

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, October 18, 2016 – 6:15 p.m.
O'Maley Innovation Middle School Library

-MINUTES-

Present: President, Councilor Joseph Ciolino; Vice President, Councilor Steven LeBlanc, Jr.; Councilor James O'Hara, Jr.; Councilor Valerie Gilman; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor Scott Memhard (6:40 p.m.); Councilor Joseph Orlando, Jr. (6:50 p.m.)

Absent: Councilor Paul Lundberg; Councilor Melissa Cox

Also Present: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; Joanne Senos; Christopher Sicuranza; John Dunn; Daniel Smith; Michael Hale

The meeting was called to order at 6:24 p.m.

Flag Salute & Moment of Silence. Waived.

Oral Communications: None.

Action: Review of the Resubmission of the MassDOT Prioritization Plan of the Safe & Accessible Streets Program

Mayor Theken stated that the plan that was previously presented should not have been presented. She stated that if she wanted to sneak something by the public, she would not have sent the plan to *Good Morning Gloucester*, Ray Lamont of the *Gloucester Daily Times*, Damon Cummings, and Peter Anastas. Her understanding was that the plan could be changed after it was submitted. When she previously stated that the plan doesn't need to be voted on by the City Council, she didn't mean she didn't need input from the Council. She noted that in the past year-and-a-half, she has never put anything forward without the Council's input.

Mayor Theken indicated that a new set of plans for the sidewalks and crosswalks is being presented tonight. The plan does not contain a roundabout and does not change any roads. A site visit will also be conducted. She noted that the plan needs to be submitted tomorrow but that it can be withdrawn if necessary. She stated that the city is asking for this money now because she was informed that there are many applicants and not enough funds.

Finally, **Mayor Theken** apologized to **Mike Hale** for the insulting remarks made at the recent City Council meeting. She also reported that her staff has been accused of not answering emails, but she has proof that they did respond.

Mike Hale stated that the proposal that went forward previously was just an idea but was taken as more than that. He indicated that he takes some responsibility for that, as he is the one who submits the plans through Community Development. He reported that the plan that is before the Council tonight includes the raising and resetting of granite curbing along Western Avenue within its existing footprint, new sidewalks on Angle Street, a small section of mountable sidewalk between Angle Street and Washington Street, the raising and resetting of granite curbing and new sidewalks on Washington Street up to the alley behind the American Legion, an ADA sidewalk between Main and Rogers Streets, and a sidewalk along the frontage of Tally's gas station.

Mr. Hale noted that the crosswalk that runs from Main Street diagonally across the intersection into a raised island will be made more perpendicular, running from the edge of Washington Street over to Tally's at a right angle and making the top of the existing island a mountable surface. He reported that there will be no work done southeast of the existing traffic island, i.e. nothing along St. Peter's Square, Commercial Street or Rogers Street. There will be handicap ramps at every intersection and crosswalk. There will be no roundabout, no traffic movement changes, and no pedestrian islands on Commercial Street. The existing islands will remain intact since they do not interfere with traffic.

The following matters were discussed:

- Width of the sidewalk in front of Tally's
- Difference between an apron and sidewalk
- Cost estimate for the project
- Site visit for businesses
- Next phase of the project (next funding cycle)
- Construction completion date – June 2017
- Development of a plan for Fisherman's Wharf

Council President Ciolino noted that the City Council has the authority under the Zoning Code of Ordinances to establish and construct sidewalks. He spoke about the project at Flannagan Square and how it was handled between the City Council and the Mayor's Office, including a City Council public hearing. He suggested that this process be followed going forward.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria C. Puglisi
Substitute Recorder

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:

- **Memorandum from Daniel Smith and Michael Hale to Mayor Theken regarding Complete Streets Program/Revised Scope of Work**