Mayor Theken, seconded by Tony Gross, the School Committee voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, to elect Kathleen Clancy as Vice-Chairperson of the School Committee.

MOTION: On a motion by Tony Gross, seconded by Melissa Teixeira, the School Committee voted by ROLL CALL 7 in favor, 0 opposed, to elect Joel Favazza as Secretary of the School Committee.

Linda T. Lowe, City Clerk administered the oath of office for the newly elected Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary of the School Committee.

It was moved, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the School Committee meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Musical Interlude: Charlee Bianchini

The Oath of Office of Gloucester City Councilors-Elect administered by Linda T. Lowe, City Clerk to:

Joseph Ciolino; Melissa Cox; Steve LeBlanc, Jr.; Paul Lundberg; Valerie H. Gilman; R. Scott Memhard; Sean P. Nolan; James W. O'Hara; Joseph M. Orlando, Jr.

The Special City Council meeting was called to order at 1:52 p.m.

Councilor LeBlanc nominated Councilor Ciolino President of the City Council, seconded by Councilor Orlando.

Councilor Cox nominated Paul Lundberg as President of the City Council seconded by Councilor Gilman.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 5 in favor, 4 (Cox, Gilman, Lundberg; Nolan) opposed, to elect Councilor Ciolino as President of the City Council.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to declare the vote for Council President, Councilor Joseph Ciolino to be unanimous.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to elect Councilor Steven LeBlanc as Vice-President of the City Council.

Linda T. Lowe administered the oath of office to the President and Vice-President of the City Council.

It was moved and seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the Special City Council meeting at 1:58 p.m.

Inaugural Address: The Honorable Sefatia Romeo Theken, Mayor-City of Gloucester

Special Presentations: Daniel Ruberti; Amy-Elizabeth Gerraghty

Benediction: The Rev. Rona Tyndall; Father James Achadinha

Recessional: Gloucester High School Docksidiers

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees
Gloucester City Council

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING(S):

**Remarks by the Mayor of Gloucester, Sefatia Romeo Theken
January 1, 2016**

"Good afternoon.

I humbly stand before you as we celebrate democracy in Gloucester.

To everyone – our poets, our artists, our fishermen, our businessmen, our veterans, our clergy, our entrepreneurs – welcome.

To the new City Council – we are lucky to have such a dedicated group who fights for what they believe in and supports their city.

To the school committee – I have learned a lot from your experience and advocacy and I know the future of the Gloucester Public Schools – is bright because of you and Superintendent Safier.

Many people in this room work for city government. I'm grateful every day for the work you do on behalf of the citizens of Gloucester.

The doors of our City Hall are wide open today and that's the way they will stay.

Here is my promise to all of you: the work of your city government will be done openly and honestly.

I invite you to join me in creating a better Gloucester.

I challenge you to step up and make your voice heard; serve on the cities boards and commissions, attend public hearings, and come to the Mayor's office and let me know what you think.

My door is always open.

Our life together -- as a community -- is rewarding in many ways. Some of those ways are obvious.

- We share a special place in this world, a place of great beauty, where land and water meet in spectacular fashion.
- We have been given a gift of the city of Gloucester.
- We – are – unique.

But the measure of a city's greatness is not to be found in blue skies and clear waters – it is in the hearts and lives of its people.

Gloucester's history is one of a community working together to confront its challenges and direct its future. We have never been passive. We have been able to advance our story through a common commitment, vision and determination.

This proud tradition continues today. Over the last year on countless occasions, I have seen Gloucester answer the call to improve the lives of fellow citizens.

Again and again, I have asked nonprofits, businesses, churches, families and government to break down the barriers that prevent each of us from living the life of our choosing.

And you have responded – every time.

This is what makes us special. Gloucester is made up of people who realize we must be about something bigger than ourselves; that our lives are better when our neighbors' lives are better too.

We – know – this: we can accomplish more – when we work together.

Today we look back at the challenges we have faced while looking forward to the work ahead. Gloucester's people will always respond by making our families stronger, by supporting public safety and by expanding our commercial industrial base.

My team continues the work we have started. The effort we have put forward over the last 12 months remains. Over the next two years—

- We will provide the leadership it takes to have discipline when it comes to fiscal matters. In 1 years' time, we dispersed free cash to our capital and maintenance funds per our new financial policy which will provide resources to maintain the city's buildings and facilities and plan for future capital needs.
- We will diversify our harbor. Gloucester continues to be America's oldest fishing port but we have to adapt to allow other economic opportunities to coexist on our waterfront. Implementing our recreational boating advisory report is another step in the right direction.
- We must support our Superintendent, our school committee, our teachers and our parents as we work to provide the best educational opportunities in the Commonwealth. My administration has committed a larger percentage of new money to the Gloucester Public School system than they have seen in the last 10 years.
- We must continue to grow and nurture our vibrant arts and tourism communities. By empowering their creative forces, they will help drive the new Gloucester visitor economy. We will tackle the realities of increased traffic and affordable housing for artists while continuing to market Gloucester as a visitor destination.
- We must recognize the value of city assets as we look to the future and grow. We will evaluate the opportunities at the Fuller School property as well as others and we will make sure that the priorities of public safety and the schools are planned for and funded appropriately.

Our city continues to work together building a place to raise our kids, start businesses, and live *la dolce vida*. We certainly have challenges and we don't shy away from them. Our best days come when we are united.

Our City is strong and it will only get stronger. Why? Because we embrace our differences – we value each other – and we work together.

This is why Gloucester is the greatest – small City – in America.

Congratulations again and thank you to all who serve Gloucester. God bless you and Happy New Year!"