

**GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, November 22, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

**-MINUTES-**

**Present:** Chair, Councilor Joseph Ciolino; Vice Chair, Steven LeBlanc, Jr.; Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Paul Lundberg (left the meeting at 9:09 p.m.); Councilor Valerie Gilman; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor James O’Hara; Councilor Joseph Orlando, Jr.

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Mayor Sefatia Theken; Joanne Senos; Kenny Costa; John Dunn; Nancy Papows; Gary Johnstone; Bethann Brousseau; Tim Good; Chris Sicuranza; Chad Johnson; Adam Curcuru

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Council President announced that this meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law.

**Flag Salute & Moment of Silence.**

**Oral Communications:** None.

**Presentations/Commendations:**

1 of 2: Amanda Kesterson & Pat Kavanagh-Morris: Wreaths Across America

**Amanda Kesterson**, with Patricia Kavanagh-Morris, noted this is a national organization, whose mission is to remember, honor and teach about the country’s veterans. All veterans living and dead deserve equal honor, she said, and children often are left out in the honoring process, but with remember, honor and teach, a child can physically place a wreath on a grave, and learn about the sacrifices of this nation’s veterans. She gave a brief history of the organization which started with one man, who when young visited Arlington Cemetery, and as an adult, donated wreaths to that same iconic final resting place of the nation’s U.S. military veterans. In 2007, that same man founded the non-profit, Wreaths Across America. She advised that money is raised on a grass-root level forwarded to the national organization, but money also goes to the local cemeteries. She noted the activities of Ms. Kavanagh-Morris who is from the North Shore, who had worked with this organization previously. They are now working with Adam Curcuru, the city’s Veteran’s Agent to bring this program to Gloucester, she advised and announced a call for volunteers to place wreaths and remove them at the end of the holiday season. She said it is hoped the local Wreaths Across America will raise enough funds eventually to place wreaths at all the veterans’ graves of all four Cape Ann communities. She advised there will be a ceremony on Dec. 17 at Beachbrook at noon with the Mayor and area officials, place the wreaths and then go to Rockport to do the same. She said she and Ms. Kavanagh-Morris are asking for the Council’s and community’s support, noting there has already been a great response which was gratifying.

2 of 2: Recognition of A.J. Orlando Alex Sands, Annisquam Landcare re: Clarke Cemetery

**Council President Ciolino** said it is the volunteers in the city that get things done. With resources slim to maintain city cemeteries, the volunteers who stepped forward to volunteer to clean up Clark Cemetery, these people stepped forward. There are those who work to clean up the city, and help in so many other ways. He said the Council wants to honor now those folks who helped to clean up Clark Cemetery recently.

**Councilor Orlando** called up Alex Sands, owner of Annisquam Landcare, and read a Council citation lauding Mr. Sands and his employees for the many volunteer hours they extended to the clean-up project at Clark Cemetery (a part of the First Parish Burial Grounds). He expressed the thanks of the Council for Mr. Sands’ spirit of community volunteerism.

**Consent Agenda:**

• ***MAYOR’S REPORT***

1. Memorandum from Community Development Director re: City Council acceptance of the anticipated Commonwealth of Mass. & National Park Service Award Letter Federal Land & Water Conservation Fund Grant Program for Stage Fort Park Beautification In the amount of \$250,000 (Refer B&F)
2. Memorandum from Gloucester Waterways Board re: permission to use retained earnings for new equipment in the amount of \$8,714 and Supplemental Appropriations (2017-SA-11, -12, -13 & -14) (Refer B&F)
3. Grant Packet proposed by Economic Development Director re: Local Maritime Economic Planning Development Grant Site

- Selection Study for a Visiting Boater Support Center & Harbormaster's Office (for information only) (Refer B&F)
4. Letter from Good Energy re: DPU Process, Current Program Status & current timeframe for launching aggregation program (Info Only)
5. New Appointments: Affordable Housing Trust TTE 02/14/19 Rick Doucette  
Tourism Commission TTE 02/14/20 Carla O'Connor
- & Resignation of Waterways Board Member, David McCauley (Refer O&A)
- **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
1. Letter from Executive Director of PERAC re: Appropriation for Fiscal Year 2017 (for information only) (Refer B&F)
2. City Council vote of October 13, 2015 regarding GCO Art. 2, "Dogs," Sections 4-15, 4-19 and 4-20 (FCV 12/13/16)
- **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
1. PP2016-010: Request from National Grid & Verizon New England to move and relocate one JO Pole re: 66 Woodward Avenue (Refer P&D)
- **COUNCILORS ORDERS**
1. CC2016-050 (Gilman) Amend GCO Sec. 4-21 "Dog fouling" (Refer O&A)
2. CC2016-051 (Gilman) Amend GCO Sec. 4-21a "Dogs allowed on public beaches at certain times" (Refer O&A)
- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING**
1. Joint City Council & School Committee Meeting: 10/18/16 (Approve/File)
2. City Council Meeting: 11/07/16 (Approve/File)
3. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 11/17/16, O&A 11/14/16 (no meeting), P&D 11/16/16 (Approve/File)

### Unanimous Consent Calendar:

1. Memorandum from Library Director re: authorization to apply for, accept and expend any state funds which might be available to defray all or part of the cost of the design, construction and equipping of the library project (Refer B&F)

### Items to be added/deleted from the Consent Agenda and Unanimous Consent Calendar:

**By unanimous consent the Consent Agenda and Unanimous Consent Calendar were accepted as presented.**

### Committee Reports:

#### **Budget & Finance: November 17, 2016**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-10 in the amount of \$100,000 from Account #6000-328000 Water Enterprise, Special Purpose Fund Balance Reserve, to Account #600052-540000 Water Enterprise Fund, Supplies, for the purpose of funding the purchase of various pipes, fittings, meter supplies, hydrant markers, etc., as used by the DPW Water Department.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Memhard** reviewed that the Water Department needs \$100,000 from the reserve account to replenish supplies and swap out older meters and get hydrant markers on all city hydrants. The account is reserved for this specific purpose, he advised.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-10 in the amount of \$100,000 from Account #6000-328000 Water Enterprise, Special Purpose Fund Balance Reserve, to Account #600052-540000 Water Enterprise Fund, Supplies, for the purpose of funding the purchase of various pipes, fittings, meter supplies, hydrant markers, etc., as used by the DPW Water Department.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Special Budgetary Transfer 2017-SBT-8 in the amount of \$60,000 from Account #S1102505-511101, GHS Salaries-School Leader Professional to Account #0121151-513000, Police Uniform-Overtime, for the purpose of funding the Gloucester High School Resource Officer.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Memhard** said that this is an annual transfer from the School Department to the Police Department funding services of the High School Resource officer which is a budgeted personnel expense. He pointed out that the High School's Resource Officer has proven to be an asset to the high school community.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, approve Special Budgetary Transfer 2017-SBT-8 in the amount of \$60,000 from Account #S1102505-511101, GHS Salaries-School Leader Professional to Account #0121151-513000, Police Uniform-Overtime, for the purpose of funding the Gloucester High School Resource Officer.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council in accordance with MGL c. 44, §64 approve payment of prior year invoices to be paid with FY2017 budgeted funds from the current FY2017 Gloucester Public Schools budget as follows:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Home Depot	2022669	June 15, 2016	\$ 810.63
Gloucester Rental Center	130819	May 20, 2016	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
		Total:	<u>\$2,010.63</u>

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Memhard** conveyed that the School Department was in receipt of two invoices submitted for late payment from FY16. The School Department will pay out from its FY17 budget. The invoice from the Gloucester rental center was for the rental of tables for a college fair, and the second was for items purchased for a technology program.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, in accordance with MGL c. 44, §64 to approve payment of prior year invoices to be paid with FY2017 budgeted funds from the current FY2017 Gloucester Public Schools budget as follows:**

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Gloucester Rental Center	130819	May 20, 2016	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
		Total:	<u>\$2,010.63</u>

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council approve payment of for the services of a temporary administrative Police Department employee through Accountemps, Chicago, IL; invoices to be paid with FY2017 funds from the Police-Administration, Purchase of Services, Account #0121052-520000 for a total of \$1,504.00 without purchase orders in place as follows:

<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
46638741	09/13/16	\$320.00
46687587	09/20/16	\$320.00
46738368	09/27/16	\$320.00
46773370	10/03/16	\$320.00
46857035	10/12/16	<u>\$224.00</u>
	TOTAL	\$1,504.00

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Memhard** recounted that the permission to pay invoices without a purchase order in place is a housekeeping matter. Going forward the temporary agency will not be brought back to provide a temporary employee for the Police Department as they are now looking to hire a full-time employee.

**Council President Ciolino** noted the invoice for \$224. **Councilor Memhard** suggested number is different likely due to less than a full week being worked by the temporary employee.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed to approve payment of for the services of a temporary administrative Police Department employee through Accountemps, Chicago, IL; invoices to be paid with FY2017 funds from the Police-Administration, Purchase of Services, Account #0121052-520000 for a total of \$1,504.00 without purchase orders in place as follows:**

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46773370	10/03/16	\$320.00
46857035	10/12/16	\$224.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,504.00</b>

**Councilor Memhard** commended the Mayor and her staff, and in particular, formerly retired CAO, Jim Destino as well as the CFO, John Dunn and City Auditor, Kenny Costa for accomplishing a very healthy Free Cash account. He prefaced the following four Supplemental Appropriations coming up for vote by the Council related to the city's General Fund Retained Earnings (Free Cash) as follows:

The Department of Revenue of Local Services certified the city's General Fund Free Cash on October 25 in the amount of \$2,269,409. The Enterprise Funds Free Cash results were: Waterways Enterprise Fund -- \$43,421; Talbot Rink Enterprise Fund -- \$77,191; Water Enterprise Fund -- \$438,668 and Sewer Enterprise Fund -- \$555,346. The Administration has committed to use \$460,508 of the General Fund Free Cash to amortize the second year of the of the FY2015 Snow & Ice deficit according to the approved amortization schedule which the Council agreed upon. That leaves a balance \$1,808,901 to be allocated according to the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy as previously proposed by the Administration and adopted by the Council to be distributed as follows:

Capital Projects Stabilization Fund (40 %)	\$823,560
Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund (20%)	\$361,780
General Stabilization Fund (10%)	\$180,891
Remaining as unreserved Free Cash (30%)	\$542,670

He observed that these are healthy stabilization funds, and it is the point of the policy to build up each of the stabilization funds. He cautioned that this means that the amount of free cash that will be certified each year will be reduced because it is reserved in the Stabilization Funds, absent of any unforeseen revenue or a snow-free winter and those funds will no longer fall to the bottom line..

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-4 in the amount of \$460,508.00 (Four Hundred Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Eight Dollars) from General Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance (“Free Cash”), Account #0001-359000, to General Fund-Designated for Authorized Snow & Ice Amortization, Account #0001-359201, for the purpose of funding the second year of a three-year Snow & Ice Amortization Schedule.

**DISCUSSION: None.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-4 in the amount of \$460,508.00 (Four Hundred Sixty Thousand Five Hundred Eight Dollars) from General Fund – Undesignated Fund Balance (“Free Cash”), Account #0001-359000, to General Fund-Designated for Authorized Snow & Ice Amortization, Account #0001-359201, for the purpose of funding the second year of a three-year Snow & Ice Amortization Schedule.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider its vote for Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-4 in the amount of \$460,508 to fund the second year of a three-year Snow & Ice Amortization Schedule.**

**MOTION FAILS**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-5 in the amount of \$723,560.00 (Seven Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Dollars) from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance ("Free Cash"), Account #0001-359000 to Capital Projects Stabilization Fund, Transfers from the General Fund, Account #760001-497001 per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.

**DISCUSSION: None.**

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-5 in the amount of \$723,560.00 (Seven Hundred Twenty Three Thousand Five Hundred Sixty Dollars) from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance ("Free Cash"), Account #0001-359000 to Capital Projects Stabilization Fund, Transfers from the General Fund, Account #760001-497001 per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider its vote for Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-5 in the amount of \$723,560.00 to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund account per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.**

**MOTION FAILS**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-6 in the amount of \$361,780.00 (Three Hundred Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Dollars) from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance ("Free Cash"), Account #0001-359000 to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund, Transfers from the General Fund, Account #770001-497001 per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.

**DISCUSSION: None.**

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-6 in the amount of \$361,780.00 (Three Hundred Sixty One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty Dollars) from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance ("Free Cash"), Account #0001-359000 to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund, Transfers from the General Fund, Account #770001-497001 per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider its vote for Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-6 in the amount of \$361,780.00 to the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund account per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.**

**MOTION FAILS**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-7 in the amount of \$180,897.00 (One Hundred Eight Thousand Eight

Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars) from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance (“Free Cash”), Account #0001-359000 to the General Stabilization Fund, Account #75004-497001 per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.

**DISCUSSION: None.**

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-7 in the amount of \$180,897.00 (One Hundred Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars) from the General Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance (“Free Cash”), Account #0001-359000 to the General Stabilization Fund, Account #75004-497001 per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider its vote for Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-7 in the amount of \$180,897.00 to the General Stabilization Fund account per the Capital Plan Funding and Free Cash Distribution Policy.**

**MOTION FAILS**

**Councilor Memhard** advised that the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund after these transfers will have a balance of about \$1.6 million; the Building Maintenance Stabilization Fund about \$700,000 and the General Stabilization Fund about \$2.4 million, or overall balances totaling about \$4.7 million.

**Councilor Memhard** then conveyed the following information about a request to allocate August 2016 General Fund Bond Premium:

As a result of the sale of \$13,250,000 of bonds in August 2016, the city recorded \$855,538.59 of unbudgeted Bond Premium revenue, net of issuance costs, in the General Fund. Bond Premium is essentially a marketing strategy used by bidders in which they “overpay” for the bonds to enhance the yield when sold to outside investors. The end result of Bond Premium is that the bidders are able to market bonds with an enhanced coupon rate but the city’s net interest costs reflect market rates at the time of issuance. There are a number of ways in which a municipality can treat Bond Premium revenue. The Administration through the CFO has suggested that appropriate uses for this fairly large Premium amount would be to: 1) fund other capital projects and 2) credit a current capital project, specifically the West Parish School project in order to reduce the amount of debt to be issued in the future.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-8 in the amount of \$420,000.00 (Four Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars) from the General Fund, Premium from Sale of Bonds, Account #00900900-493000, to CIP17 Building Improvements & Departmental Vehicles Capital Project Fund, Transfer in from General Fund, Account #50434-497001 for the purpose of funding various city capital projects.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Memhard** then explained that this Supplemental Appropriation would fund the following capital projects at their total estimated costs of \$420,000. Because these are estimated costs, they are appropriate the gross amount to be used to fund the costs of all the combined projects so as to have flexibility should actual costs per project vary from the estimates, and all numbers are rounded up by the CFO. The breakdown is as follows:

**\$165,000:** For DPW fleet vehicles including two new pick-up trucks and three vans replacing rolling stock over 20 years old and will be purchased from the state-wide consortium and old stock may be auctioned and some may be stripped for parts.

**\$20,000:** For an SUV to be used for Municipal Inspection functions and \$10,000 more will come from the vacant building fund and as such the vehicle will be used one-third of the time by the Vacant Building Inspector.

**\$80,000:** For internal renovations at Plum Cove School to subdivide classroom space for use as an art room, reading coach space and school psychologist space with associated electric etc. These are necessary renovations in order to be in compliance with state regulations and providing privacy for the school

psychologist when providing services for school students. This was framed by the Gloucester Public Schools Director of Finance and Operations as a low-cost resolution of several outstanding and urgent issues.

**\$120,000:** Replacement of the four exterior doors at City Hall which are in poor condition and the addition of card access technology, as well as outdoor lighting.

**\$35,000:** Exterior renovations (carpentry and paint) to the Veterans Services building located on Emerson Avenue. The carpentry and painting work will be done through a therapeutic program run out of the VA in Bedford. The VA will oversee the project that will be done by veterans in their program. He said the city pays for the supplies, and pays these veterans a stipend. In turn it allows the veterans to contribute to a community project, support fellow veterans, work towards reentering the community/work environment while continuing their counselling. Any liability is covered by the VA as the VA would be acting as an independent contractor. He advised this is a first step towards the important task of renovating the Veterans Center on Emerson Avenue.

**Councilor Cox** noted there was a great need for a bucket truck and asked why this wasn't on the list of capital purchases for the city. **John Dunn**, CFO advised that if the city moves forward to purchase a bucket truck, the Administration would come forward in the future seeking Free Cash to fund it.

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-8 in the amount of \$420,000.00 (Four Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars) from the General Fund, Premium from Sale of Bonds, Account #00900900-493000, to CIP17 Building Improvements & Departmental Vehicles Capital Project Fund, Transfer in from General Fund, Account #50434-497001 for the purpose of funding various city capital projects.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider its vote for Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-8 in the amount of \$420,000.00 to the CIP17 Building Improvements & Department Vehicles Capital Project Fund for the purpose of funding various city capital projects.**

#### **MOTION FAILS**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-9 in the amount of \$435,538.59 (Four Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Fifty Nine Cents) from the General Fund, Premium from Sale of Bonds, Account #00900900-493000, to West Parish School Construction Project-Transfer from General Fund, Account #50334-497001 for the purpose of funding the West Parish School construction project account to reduce the amount of debt issuance in the future.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Memhard** said that this Supplemental Appropriation related to the use of premium from the sale of bond funds which will move \$435,538.59 to the West Parish Elementary School construction project fund to reduce the amount of debt that will have to be issued in the future.

**Councilor Cox** said she was pleased with the revenue sale and the possible pay down of West Parish, she pointed out that the city placed a great deal of expenses onto the taxpayers in the form of the debt shifts for the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund debt service and the CSO project, and asked if it was possible this money could go to pay down that debt instead of the West Parish School debt in order to relieve the taxpayers of that particular city financial burden. **Mr. Dunn** said, "No." He pointed out he'd have to ask Bond Counsel that question, and advised the bond premium would be applied for a capital projects that haven't been done yet, or more specifically, \$10 million of the \$13.25 million debt issued in August was West Parish School. He added that this piece being transferred back into that capital project is an appropriate use for the bond premium. Councilor Cox pointed out Mr. Dunn had stated that the bond premium funds were for projects not yet completed, and the West Parish School project is completed, and the CSO is on-going. **Mr. Dunn** explained that the West Parish School total debt hasn't been issued yet -- \$10 million in debt has been issued, and more will be issued, but not until the MSBA audit is completed as well as the timing and where interest rates go. It is proposed to transfer into the West Parish Construction Project account \$435, 538.59 in bond premium funds which means that is \$435,538.59 the city will not

have to issue in the future out of net project costs. **Councilor Cox** reiterated her on-going concern for the CSO debt continuing to burden the taxpayers and that those projects continue that haven't been shifted onto the taxpayers at this point. She asked if the bond premium funds could go towards that debt so that there is no future debt shift. **Mr. Dunn** said it could, but he wouldn't recommend it. He explained that most of the bond premium was brought in because of the issuance of General Fund Debt and that he wanted to keep it as General Fund debt. **Councilor Cox** advised she accepted Mr. Dunn's explanation.

**MOTION: On motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-9 in the amount of \$435,538.59 (Four Hundred Thirty Five Thousand Five Hundred Thirty Eight Dollars and Fifty Nine Cents) from the General Fund, Premium from Sale of Bonds, Account #00900900-493000, to West Parish School Construction Project- Transfer from General Fund, Account #50334-497001 for the purpose of funding the West Parish School construction project account to reduce the amount of debt issuance in the future.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider its vote for Supplemental Appropriation 2017-SA-9 in the amount of \$435,538.59 to the West Parish School Construction Project for the purpose of funding the West Parish School construction project account to reduce the amount of debt issuance in the future.**

**MOTION FAILS.**

**Ordinances & Administration: November 14, 2016 - No Meeting**

**Planning & Development: November 16, 2016**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept the schematic design for the Sawyer Free Library Building entitled, "Sawyer Free Library, Gloucester Massachusetts, Project Meeting #10, November 16, 2016, Oudens Ello Architecture.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Lundberg** conveyed to the Council that the Council is being asked to accept schematic designs for the proposed new Sawyer Free Library building only, so that the Library Board may apply for a Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners Grant to fund 40 percent of the construction costs for which such an acceptance is required. This grant cycle happens only every ten years, and the Library has missed the last two cycles. If the library is awarded this grant, which is much like that of the MSBA grant for the construction of the West Parish School, it would be about two to three years before the funds were forthcoming. The P&D Committee was assured by Meredith Fine, the Library's Board President that no city funds will be sought to fund the new library that only CPA Act funds may likely be applied for. If there is a shortfall in funding, the Library anticipates embarking on a capital fundraising effort. Additionally, it was noted by members of the Ad Hoc Building Committee for the Sawyer Free Library that there is anticipated community outreach as well.

**Council President Ciolino** asked Meredith Fine, Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library ("Library") Board of Directors President for a brief overview of the proposed library construction project.

**Ms. Fine** communicated that the Library's Board of Directors is proud to embark on the proposed building program. She reiterated that state grant funds only come around every 10 years, and this cycle's current grant application deadline is January 26. She then highlighted that:

- The Library has hired the same team that managed and brought in the West Parish School construction project under budget and on time, KBA (present was Kevin Buckley, Project Manager). A member of the Ad Hoc Library Building Committee was acknowledged, former City Councilor, Paul McGeary and Library Director, Deborah Kelsey.
- The first step in the formation of the Library's application is for the Council is to accept the schematics, and the second step, a matter referred this evening to Budget & Finance for a recommendation, is to accept the grant in advance from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners for action at the next Council meeting. The Library will not ask for any Prop 2 ½ overrides, nor will they be asking for city funds or



- expenditures, but will ask for donations. The Library will fund through the state grant, the funds that the library has and through a capital campaign, it was assured.
- Schematic designs (on file) which were needed to make the Library's application were then reviewed. Briefly described was a two-story adult reading room; and floor plans were reviewed and termed by Ms. Fine as, "a work in progress." Various parts of the proposed library were pointed out to accommodate services of a library in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Study rooms, a local history room, staff space, an auditorium were noted. It was advised that the biggest design flaw of the current library facility is the fact that the children's and teen library section is situated in the ground floor next to the parking lot and adult restroom facilities. The proposed new design moves that space to the third floor and also will create areas specifically for teens, and will also see a partially covered, outdoor terrace. The site's landscaping plan is very preliminary, it was noted.

**Ms. Fine** reiterated that the schematic designs are required to be accepted as part of the grant application package submission. This is anticipated to be a three-year project which she said has received a great deal of support. This is a project that will make the city very proud, she indicated.

**Councilor Lundberg** asked for a brief outline the library's plan to provide services during the removal of the old library and the building of the new library. **Ms. Fine** said the plan is for some kind of a centralized downtown space, not that large, and then provide services in the villages of the city. Since many library patrons' order books that get delivered the next day, it isn't anticipated the library will have a need for a large centralized space.

**Councilor Gilman** noted the conversation at the P&D Committee included the information of the numbers of visits that made to the library, and of the many meetings that take place there annually. **Ms. Fine** said people need libraries more than ever which are now considered cultural and artistic centers. There were 160,000 visitors this past year to the library which offered about 500 programs for adults and children. The library is used for computer services, books but is now expected to provide literacy programs and public speakers, she noted.

**Councilor Nolan** said a library says a lot about its community. This library is growing with its English language programs, its teen and 'tween programs. He indicated that the new facility will be a community asset – that when look at the community whether to move here, be they residential or businesses, they look at a city's library. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the library's board. **Ms. Fine** expressed her agreement, saying that people do look at the library as a sign of the community's commitment.

**Councilor Cox** asked if a meeting date has been set for community outreach. **Ms. Fine** advised they don't have a date set yet, but there is a marketing team, she said, that is helping to lay out the steps. She reiterated they are sprinting to meet the grant deadline. She said they want public input and will solicit it, but they are just trying to pull the application together. There will be public meetings before the application is due, she assured.

**Councilor Orlando** expressed appreciation that the library board will fund the construction project this without city funds. He said the children's programs that are very popular which he has participated in with his two-year old son. He asked what will be done while the library is under construction as to their many popular programs.

**Deborah Kelsey**, Library Director, said it is hoped that the library would run children's programs in the city schools in the evenings for parents and children. If that doesn't work out she said the library will look at other public spaces in the community.

**Councilor Gilman** suggested that the library team develop a press release to express what has happened to date with the project's process.

**Councilor Memhard** commented that it is fortunate the presentation is made to the business community present who were at the meeting in light of the upcoming Tax Classification public hearing so they would be able offer their support to help make the new library happen.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Lundberg, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept the schematic design for the Sawyer Free Library Building entitled, "Sawyer Free Library, Gloucester Massachusetts, Project Meeting #10, November 16, 2016, Oudens Ello Architecture.**

**Scheduled Public Hearings:**

1. PH2016-053: SCP2016-004: Great Republic Drive #38, Map 263, Lot 64, GZO Sec. 1.5.3 (c), Sec. 5.7 "Major Project" & Sec. 5.27 "Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facilities" (TBC 12/13/17)

**This public hearing is opened at 7:55 p.m.**

**Council President Ciolino** announced that this matter was asked to be continued by the applicant to the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

**This public hearing is continued at 7:55 p.m. to December 13, 2016**

- 2. PH2016-054: SCP2016-005: Great Republic Drive #41, Map 263, Lot 58, GZO Sec. 1.5.3 (c), Sec. 2.3.2, Sec. 5.7 "Major Project" & Sec. 5.27 "Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers and Medical Marijuana Cultivation Facilities" (TBC 01/10/16)**

**This public hearing is opened at 7:58 p.m.**

**Council President Ciolino** reported that this matter with the assent of the Applicant is continued to January 10, 2017.

**This public hearing is continued at 7:58 p.m. to January 10, 2017.**

- 3. PH2016-057: Tax Classification in accordance with MGL c. 40, §56 and GCO Sec. 2-26 to determine the percentage of the local tax levy for the Fiscal Year 2017 to be borne by each class of real and personal property**

**Nancy Papows**, Principal Assessor announced that values and new growth for FY17 were certified by the Department of Revenue on November 14, 2016. Referring to the Tax Classification Information for Fiscal Year 2017 (on file) documentation, she recounted that four options to consider as part of the tax classification process: 1) a residential factor must be adopted which determines the share of the tax levy that will be paid by each property class; 2) consider an Open Space discount; 3) consider a residential; and 4) a small commercial exemption. NOTE: The adoption of different rates does **not** change the total property tax levy, rather, it determines the share to be borne by each class.

**Ms. Papows** then reviewed the Tax Classification Information for Fiscal Year 2017 (on file) with the Council: Page 4 – A Comparison of Fiscal 2017 Values by Class: The Residential class this year represents 89.80 percent (\$5,325,464,096) of the total value of the City, and Commercial/Industrial/Personal Property (CIP) class represents 10.20 percent (\$5,397,966,264). The taxable value of the city increased this year by 7.11 percent from FY16. Based on sales analysis, the residential class as a whole saw a market increase of 7.13 percent. The individual classes within the residential class -- single family class, condominium class, two- and three-family class and apartment class of properties all saw increases in the range of 7 to 8 percent. The commercial and industrial classes had an increase based on market adjustments of about 2 percent this year.

Pages 5 – Fiscal Year Parcel Counts, Values, and percent of Total Taxable City Value: The table on this page shows the parcel counts and the assessed values of each class from 2005 to present.

Page 6 – Previous Classification Factors and Resulting Tax Rate: The table shows the historic shift factors adopted over the years, and the associated residential shift factors. The 1.06 shift factor has been adopted for the last eleven years, shifting a portion of the residential tax burden to the CIP classes.

Page 7 – Calculating the Maximum Allowable Levy: The table shows the calculation of the maximum allowable levy for FY17. It starts with the levy limit from the prior year and added to that is the Prop 2-1/2 increase and new growth from Residential and CIP classes which results in the FY17 levy limit. Added to that are the debt exclusions -- the Pole's Hill debt exclusion (which runs through 2019), the CSO debt, and the water debt shifts, which results in the maximum FY17 allowable levy at \$78,569,866 and the water debt. That figure divided by the total value of all parcels in the city results in the FY17 tax rate at a factor of 1.0 is a tax rate of \$13.24 (down 47 cents from FY16 from last year's factor of 1.0). The tax rate at a factor of 1.0 it would result in all properties paying the same rate for all classes of property. At a factor above 1.0, a portion of the residential tax levy would shift to a different class.

Page 8 – FY17 Tax Rate at a Factor of One = \$13.24, Shift in Tax Rate: This shows approximate tax rates that would result from the various shifts to the CIP class. The maximum shift allowed by the state is 1.5 percent (represented by 150%).

Page 9 – Comparison of Levy by Class at Various Shift Factors: This page further shows the levy by class and approximate shift of the levy and also shows the approximate excess levy capacity that results which is approximate based on a rounding of the tax rates when the tax recap is completed.

Page 10 – Change in Tax Dollars at Various Shifts: This shows the actual change in tax dollars for properties at different levels in terms of valuations (at various shifts). For instance, a property value at \$500,000 is the closest to the average single family home in Gloucester which is \$528,647 this year. At last year's shift factor of 1.06 that would save the residential taxpayer \$45 per year while the CIP taxpayer pays an additional \$400. The extreme as

shown at the bottom of the page shows that a \$1 million property at a 1.5 shift saves the residential taxpayer would save \$375 annually while the CIP taxpayer would see an increase of \$3,315.

Page 11 – Open Space Discount and Residential Exemptions. This page explains the open space discount. There are no parcels defined as open space in the City at this time.

Page 11 and 12 Residential Exemptions and Page 13 – Small Commercial Exemption: The Mayor has not opted to adopt either the Residential or Small Commercial Exemptions this year.

**This public hearing is opened at 7:59 p.m.**

**Those speaking in favor:**

**Mayor Sefatia Theken** said that she would like to see the Tax Classification factor stay the same at 1.06 as for the last eleven years. She said it is important that the city makes no changes in a time of economic uncertainty. She explained that homeowners, families, and elderly will then be able to plan their budgets for the year knowing that the city's finances give them a sense of security. She advised that while welcoming new businesses to the city, they will work with any business who would like to make Gloucester their home. In a presentation from the Professor Bluestone of Northeastern University at a recent Chamber of Commerce event, business owners don't look at the tax incentive when they decided to locate (in a particular community), but look at the entire economic engine – access, housing, schools, quality of the resident workforce, transportation and other factors. (Keeping the Tax Classification factor at 1.06) would provide a sense of stability within the community, she advised, and that changing the ratio would change that sense of stability. There are private roads with no city water or sewer provided and yet those residents who live there pay city taxes and are paying for the debt shift. She reminded the Councilors that most of their constituents have not come out to this public hearing as have some of the local business people because they trust that there will be consistency and stability in their tax rate. She cautioned the Council to be careful in setting the tax rate. She said look at the mortgages that people have to pay and that for some when taxes increase on their homes, it impacts their mortgage payments.

**Paul McGeary**, 31 Eastern Avenue, voiced his objection to the B&F recommendation that would eliminate tax classification in the city, making businesses and residential homeowners pay the same rate per \$1,000 valuation on their property. He said he believed that the city needs to remain affordable for working people. While property values have risen dramatically in recent years, he pointed out that salaries and wages have not. In particular persons living on fixed income have fallen farther and farther behind as compared with inflation, he said. He conveyed that Tax classification allows the city to soften the blow of paying for the increasing cost of city services, the vast majority of which are borne by residential taxpayers. By eliminating tax classification will effectively double-down on the increase, he pointed out. He noted that in the Principal Assessor's presentation that average increases in property values have risen 7 to 8 percent in recent years, meaning that even if the tax rate were to remain level for FY 2017, the residential taxpayer will pay more. While Proposition 2 ½ limits what the city may spend, he said, it has no effect on what an individual pays. He pointed out that a person's share of the tax burden is driven solely by the value of his or her property. To eliminate tax classification now -- in the face of increasing individual property values -- would be to dramatically raise the tax burden on individual homeowners, he said. He reminded the Councilors who were here in 2015 to recall the outcry created by moving part of the city's borrowing for water and sewer infrastructure onto the tax rate. The way the city's real estate taxes are billed, the entire year's increase for 2017 will be paid over the last half of the fiscal year, he added. He further explained that the increase is all billed in the last two quarterly bills. He cautioned the Councilors that they may not wish to be in the same place when residents open their January tax bills and see the effect of that double-whammy.

**Mr. McGeary** conveyed his belief that there was a larger issue -- that if the city was to remain a working town, a place where people of modest means can still afford to live and raise their families, the city must take whatever small steps it can to keep housing affordable. He said a classification factor to 1.1 or even higher, would be a modest but important step in that direction. The pressures toward gentrification and to Gloucester becoming a Nantucket or a Newport are strong enough without our aiding them, he noted. Once that, "Pandora's box," has been opened, he advised, the pressures to de-industrialize the city's harbor, to turn it into condos and yacht slips, will only grow and grow. The pressures will eventually be irresistible and the businesses will have no choice but to chase developers' dollars -- the transformation will be complete. He encouraged the Council to consider, at a minimum to maintaining the current classification factor and even increasing it. Pointing to the city's neighbors on the North Shore he advised they have done so without causing industry and businesses to flee. With Gloucester's strengths -- its natural, historic and cultural resources and most of all the talented and industrious population -- they can do no less, he concluded.

**Those speaking in opposition:**

**Ken Riehl**, CEO, Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, said that the Chamber's 500 business members are in full support for the proposed B&F recommendation of a tax classification factor of 1.00. He pointed out the CIP factor has been 1.06 for some time now; although having a small effect on individual homeowners, about \$45 in savings for a \$500,000 property, equating to about a tank of gas, for businesses, it has a 10 times greater impact. If they levy the rate on the entire business tax assessment of almost \$600 million it equates to about \$5 million in tax cost which in turn equates to a lot of jobs, he pointed out. The elimination of this tax, he said is not about the financial benefit to the business community, but it is more about the message it sends to all businesses especially to those who would relocate here -- that Gloucester is business friendly and that the city is encouraging business growth. He reminded the Council with the advent of new business there are new jobs, new residents and increasing tax revenue which benefits the entire community.

**Mr. Riehl** said the city's economic situation was mixed, currently, and at a critical point in light of the significant investment of the Beauport Hotel and other businesses opening in part because of it with these businesses serving both the tourist and local populations. He noted that the hotel is marketing itself to major corporations for seminars and off-site meeting space. He advised this was a great opportunity to introduce a new business segment to Gloucester and the Cape Ann region.

He asked the Council to consider the following four points: Because of the severe fishing regulations, the city's business base has been impacted dropping 30 percent over the last 20 years -- from 15 percent of the tax base to 10 percent. Over the last three years, home port landings are down 30 percent -- from 2010 to 2013, about \$8 million; large parcels of high-value property is under-utilized; and the school system has seen a decrease in enrollment. He said that Gloucester remains a fishing community but the mix of businesses is changing, with the visitor-based economy growing leading to substantial new investment like the Beauport Hotel resulting in record low unemployment rates of 3.9 percent in the city but that the down side is that this type of business is seasonal.

**Mr. Riehl** noted a recent report by UMass/Donahue Institute shows a projected substantial population decline for Gloucester as its population is dominated by baby boomers with millennials fewer in number, and unlike the other North Shore communities, immigrants aren't moving here. He pointed out that housing prices in Gloucester are among the highest of any city on the North Shore. He highlighted positive news that Gloucester has so much to offer with issues that they are working to solve and all sectors are working closely together. He cited Professor Barry Bluestone who did an economic study of the city which said that a key challenge is marketing the city. He pointed out there is the new Discover Gloucester entity that is marketing the city as business friendly, and branding "Gloucester Fresh." He urged on behalf of the Cape Ann Chamber members that the time was right to act to vote to adopt the B&F Committee's recommendation for a Tax Classification factor of 1.00. Without business the local population will experience more difficult times, he warned. He said the city must broaden its business base and this action will go a long way towards that goal.

**Robert Gillis**, 31 Sayward Street, thanked the B&F Committee for recommending a tax factor of 1.00. He said having spoken for the last 11 years during the Tax Classification public hearings, he said the current rate is, "fundamentally unfair," with a 10 percent CIP class versus a 90 percent residential class. He asked the Council not to continue to penalize city businesses.

**Ruth Pino**, 82 Wheeler Street, past President of the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce said this is a small business issue, noting there are but a small proportion of big businesses in the city. She advised that most retailers and tenants in office buildings absorb the higher taxes; it is the property owners who pass it on to their tenants. Owners of small commercial properties provide jobs, and she said she is pleased to pay the additional \$40 to provide jobs for the 12 months it will cost at her home. Massachusetts, she noted, has 351 communities, and of the 151 communities with less than an 11 percent CIP class, only 11 of those communities move more of the tax burden to the CIP classes. She asked the Council for a more even playing field.

**Meredith Fine**, 20 Eastern Avenue, expressed she was in favor of eliminating tax classification, which she said works in other North Shore communities -- in Peabody or Salem with a large commercial tax base and makes a difference for residential class. The city's shift doesn't really do anything, she said, adding that in her work as an attorney representing many businesses, advising it is very difficult to do business in Gloucester and that they don't need one more difficult thing.

**Communications:** **Joanne M. Senos**, City Clerk advised that the Council was in receipt of communications and read them from: **Katherine Lamson**, Cape Ann Marketplace, LLC, 127 Eastern Avenue asking for equity between the Residential and CIP classes tax classification rate; **James Santos**, owner of Jim's Bagel and Bake Shop, 33 Railroad Avenue also asking for parity between the Residential and CIP rate payers; **Steven Agganis**, 1 Kondelin Road, LLC (owner of the former Rule Industries property), in support of lowering business taxes; **Ronald Strong**, R.B. Strong, 122 Western Avenue in favor of a flat tax rate;; **Jeff Amero**, 20 Fort Square, in support of an "even" tax rate to help local businesses to stay competitive; and from **Tom Gillett**, EDIC Executive Director, expressing the

support of the EDIC for the proposed 1.00 Residential Tax Classification factor as endorsed by the Budget & Finance Committee.

**Councilor Questions:**

**Councilor Cox** asked for clarification on the city's January tax bill and the one that follows and how it relates to the debt shift, and last year's "whammy." **Ms. Papows** said each fiscal year with quarterly tax billing system, the first two fiscal year tax bills are preliminary tax payments which are a quarter each of a ratepayer's total tax liability from the prior year. If there is an increase in tax dollars that becomes due based on the new assessed values or any of the Prop 2 ½ increases such as the debt shift in that year, they don't understand what the total tax liability is until mid-year, meaning there is an assessed value and a new tax rate. The last two bills which come out Jan. 1 and April 1, are going to make up the difference -- taking the total tax liability, subtracting what was paid in from the preliminary tax bill payments meaning that the January and April are the bills will be higher, such as adding the debt shift, and in particular was significant in that year. She noted the same could be true for property values if there was a significant change to individual property assessments. Pointing out that it is difficult in looking at individual property assessments because properties change based on the market at different rates, **Ms. Papows** gave the example that in a desirable neighborhood with limited supply, there may be significant property value increases. If someone is paying for vacant land, and then builds a house, that property owner will see higher bills for the last two quarterly bills in the yearly cycle, and the same is true for businesses. **Councilor Cox** noted Poles Hill debt went down as did the Water and CSO and the Water debt shift and highlighted there is nothing new from last January when the debt shift was placed on the property taxes as well. **Ms. Papows** expressed her agreement saying there wouldn't be a great difference in terms of the debt shift from last year, except for the tax rate but that commented that as to individual properties it depends on individual property assessments. Each year the Council has an opportunity to choose what it thinks is best. **Councilor Cox** confirmed that property taxes went up 7 to 8 percent. **Ms. Papows** said in speaking of those on the residential side, the Assessors can isolate what they made for market adjustments and are studying the market, 2015 sales and sometimes 2014 sales, and have to assess properties at full and fair cash value. She pointed out that when she says the class as a whole went up 7.13 percent in the residential it is based on the analysis the Assessors' conducted. **Councilor Cox** noted that the tax rate went down from \$13.71 to \$13.24 should the Council approve a Tax Classification factor of 1.00. **Ms. Papows** confirmed the Councilor's statement, saying that at a factor of 1.00, and what happens with the tax rate in terms of assessed values, if values are increasing as a whole, the tax rate will come down. She added that if values are decreasing, the tax rate will go up because that is the leveling factor in keeping within what Prop 2 ½ allows to be brought in for the city's tax levy each year. She advised in terms of the real estate market, residential values are typically more volatile, as such a purchase is considered more of an emotional purchase, versus commercial/industrial business sectors tend to be more stable, and typically those purchases are made on investor decisions.

**Councilor LeBlanc** referring to the previous year's "whammy," and noting **Ms. Papows'** remarks on the real estate market and property assessments, he asked what the market looks like, and typically what happens in January with the market assessments. **Ms. Papows** said she is giving information from one fiscal year to the next. She said the city has seen an increase to both the Residential and CIP class values, a larger increase than the prior year but is true on both sides. She pointed out that last year CIP was relatively stable, so if they are saying 2 percent based on market adjustments, but again it is looking at the class as a whole. Last year Residential on average saw a 3.5 percent increase -- so this year there is a bigger increase. The tax rate is coming down, she said, which is the one item where they are talking about a triple whammy. Because of increasing values they are seeing a lower tax rate but it is being applied to a higher assessment on one side. The increase on the tax rate is not actually happening this year, she said, mainly because there were significant increases in value.

**Councilor Orlando** noted the rate per thousand dollars is \$13.24 at a Tax Classification factor of 1.00 and last year it was \$13.71. He asked what would the difference be on the \$500,000 property, and what is the savings. **Ms. Papows** said it will depend on what factor is chosen -- at a factor of 1.00, it would be \$500,000 times 47 cents, to which **Councilor Orlando** said that it would mean a \$235 decrease from last year. **Ms. Papows** added that it is difficult to know what the value is from one property to the next.

**Councilor Gilman** noted out of 351 communities, 109 shift a portion of the residential tax levy to the CIP class. **Ms. Papows** said all municipalities have to make this decision. Of the 351 Massachusetts communities, 109 have chosen to shift a portion what the residential class would have brought in if all was being paid at a factor of 1.00 based on their actual percentage; they're shifting that over to the CIP tax. Therefore, she said, of the 351, 109 choose to do that. **Councilor Gilman**, citing that there are many different viewpoints from these many communities, she asked what communities on the North Shore has a flat rate. **Ms. Papows** named Newburyport and Rockport as having a flat rate.

**This public hearing is closed at 8:43 p.m.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council adopt a RESIDENTIAL TAX CLASSIFICATION FACTOR OF 1.00 for Fiscal Year 2017.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Memhard** thanked the Mayor and Mr. McGeary for their comments. He pointed out that as a small business person, he said, this proposal for a Residential Tax Classification Factor of 1.00 is potentially a historic step to making Gloucester a more business friendly community.

**MOTION TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION:**

**Councilor Lundberg** moved to amend the main motion to adopt a Residential Tax Classification Factor of .993183 that equates to a CIP Shift of 1.06 for Fiscal Year 2017, seconded by **Councilor LeBlanc**.

**DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT:**

**Councilor LeBlanc**, citing the Mayor's earlier comments, said that the tax classification factor hasn't changed in 11 years. In speaking to stability, he said that a business can come to Gloucester and know what the tax incentives are. The Councilors ran for election last year, and they all agreed the city needs to broaden its tax base. People aren't doing business in Gloucester because of the tax factor and the tax rate – businesses are more inhibited from coming to the city because of the municipality's permitting processes; the "Not In My Back Yard" attitude. He said there is open opposition to new ventures citing the Beauport Hotel that he pointed out as a great success, and noted that at the last City Council meeting there was a local company, National Fish and Seafood, was granted a Tax Incentive Financing by the city. He highlighted open communications on tractor trailer traffic and parking needs of city businesses, and noting an inhibiting factor of not being able to conduct business before 8:45 a.m. in some areas of the city. He pointed out that many elderly residents are on a fixed income, and noted that their basic needs are more expensive and rising for food, electricity, gas and home heating oil. Businesses can adjust to those factors, he said, but those on fixed incomes can't. It isn't fair to residents for a tax rate of 1.00, he explained, and asked how a city can have a good pool of employees if they can't afford to live here when taxes are raised on the residents of Gloucester. He added his support of a residential tax classification factor to be set at 1.06.

**Councilor Lundberg** said it is important to note that by staying at 1.06 it is not raising taxes to anyone, but the B&F Committee's recommendation will be raising taxes on 90 percent of the city property taxpayers. He expressed his appreciation of the city's business community, but he said he didn't see a correlation of the tax rate and the decline of businesses in Gloucester. He pointed out that in Professor Bluestone's list of how businesses choose a community to locate in, taxes are down on the list, numbers 9 or 10. He said he echoed the Mayor's comments, that it is the processes in place that are burdensome, not the tax rate, and expressed his support for setting the residential tax classification factor at 1.06.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor Lundberg, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 3 (Nolan, Lundberg, LeBlanc) in favor, 6 opposed, to amend the main motion to adopt a Residential Tax Classification Factor of .993183 that equates to a CIP Shift of 1.06 for Fiscal Year 2017.

**MOTION TO AMEND FAILS.**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE MAIN MOTION:**

Councilor Cox moved to amend the main motion by adopting a Residential Tax Classification Factor of .996592 that equates to a CIP Shift of 1.03 for Fiscal Year 2017, seconded by **Councilor Gilman**.

**DISCUSSION ON THE AMENDMENT:**

**Councilor Cox** expressed her agreement with Councilors Lundberg and LeBlanc to a point, she said. She pointed out that if the city raises taxes on businesses, those businesses then pass that rise onto their products or services, but the other factors are also part of that decision. She said with a residential tax classification factor of 1.03 it is a fair compromise.

**Councilor Orlando** said he is maintaining his stance for a Tax Classification factor of a flat 1.00, although expressing his understanding of the perspective voiced by Councilors, Cox, Lundberg and LeBlanc. For the last 11

years of 1.06, it has raised taxes on businesses, but the 1.00 factor will level the playing field. This is one of the many ways the city can be more business friendly, he said. He acknowledged that regulations are a burden, and cited the meeting he, and Councilors LeBlanc and Nolan organized which saw 50 people attend to talk about the permitting and regulatory inhibitions in the city. To attract businesses, he said, Gloucester has to be more attractive as the city is at a geographical disadvantage. He pointed out that if it is more attractive by saving a business more money, then the city becomes more attractive. He understood, he said, this change affect the residents of the city, but remained steadfast in his support of a flat rate of 1.00 although noting he had suggested an incremental drop to a flat rate at B&F, and added that more revenues that come to the city, ease the tax burden overall.

**Councilor LeBlanc** reiterated that a business can absorb tax increases and pass it onto the consumer, but a person on a fixed income, a \$250 annual tax increase, to whom do they pass that burden on to, and who gives them that money to pay for their basic necessities. He said he is in favor of businesses coming to Gloucester but he pointed out that only a handful of communications have been received, all from city business people, and only one resident has spoken out to keep the tax rate the same. He cautioned the Council that they will be overwhelmed with calls from taxpayers when the January tax bills come due.

**Councilor Memhard** said this is an important opportunity on a small front to present the city as a more business friendly community, and it won't just be 90 percent residential and 10 percent CIP. This action, he said, will attract more businesses to the city. He pointed to the make-up of the Council as a reflection of small businesses in the community with a broader perception and sympathy of what these businesses go through and voiced his lack of support for the proposed amendment, and would hold to the proposal of a flat rate.

**Councilor Nolan** said keeping the tax classification factor the same is the best solution. He pointed out that Ward 5 has had to shoulder a burden for city services not gained. He said as a business person he understood trying to level the playing field, but there are other hurdles to doing business in the city not just the tax rate. He said he supports keeping the current rate. He, too, warned that people will be shocked when they find out the differences in their new tax bills.

Councilor O'Hara said he is in favor of 1.00 tax rate, and called for end what he termed, "a discriminatory practice." A rate of 1.00 sends a message to businesses to bring their companies here, he said. He conveyed that this is not a tax break for business people but ends an unfair practice of a minority subsidizing the majority. This will save money to businesses. They want to improve city services, and this will help gain the tax base to do so.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Gilman, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 1 (Cox) in favor, 8 opposed, to adopt a Residential Tax Classification Factor of .996592 that equates to a CIP Shift of 1.03 for Fiscal Year 2017.**

AMENDMENT FAILS.

**Councilor Gilman** said in speaking with residents and businesses about this matter, she is sensitive to what is being said in her ward and how residents feel about their taxes going up over the years. Citing the ratio of 90 percent Residential Class and 10 percent CIP classes, she said that the fact that they have to work so hard to get businesses to come over the bridge and need them to stay once here can be daunting. In terms of what the community needs to build, revenue is necessary; and so the city needs to attract businesses. While this is a small amount of savings, this (flat rate) is a signal to businesses. She said because she believed this will mean new business and more tax dollars those new businesses will bring to city coffers, she would support the recommendation of the B&F Committee.

**Council President Ciolino** said for some time he's tried to reach a residential tax classification factor of 1.00. This is the right time, he said, to make this change. Businesses receive few city services, he pointed out, and the city gains from that, and conversely on the residential side, there are many city services consumed. The city is a \$110 million corporation, and the money has to come from somewhere, he opined. The CIP class needs to be built up he said, and the city has to be demonstrably business friendly. This is a start by saying the city's tax rate is fair for all, and to make the city inviting. He said he will support a Tax Classification Factor of 1.00.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 5 in favor, (Cox, LeBlanc, Lundberg, Nolan) opposed, to adopt a RESIDENTIAL TAX CLASSIFICATION FACTOR OF 1.00 for Fiscal Year 2017.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 9 opposed, to reconsider the vote to adopt a RESIDENTIAL TAX CLASSIFICATION FACTOR OF 1.00 for Fiscal Year 2017.**

**MOTION FAILS.**

The Meeting recessed at 9:09 p.m. and resumed at 9:16 p.m. Councilor Lundberg left the meeting during the recess.

**4. PH2016-058: Amend GCO Sec. 10-51(e) "Fees" re: increase of daily fee for municipal mooring for transient boats and 10A float permits**

**This public hearing is opened at 9:17 p.m.**

**Those speaking in favor:**

**Deputy Harbormaster Chad Johnson** explained that the proposed amendment to increase daily municipal mooring fees for transient vessels are currently is \$30 per day which includes nothing. The Harbormaster is proposing to raise that fee to \$40 per day which would include the services of the Gloucester Launch during its service hours. He advised the fee for use of the launch service is typically \$5 per person per trip, which for two people would be an additional \$20 round trip, and this proposal would waive that launch fee, making the harbor and the city more appealing for transient boaters, he said. Because of that added charge for transient vessels, many boat owners were bypassing the launch service and only take the launch for one person.

Speaking to the proposed 10A float permit increase, **Deputy Harbormaster Johnson** conveyed that current rates are 50 cents per square foot for a float permit which is much lower than the rest of the surrounding communities. He pointed out that Manchester-by-the-Sea charges \$3 per square foot, plus charges per foot for the vessel tied to that float. The Harbormaster has proposed raising the fee from 50 cents per square foot to \$1.00 per square foot, with a cap of \$400, he noted.

**Cate Banks**, 732R Washington Street, expressed her support for the increase to the transient mooring fee, citing that the Harbormasters have done their homework by interviewing transient boaters who acknowledged they were in favor of paying more for the inclusion of the launch service in their daily fee. She said as to the 10A float permit fee increase, she was also speaking in favor of that rise in fees, noting it was she as a former member of the Waterways Board that had initiated the change to a per foot fee versus a previously standing flat rate fee.

**Those speaking in opposition: None.**

**Communications: None.**

**Councilor Questions: None.**

**This public hearing is closed at 9:23 p.m.**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Orlando) present, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 10-51(e) "Fees" as follows:

By DELETING the following sentence: "A daily fee of \$30 shall be charged every vessel that utilizes a municipal mooring used for transient boats, operated by the harbormaster."

And ADDING the following two sentences in its place: "A daily fee of \$40 shall be charged every vessel that utilizes a municipal mooring used for transient boats, operated by the harbormaster. The daily rental fee for transient boats shall include the services of the Gloucester Launch during regular service hours."

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor LeBlanc**, the Council's liaison to the Waterways Board said that there was a discussion at the Waterways Board to perhaps raising the Gloucester Launch rates, but rather than doing so, it was decided to recommend that the Gloucester Launch service be included in the transient mooring fee which he advised was a good improvement.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Lundberg) absent, to Amend GCO Sec. 10-51(e) "Fees" as follows:**



**By DELETING the following sentence: “A daily fee of \$30 shall be charged every vessel that utilizes a municipal mooring used for transient boats, operated by the harbormaster.”**

**And ADDING the following two sentences in its place: “A daily fee of \$40 shall be charged every vessel that utilizes a municipal mooring used for transient boats, operated by the harbormaster. The daily rental fee for transient boats shall include the services of the Gloucester Launch during regular service hours.”**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Orlando, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 10-51(e) “Fees” as follows:

By DELETING the sentence, “Fees for 10A float permits shall be in the amount of 50 cents per square foot up to a maximum of \$350.00.”

And ADDING the following sentences in its place: “Fees for 10A float permits shall be in the amount of \$1.00 per square foot up to a maximum of \$400.00.”

**DISCUSSION: None.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Orlando, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Lundberg) absent, to Amend GCO Sec. 10-51(e) “Fees” as follows:**

**By DELETING the sentence, “Fees for 10A float permits shall be in the amount of 50 cents per square foot up to a maximum of \$350.00.”**

**And ADDING the following sentences in its place: “Fees for 10A float permits shall be in the amount of \$1.00 per square foot up to a maximum of \$400.00.”**

**5. PH2016-059: Amend GCO Sec. 10 by adding a new section “10-87 Harbormaster Patrols Details”**

**This public hearing is opened at 9:23 p.m.**

**Those speaking in favor:**

**Deputy Harbormaster Johnson** reviewed this proposal will allow the Harbormaster’s Department to conduct marine details under a new GCO section, 10-87 Harbormaster Patrol Details. There is no ordinance that allows for conducting and receiving fees for marine details that require safety boats for: bridge construction; movie filming on the water or near it. At this time the Police Department is the only city entity that can conduct such details, he pointed out, as they have a vessel for that purpose, he said. He advised that in speaking to the Interim Police Chief, he was told the department is having a hard time filling those overtime details, noting that for the Harbormaster’s Department it would simply be a regular marine detail and would be able to take in the revenue for the Waterways Enterprise Fund.

**Cate Banks**, 732R Washington Street, spoke in favor of the newly proposed amendment saying it was a “brilliant” idea, and was a good indication of what a great team the city has in the Harbormaster’s Department. She asked for the Council’s support for the proposed amendment.

**Those speaking in opposition: None.**

**Communications: None.**

**Councilor Questions: None.**

**This public hearing is closed at 9:27 p.m.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Chapter 10 by ADDING a new section, “10-87 Harbormaster Patrol Details” as follows:

“10-87. Harbormaster Patrol Details

- (a) The Harbormaster shall have the authority to conduct details for marine events such as but not limited to, bridge construction, movie or commercial work, construction of waterfront property, and marine permitted events requiring a safety/security boat.
- (b) The Harbormaster shall charge a fee of \$65.00 per hour for the use of a vessel and one operator. In the event that two operators are required, an additional fee of \$25.00 per hour will be charged to the permittee.
- (c) Hourly rates are as follows: 1-4 hours a flat fee of \$260.00; 4-8 hours \$520.00; 8-12 hours \$780.00.

**Dana Jorgensson**, Clerk of Committees confirmed to the Council that both O&A and B&F Committees reviewed this proposal and B&F also voted unanimously to recommend the ordinance amendment.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor Orlando** said this is a good opportunity for the Harbormaster's office to bring in revenue from outside sources and that revenue will be able to support the department's capital needs. He cited that anyone doing bridge work, referring to the upcoming MBTA train bridge replacement, or a movie company filming in the city, the Harbormaster's Department will be able to charge for their services, just as the Police Department does for road details. He expressed his support of the measure.

**Councilor LeBlanc** pointed out that the A. Piatt Andrew Bridge construction was a lost opportunity of income to the city in marine details, and that the MBTA railroad bridge is going to start construction soon which will be an opportunity for the Harbormasters as well as many marine construction projects that would need details on the city water sheet.

**Council President Ciolino** thanked Harbormaster T.J. Ciarmetaro for his good work and that he and Mr. Johnson are doing a great job.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Lundberg) absent, to Amend GCO Chapter 10 by ADDING a new section, "10-87 Harbormaster Patrol Details" as follows:**

#### **"10-87. Harbormaster Patrol Details**

- (a) **The Harbormaster shall have the authority to conduct details for marine events such as but not limited to, bridge construction, movie or commercial work, construction of waterfront property, and marine permitted events requiring a safety/security boat.**
- (b) **The Harbormaster shall charge a fee of \$65.00 per hour for the use of a vessel and one operator. In the event that two operators are required, an additional fee of \$25.00 per hour will be charged to the permittee.**
- (c) **Hourly rates are as follows: 1-4 hours a flat fee of \$260.00; 4-8 hours \$520.00; 8-12 hours \$780.00.**

#### **6. PH2016-060: Amend GCO Sec. 22-284 "Service or Loading Zone re: Holly Street**

**This public hearing is opened at 9:31 p.m.**

**Those speaking in favor: None.**

**Those speaking in opposition: None.**

**Communications: None.**

**Councilor Questions: None.**

**This public hearing is closed at 9:31 p.m.**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Sec. 22-284 "Service or Loading Zone" by ADDING "Holly Street, easterly side from its intersection with Washington Street, beginning at a distance of 60 feet in a northerly direction for a distance of 40 feet."

#### **DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor LeBlanc** said the Traffic Commission voted unanimously to approve the Council Order put forward by Councilor Gilman and wanted signage to be posted to read that the loading zone hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00

p.m. and after 6:00 p.m. He pointed out that any vehicle could park in the loading zone outside of those times. The landlord and the owners of the Willow Rest business are on board as are neighbors, he noted. He commended Councilor Gilman for all her effort expended on behalf of this neighborhood to create a safer traffic environment, and added his support of the amendment.

**Councilor Gilman** said this was her order, and is important to the safety of the Willow Rest area because cars were double parking in front of the store since the gas pumps were removed, which created a safety issue. By putting signs up in front of the store, they will restrict cars parking there 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and will only be trucks unloading. All neighbors were part of the Traffic Commission site visit. The general manager of the store and the neighbors are in support of this. The DPW has done a terrific job with the painting of the traffic lines in that area and expressed her appreciation and she supported the effort.

**Councilor LeBlanc** thanked Councilor Gilman for her efforts for the Willow Rest neighborhood. This now completes the clarification of a confusing traffic intersection which he said is now easy to understand.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Lundberg) absent, to Amend GCO Sec. 22-284 “Service or Loading Zone” by ADDING “Holly Street, easterly side from its intersection with Washington Street, beginning at a distance of 60 feet in a northerly direction for a distance of 40 feet.”**

**7. PH2016-061: Amend GCO Ch. 2, Article V, “Boards, Commissions, Councils and Committees” by adding new subsection “Division 17. The Animal Advisory Committee”**

**This public hearing is opened at 9:35 p.m.**

**Those speaking in favor:**

**Cindy Dunn**, 7 Rose Lane, spoke in favor, noting her and several audience members who are members of the ad hoc dog committee will pass on their recommendations to the newly created committee. She advised of some of the initiatives the ad hoc committee had been examining and that they would give a report at the next O&A Committee meeting.

**Those speaking in opposition: None.**

**Communications: None.**

**Councilor Questions: None.**

**This public hearing is closed at 9:36 p.m.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Chapter 2, Article V “Boards, Commissions, Councils and Committees” by ADDING new subsection “Division 17. The Animal Advisory Committee” as follows:

Section 2-560. Animal Advisory Committee – Purpose.

- (a) In recognition of the continuing need for policy and oversight for the health and welfare of all animals and the associated health and welfare of citizens associated with animals within the borders of the city of Gloucester be they domestic or wild, the Animal Advisory Committee is hereby established.
- (b) At the first of each calendar year the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.
- (c) The committee shall undertake but not be limited to the following activities:
  - (1) Research, recommend and advise at the request of various departments and agencies of the city of Gloucester on matters pertaining to domestic and wild animals within the borders of the city; and to
  - (2) Review and recommend changes to city policies and ordinances that affect all animals.

Section 2-561. Composition; requirements; tenure.

The Animal Advisory Committee shall consist of up to seven members comprised of a resident representative from each of the city’s five wards, and two resident members who shall be at-large members. These members shall be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council under the City Charter to a term of up to three years. Ex-

officio non-voting members shall be one City Councilor appointed by the Council President; the Police Chief or his designee and the Public Health Director or his designee.

**DISCUSSION:**

**Councilor LeBlanc** conveyed this will be a new committee. He pointed out that there were several reasons why his initiative was brought forward, foremost there are lots of animals that need attention in the city -- not just domesticated but wild, highlighting issues with coyotes as an example. There are a many related ordinances for animals that that are outdated, and this will be a good committee to start a review, he suggested, and if there are changes to be made, the new committee can bring it forward to the Council. He said this is a win/win situation which will stop the need for constant ad hoc committees.

**Councilor Cox** said this will be a good thing rather than needing ad hoc committees.

**Councilor Orlando** said there are so many issues related to domestic and non-domestic animal, and this new committee will be a good thing and would support it.

**Councilor Gilman** asked if birds would be considered. **Councilor LeBlanc** confirmed the committee's purview will be all animals. **Councilor Gilman** offered her thanks to Cindy Dunn, Jen Holmgren, and Linda Brayton for their work on the ad hoc dog committee.

**Councilor Nolan** thanked Councilor O'Hara for his work chairing the ad hoc dog committee, and thanked its members.

**Councilor O'Hara** extended his thanks the members of the ad hoc dog committee saying he was looking forward to their report and expressed his hope they would seek appointments to the new committee.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Lundberg) absent, to Amend GCO Chapter 2, Article V "Boards, Commissions, Councils and Committees" by ADDING new subsection "Division 17. The Animal Advisory Committee" as follows:**

**Section 2-560. Animal Advisory Committee – Purpose.**

- (a) In recognition of the continuing need for policy and oversight for the health and welfare of all animals and the associated health and welfare of citizens associated with animals within the borders of the city of Gloucester be they domestic or wild, the Animal Advisory Committee is hereby established.
- (b) At the first of each calendar year the Committee shall elect from among its members a Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.
- (c) The committee shall undertake but not be limited to the following activities:
  - (1) Research, recommend and advise at the request of various departments and agencies of the city of Gloucester on matters pertaining to domestic and wild animals within the borders of the city; and to
  - (2) Review and recommend changes to city policies and ordinances that affect all animals.

**Section 2-561. Composition; requirements; tenure.**

The Animal Advisory Committee shall consist of up to seven members comprised of a resident representative from each of the city's five wards, and two resident members who shall be at-large members. These members shall be appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council under the City Charter to a term of up to three years. Ex-officio non-voting members shall be one City Councilor appointed by the Council President; the Police Chief or his designee and the Public Health Director or his designee.

**For Council Vote:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**Individual Councilor's Discussion including Reports by Appointed Councilors to Committees:** Update of the Stage Fort Park Advisory Committee & the Magnolia Woods Oversight & Advisory Committee by City Council Representative, Councilor Sean Nolan who highlighted each of the Committees' activities as follows:

- **Stage Fort Park** went through the Cyclo-Cross race in September and in walking through the course post-race the race organizer was very sensitive to the needs of the city, and was very much involved in maintaining the park.

- **The Magnolia Woods Advisory Committee** is working to clean up many of the trails and work with the Gloucester Trail Stewards to tie in Ravenswood Park with Magnolia Woods and Rafe's Chasm. **Councilor Nolan** commended both Committees and extended his thanks to them

**Councilors' Requests to the Mayor:**

**Councilor Gilman** requested that the Mayor through the Chief Financial Officer ask the Assessor's Office to develop a summary of tax classification and property tax increases which will allow a layman to understand the complexity of the issues and be shared on the city's website. Tax classification is a small element of the totality of people's property taxes going up, she noted.

She then spoke to a "Civility Resolution" proposed to the Council by the Mayor, and suggested that the Resolution be referred to a Standing Committee for discussion and vote, or to have a workshop as she said the Resolution may have merit. She advised there have been several citizens who have asked the Council to do this. **Councilor Cox** said regardless of the current political environment, everything in the request minus a phone number to call which should be local to which she said she agreed, everything in the request is something she expressed hope that the Council would stand for. She added that this is something she could sign off on and urged there be a Council workshop on the matter for the entire Council to craft together. **Councilor LeBlanc** said he also supported the workshop, as did **Councilor O'Hara** which he said was important that it be done on a local level. **Council President Ciolino** said that there would be a workshop, and after the Council crafted a Resolution it would move forward to the Council under For Council Vote. He suggested that Councilors Cox and Gilman get together to draft a document for a Civility Resolution to share with the Council before a workshop and vote by the Council. **Councilor LeBlanc** asked that Councilor Orlando also be included to craft the resolution to which Council President Ciolino agreed.

**Councilor Gilman** noted the forum that Councilors Orlando, Councilor Nolan, and LeBlanc attended also by herself and Councilor O'Hara was held in Ward 5 recently for developers, construction companies, and real estate professionals. She said that she'd appreciate those Councilors sharing their notes for follow up as she is interested in having such a meeting in her ward. **Councilor Orlando** assured that notes were taken and that the plan is to consolidate their notes into some order, and have a follow-up meeting in the next month or so as well as in other parts of the city. The action plan is to find three or four ideas to help relax regulations to make it easier on residents and businesses for city permitting processes. **Councilor Gilman** asked that the action plan be shared in a public document and **Councilor Orlando** assured it would be.

**Councilor Memhard** shared that the Gloucester Fishermen's Wives working with the Gloucester Fisheries Commission is hosting a fundraising dinner at the Gloucester Elks on Thursday, Dec. 1 to raise funds through a 50:50 raffle limited to 200 tickets (\$100 each) to support the development of a film, "Dead in the Water," featuring a number of Gloucester fishermen. He noted that the F/V Blue Ocean is no longer on Niles Beach. There was a land-based removal, he advised.

**Councilor O'Hara** noted a call pertaining to the accident with the bus accident in Chattanooga, TN, and that he spoke to Fire Chief Eric Smith who assured the Councilor that the city's Fire Department if something like this is prevented if such an unfortunate event took place in the city.

**Councilor Orlando** announced there are several good candidates coming forward for appointments to the Tourism Commission. He noted that the Salvation Army is looking for volunteers to ring bells this holiday season.

**Councilor Cox** announced the Action Toy Drive, Thurs. Dec. 8, for new unwrapped toys. Sites for toy drop offs include the Rockport Town Hall and Cape Ann Savings Bank. The Middle Street Walk; the Lobster Trap Tree Lighting, and Magnolia Fair are all on the same day Saturday, Dec. 10.

**Council President Ciolino** said the Christmas Parade is Sunday, Nov. 27 at 3:00 p.m. starting at the Jodrey State Fish Pier and ending at Kent Circle for the annual Christmas Tree Lighting. He also put out the call for a Santa's helper.

**A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

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

**DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.**