

SPECIAL GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 – 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; Councilor Valerie Gilman; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor James O'Hara;
Absent: Councilor Joseph Orlando, Jr.
Also Present: Joanne Senos

The special meeting of the City Council was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The Council President announced that this meeting is recorded by audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law.

Flag Salute & Moment of Silence.**1. Recipient Nomination from the Linzee Coolidge Philanthropy Award Committee to Richard and Barbara Wilson (FCV)**

Councilor Nolan said Dick and Barbara Wilson have been an asset to the city, sports programs, local events in Magnolia, supporters of the Magnolia Library. He said that Linzee Coolidge is a great person and what's been done with this award is great. He added that he was pleased to know that the Wilson's will be getting this award.

Councilor Cox said the Wilson's deserved the award having done a great deal for Mattos Field also, and was present when the ceremony to turn the new field lights on this summer. She said this award couldn't be given to better people.

Councilor Lundberg said Dick and Barbara Wilson represent the epitome of the qualities that the Coolidge award was established for. He said they are a great asset to the community. They do everything they are asked in a very special way.

Councilor Memhard said he's known the Wilson's for many years, who set extraordinary examples of leadership and giving back to the community. He said Dick Wilson has been very helpful to him with guidance in all he's gone through in business, his perspective, his awareness of what they all face to be successful and to be part of the community. It is appropriate that the Wilson's should be honored with the Linzee Coolidge Philanthropy Award as they get ready to head to Hawaii.

Councilor Gilman recounted working closely with the Wilson's when she was on the School Committee about 11 years ago. She said they were so involved with the GFAA but also became involved with the Gloucester Education Foundation. She noted both she and Mr. Wilson are alumni of UMass. Mr. Wilson makes himself available even when she's called and he's picked up when he's on the beach in Hawaii, she noted. She said he was always there for her and all public officials. Mr. Wilson is a tremendous resource as is his wife; they love their community -- there is no better couple to receive this important award, she said.

Councilor O'Hara said about 50 years ago Dick and Barbara Wilson had the first outdoor skating rink in their backyard. It came with a price to use it -- you had to work in his yard, split wood, prepare the surface for the rink, and that same rink area became a whiffle ball court in the off season, he recounted. He said Dick and Barbara Wilson are wonderful people, and this award is a great tribute to them both.

Councilor LeBlanc said his first experience with Dick Wilson was when he became a City Councilor. He recollected that former Councilor Jackie Hardy appointed him to the Newell Stadium Building Committee, and the first phone call he got was from Dick Wilson, a committee member spearheading that effort. They had breakfast several times, and learned what a great guy he was who has a well of knowledge who taught him about the stadium and the history of city sports and learned Dick's personal history. He said it was flattering to be sitting with him and talk with him as a peer. This is a great honor for the Wilson's and their family, he said, and extended his thanks to them.

Council President Ciolino congratulated the committee that nominated Dick and Barbara Wilson saying this is what the Coolidge Award is all about. Along with Mr. Wilson's work on the School Committee and his support of education, anyone who has children in Little League knows that Dick Wilson always advocated for the playing fields and making them better, finding the money for improvements. The choice is great, he said, and will support the Wilson's receiving this award.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Orlando) absent, to award The Linzee Coolidge Philanthropy Award to Richard and Barbara Wilson residents of the City of Gloucester.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.