

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 13, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall

-MINUTES-

Present: Chair, Councilor Paul Lundberg; Vice Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Valerie Gilman; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor James O’Hara; Councilor Jennifer A. Holmgren; Councilor Kenneth Hecht

Absent: None.

Also Present: Joanne M. Senos; Jim Destino; Kenny Costa; Chip Payson; John Dunn; Deputy Harbormaster Chad Johnson; Tim Good; Mike Hale; Donna Leete; Chris Sicuranza; Jonathan Pope; Dr. Richard Safier; James Pope; Adam Curcuru; Gary Johnstone; Nancy Papows; Dr. Telena Imel

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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. Councilor Memhard highlighted a remembrance of the life of Gloucesterman, Fred Buc, who passed away Monday, Feb. 12, 2018. He announced Mr. Buck’s service will be on Sunday, Feb. 18 at the Cape Ann Museum at 11:00 a.m. He said Mr. Buck was a U.S. postman for many years and that his career is memorialized in the music of Loco Willie. Mr. Buck later worked at the Cape Ann Museum as a photo archivist. His death, he said, was a loss for them all. **Council President Lundberg** asked to add the names of Robert “Bob” McKechnie and Donald Sudbay, Sr., members of his father’s generation whom he called, “great citizens of this city” and gave a great deal back to Gloucester.

Oral Communications:

Linda Romano, 10 Sunset Hill Road, whom identified herself as a trained social worker saying she cares a lot for seniors in the community highlighted the program known as the “Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Abatement Program” which allows seniors to volunteer in the community in any capacity so they can receive a deduction from their taxes. She said seniors who qualify can save \$800 or more. She described the volunteer opportunities available for seniors to help them to feel they’re participating in their community. Ms. Romano submitted for the Council a two-page informational document printed from the Mass.gov website: mass.gov/revenue/current-affairs-2/seniors-who-volunteer-can-work-off-some-of-their-property-tax-bills

Karen Favazza Spencer, 57 Langsford Street, recounted her previous time before the Council when she expressed her concern for her health issues which she briefly reviewed them, and expressed concern for the health of other residents from the fluoridation of the city’s water supply. She talked of ending fluoridation which can only be promulgated by a vote of the City Council in order to forward a Home Rule Petition to the state legislature. She reiterated that fluoridation is affecting many people and should be stopped. Ms. Favazza Spencer submitted for the record the following information: full written statement; book entitled, “Pregnancy and Fluoride Do Not Mix; a pamphlet entitled, “Rethinking Fluoride, It’s Time to Change!” and “Dentists & Doctors who did their own homework and changed their minds”

Tracey Ritchie, 47 River Road, also spoke of fluoridation and that it has adverse physical effects. She said she doesn’t believe fluoridation is safe, highlighting that European countries don’t fluoridate their public water supply because they realize it’s not an “appropriate method to administer treatment for a disease.” She pointed out 30% of city voters expressed they want the option to opt out of this treatment. She said adding fluoride to the water supply takes away people’s choices, and that her right to choose has been taken away. She said people who want fluoride have access to it; that fluoridating the water supply is unnecessary as it can lead to fluoride poisoning to vulnerable populations. She said ultimately it is a public safety issue, reiterating that people who want fluoride do have access to it. Ms. Ritchie’s full written statement was placed on file.

Patti Page, 3 Tidal Cove Way, pointed out that fluoride is a chemical that is imported from other countries, claiming it is often untested for safety or for inclusion of other harmful chemicals. She noted that fluoride when included in public water supplies travels from where it is used, after going through water treatment plans ends up being “expelled directly into the ocean.” She noted that various environmental groups have recognized this phenomena saying not only is it harmful to humans but to aquatic and other wildlife. Pointing out those people who can be harmed by chemical exposure, she encouraged discontinuance based on fluoridation effecting vulnerable populations in the community. Ms. Page’s full written statement was placed on file.

Damon Cummings, 1063 Washington Street, noting he had friends sensitive to fluoride, said he wasn't surprised people have adverse effects to it. He recounted his studies as an undergraduate and his physics thesis and beyond that explored the subject of chemical interactions. He said because of this he's had concerns since his time as an undergraduate about fluoridation. He pointed out that The Netherlands used to fluoridate their water but stopped in the mid-1970's; and there has been no report of increased tooth decay in that country. He contended that tooth decay in the U.S. has declined because of better dental hygiene and care. He said that Gloucester shouldn't be medicating its population with a potentially dangerous chemical that some people are harmed by.

Presentations/Commendations: None.

New Appointments: None.

Consent Agenda:

• **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**

1. Management Reappointments:

Director of Veterans' Services	Adam Curcuru	TTE 02/14/2019
Director of Public Works	Michael Hale	TTE 02/14/2019
Director of Human Resources	Donna Leete	TTE 02/14/2019
Director of IT	James Pope	TTE 02/14/2019
General Counsel	Charles "Chip" Payson	TTE 02/14/2019
Building Inspector	William Sanborn	TTE 02/14/2019
Chief Administrative Officer	James Destino	TTE 02/14/2020
Chief Financial Officer	John Dunn	TTE 02/14/2020
Assessor	Gary Johnstone	TTE 02/14/2021

2. Boards, Committees & Commissions:

Affordable Housing Trust	George Sibley	TTE 02/14/2020
Committee for the Arts	Catherine Ryan	TTE 02/14/2022
Community Preservation Committee	Barbara Silberman	TTE 02/14/2021
Council on Aging	Jay Gustafarro	TTE 02/14/2021
Downtown Development Commission	Patty Gates	TTE 02/14/2021
Gloucester Housing Authority Tenant Rep.	Barbara Snare	TTE 02/14/2023
Historic District Commission	Stephen Goodick	TTE 02/14/2021
Open Space & Recreation Committee	Patti Amaral	TTE 02/14/2021
Tourism Commission	Catherine Ryan	TTE 02/14/2021
Waterways Board	Karen Tibbets	TTE 02/14/2021
Zoning Board of Appeals	Michael Nimon, Kristopher Howard (Alternate)	TTE 02/14/2021

• **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. New Appointments

Affordable Housing Trust	TTE 02/14/2020	Joseph Bertolino	(Refer O&A)
Community Preservation Committee	TTE 02/14/2021	Pamela Tobey	(Refer O&A)
Historic District Commission	TTE 02/14/2021	Kristal Pooler, Prudence Fish (Full Member)	(Refer O&A)
Planning Board	TTE 02/14/2021	Beverly Bookin	(Refer O&A)
Traffic Commission	TTE 02/14/2021	Michael Mitchell	(Refer O&A)

Reappointments:

- | | | | |
|---|----------------|--|-------------|
| Board of Health | TTE 02/14/2021 | Richard Sagall | (Refer O&A) |
| Capital Improvement Advisory Board | TTE 02/14/2021 | Joel Favazza | (Refer O&A) |
| Committee for the Arts | TTE 02/14/2021 | Rebecca Reynolds | (Refer O&A) |
| Conservation Commission | TTE 02/14/2021 | John Feener, Barry Gradwohl, Linda Charpentier | (Refer O&A) |
| Downtown Development Commission | TTE 02/14/2021 | Joseph Giacalone | (Refer O&A) |
| Gloucester Cultural Council | TTE 02/14/2021 | Jane Kennedy | (Refer O&A) |
| Magnolia Woods Oversight & Advisory Committee | TTE 02/14/2021 | Dean Sidell, David Marro | (Refer O&A) |
- Memorandum from Fire Chief re: acceptance of two grant applications to FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFG) (Refer B&F)
 - Memorandum & Special Budgetary Transfer Request (2018-SBT-3) from the Auditor (Refer B&F)
 - Memorandum & Supplemental Appropriation Budgetary Request (2018-SA-17) from the CFO (Refer B&F)
 - Memorandum from Assistant DPW Director re: request approval to pay invoices for services performed from 2016/2017 (Refer B&F)
 - Memorandum from CFO re: repurposing completed Sewer Capital Project funds dating back to 1999 (Refer B&F)
 - Memorandum from Personnel Director & General Counsel re: proposed ordinance revisions for the Police & Fire Chief Selection Process (Refer O&A)
 - Updated report from Municipal Resources, Inc. re: Progress Review of MRI's 2009 Police Department Audit Recommendations (Info Only)
 - Letters of support from the Mayor & Community Development Director re: HOME fund usage for the Harbor Village Project (Info Only)
 - Request for Proposal for the school administration building and preschool currently at 2 Blackburn Drive (Info Only)
 - Contracts offered for Good Harbor & Wingersheek Beach concession stands (Info Only)

• **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**

- City Council letter of support re: development of affordable rental apartments "Harbor Village" at 206 Main Street (FCV 2/27/18)
- Response from Mayor's Office to Oral Communications of January 23, 2018 City Council Meeting to Maria Carroll (Info Only)
- Response from Mayor's Office to Oral Communications of January 23, 2018 City Council Meeting to Kelly Reardon (Info Only)
- Response from Mayor's Office to Oral Communications of January 23, 2018 City Council Meeting to Barry Smiraglia (Info Only)
- Response from Mayor's Office to Oral Communications of January 23, 2018 City Council Meeting to Joel Emerson (Info Only)
- Response from Mayor's Office to Oral Communications of January 23, 2018 City Council Meeting to Kathy Reardon (Info Only)

- **INFORMATION ONLY**
- 1. Recreational Marijuana Task Force Public Hearing Testimony Letter dated 2/8/2018 to the Cannabis Control Commission (Info Only)
- **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
- 1. Special Event Application: Request to hold the 2018 St. Peter's Fiesta from June 27, 2018 through July 1, 2018 (Refer P&D)
- 2. Special Event Application: Request to hold the Lone Gull 10K Road Race on September 30, 2018 (Refer P&D)
- 3. SCP2018-001: 1 School Street, Map 14, Lot 67, GZO Sec. 2.3.1(8) Conversion to or new multi-family or apartment dwelling, seven or more dwelling units in the R-5 District (Refer P&D)
 - **COUNCILORS ORDERS**
 - 1. CC2018-004 (Holmgren): Amend GCO Ch. 4 "Animals", Article II "Dogs" Sec. 4-16d "Off-leash dog areas" be amended re: Crab Beach (Refer O&A)
 - 2. CC2018-005 (LeBlanc): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" AND Sec. 22-291 "Tow-Away Zones" by ADDING Granite Street, northerly side, from its intersection with Blynman Avenue, in an easterly direction, to its intersection with Hampden Street (Refer O&A & TC)
 - **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**
 - 1. City Council Meeting: 1/23/2018 (Approve/File)
 - 2. Special Meeting: Planning & Development 01/29/18 (Approve/File)
 - 2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 02/08/2018 (under separate cover), O&A 02/05/2018, P&D 02/06/2018 (no meeting) (Approve/File)

Items to be added/deleted from the Consent Agenda:

Councilor O'Hara asked to remove all management reappointments from the Council's Consent Agenda for the purpose of making a general comment. He asked it be passed along that should a constituent contact managers or members of their staff that they should be kind enough to return that call or outreach by email, as he's heard from constituents they've not had calls returned and was expressing his concern. He thanked the managers for their service.

Council President Lundberg removed Item #1 under "Communications," City Council letter of support re: development of affordable rental apartments "Harbor Village" at 206 Main Street for Council Vote on February 27, 2018. He also removed the five responses from the Mayor's Office from Oral Communications of the January 23 City Council meeting. He explained that as to the City Council letter of support for the Cameron's Report, a draft of the letter from the City Council was in the agenda packet. He asked the Council to read it as it is up for a vote at the next Council meeting. He highlighted the responses from the Mayor's office for constituents who spoke under Oral Communications at the January 23 Council meeting about their experiences as a result of the January 4 storm damage to their vehicles in the High School Parking Lot. He noted it was a two-page memo from CAO, Jim Destino, and it is the Administration's response detailing the technical and legal issues involved. He also suggested the Councilors review the memorandum.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the Consent Agenda as amended.

Committee Reports:

Budget & Finance: February 8

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a FY2018 School-based Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant from the Mass. Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$4,308 for the purpose of providing fire and life safety education to school-aged children.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox briefly described that this grant and the one that follows for acceptance by the Council are from the Mass. Department of Fire Services. This is an annual award through the efforts of Fire Captain Dominic Barbagallo who not only writes the grants but executes the educational programs in city schools and for senior fire safety. There is no match for either grant, she noted.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a FY2018 School-based Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant from the Mass. Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$4,308 for the purpose of providing fire and life safety education to school-aged children.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a FY2018 Senior Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant from the Mass. Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$2,615 for the purpose of providing fire and life safety education to seniors.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox noted this is the same grant servicing a different city demographic.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a FY2018 Senior Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) grant from the Mass. Department of Fire Services in the amount of \$2,615 for the purpose of providing fire and life safety education to seniors.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve 2018-SA-16 in the amount of \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) from Waterways Enterprise Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance-Retained Earnings ("Free Cash") Account #7000-359000, to Waterways Enterprise, Capital Outlay, Vehicles, #700058-585001, for the purpose of purchasing a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 truck including lights and lettering and installation of same for use by the Harbormaster's Office.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox explained the following: Currently the Harbormaster's Department only has one vehicle, and the Deputy Harbormaster is using his own vehicle to respond to emergency situations as well as for work purposes and transporting other department employees which is a liability issue. This appropriation for \$15,000 for a new vehicle, a Chevy Silverado 250 is for the first year lease-to-own payment which comes from the Waterways Enterprise Fund Retained Earnings or "Free Cash" account. Moving forward the second and third payments for the new truck will be within the Enterprise Fund budget for FY19 and FY20. The Harbormaster assured the B&F Committee that this new vehicle will be used by him as he is on call 24/7.

Councilor LeBlanc noted he is the Council's Waterways Board liaison and that the Board had this discussion last week at their meeting, and that this is necessary. He conveyed they are trying to improve their outreach to the community, and this vehicle will allow the Harbormaster and his staff to do what they need to do appropriately when they're not on the water. He said he supports this appropriation as did the Waterways Board.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to approve 2018-SA-16 in the amount of \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars) from Waterways Enterprise Fund, Undesignated Fund Balance-Retained Earnings ("Free Cash") Account #7000-359000, to Waterways Enterprise, Capital Outlay, Vehicles, #700058-585001, for the purpose of purchasing a 2018 Chevrolet Silverado 2500 truck including lights and lettering and installation of same for use by the Harbormaster's Office.

Ordinances & Administration: February 5

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 supports the Mayor's recommendation to award the City of Gloucester Mariners Medal to Christian Dagley.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor LeBlanc explained that Mr. Dagley jumped into icy waters last year to assist a family whose boat capsized at the mouth of the Annisquam River. He said were it not for the swift action by Mr. Dagley, this family's outcome may have been different. He offered his congratulations to Mr. Dagley for his heroic action.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to support the Mayor's recommendation to award the City of Gloucester Mariners Medal to Christian Dagley.

Note: The awarding of the Mariners Medal to Christian Dagley will take place at a nearby regularly scheduled City Council meeting.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council permit the withdrawal CC2017-055 (Orlando/Nolan): Amend GCO Ch. 9 "Trash, Recycling and Litter" re: Closed-topped recycling receptacles without prejudice.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor LeBlanc conveyed that in conversation with the Administration at O&A it would cost just over a half million dollars to purchase the closed recycling receptacles. He cited that with the city's narrow roadways and the way they're set up it would be almost impossible for automated removal. He said it wouldn't be enforceable to make people purchase these receptacles from the city. He added it isn't feasible for the city to move forward on this kind of program.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council permit the withdrawal CC2017-055 (Orlando/Nolan): Amend GCO Ch. 9 "Trash, Recycling and Litter" re: Closed-topped recycling receptacles without prejudice.

Planning & Development: January 29, 2018

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Lundberg, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council refer the matter of the Affordable Housing Hardship Claim made by the Fuller Mixed Use Ventures, LLC under GZO Sec. 5.11.8 to the Administration of Mayor Theken for the purpose of renegotiation for that part of the Application submitted that addresses GZO Sec. 5.11.

DISCUSSION:

Council President Lundberg noted that this matter involving the Fuller Mixed Use Ventures LLC is still before the P&D Committee and remains with the Committee until its members vote on a recommendation to the City Council.

Councilor Gilman acknowledged the presence of Peter Gourdeau from Windover Construction and the Attorney Deborah Eliason, representing the Fuller Mixed Use Ventures LLC. She highlighted that the minutes of the Jan. 29 Special P&D meeting are clear noting that seven out of nine City Councilors were present at that meeting. She encouraged Councilors to approve the referral to the Administration. **Council President Lundberg** advised that the Council will suspend its process pending a further negotiation between the Administration and the applicant; and then the matter will return to the Planning & Development agenda for its consideration and then to the Council.

Councilor Cox asked that this matter not continue to appear on the Council's agenda when it has yet to pass from Committee. She expressed a preference that it returns to the Council agenda as a public hearing when it is completely ready to be heard so as to avoid confusion. **Council President Lundberg** said they do need to open and continue the public hearing this evening pointing out that the matter had already been shown to be continued to the Council's Feb. 27 meeting on tonight's agenda. He noted on Feb. 27 they'll make clear whether there is to be a continuance of the matter or if the public hearing would be opened fully. **Councilor Cox** confirmed with **Council President Lundberg** that the Council would have to close the already advertised public hearing and readvertise for a new public hearing if the applicant returns to the Council with a change to their application as a result of this suggested renegotiation.

Councilor Gilman conveyed that at the most recent Planning Board meeting the applicant asked for a 30-day extension. Responding to another point by **Councilor Cox**, **Council President Lundberg** assured they'll try to be as clear as possible with the public as to expectations moving forward.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Gilman, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed to refer the matter of the Affordable Housing Hardship Claim made by the Fuller Mixed Use Ventures, LLC under GZO Sec. 5.11.8 to the Administration of Mayor Theken for the purpose of renegotiation for that part of the Application submitted that addresses GZO Sec. 5.11.

February 7 -- No Meeting

Scheduled Public Hearings:

- 1. PH2017-059: SCP2017-012: Schoolhouse Road #2, #3 and #4, Map 262, Lots 14 & 37, and Gloucester Crossing Road #7, Map 37, Lots 4 & 5, for a Special Permit under the Mixed Use Overlay District pursuant to GZO Sections 5.29 (including Major Project GZO Sec. 5.7), 5.29.10 and 5.11.8 (Cont'd from 01/23/18) (TBC 02/27/2018)**

This public hearing was opened at 7:37 p.m. by Council President Lundberg who noted Councilor Cox's concerns were well put, and he **continued the public hearing to February 27, 2018.**

This public hearing is continued to February 27, 2018.

- 2. PH2018-003: Amend GZO by ADDING a Footnote "P" to Sec. 3.2.1, inserted into the CB column, and ADDING the same footnote as Footnote "h" in the CB column for Sec. 3.2.2 re: affordable housing (Cont'd from 01/23/18) (TBC 02/27/18)**

This public hearing was opened at 7:38 p.m. by Council President Lundberg.

This public hearing was continued at 7:38 p.m. by Council President Lundberg to February 27, 2018.

- 3. PH2018-005: Loan Order 2018-001: Loan Order in the amount of \$3,700,000 to fund the Lanes Cove Breakwater Rehabilitation Project**

This public hearing is opened at 7:38 p.m.

Those speaking in favor:

Mike Hale, Public Works Director, advised he'd waited a long time to stand in front of the Council for this loan order. He reviewed the following: The Lane's Cove seawall has been through many storms but not others. The recent damage first occurred during a winter nor'easter in 2010. The damage wasn't eligible for state or federal grant funds although the city did apply for it. Subsequent damage was sustained during a blizzard in 2013. That damage was deemed eligible and at first, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the full \$3.5 million; but recalculated and brought that number down to zero. The city went through a series of appeals to FEMA and finally last summer the city was awarded \$1.3 million but it must be spent by December 2018. This summer the city applied to the state's Dam and Seawall Fund recently and was awarded \$1.0 million. This makes \$2.3 million in grant funding for this project. Estimated project costs total \$3.7 million. The loan covers everything in case there are incidentals. This is a seven month project to be advertised next week with construction slated to begin in April to be completed by the end of December.

Paul Hadley, 4 Old Farm Lane, and a member of the Lane's Cove Historical Society, thanked the city for its hard work and offered his support of the project. He explained that in working for the state he understood how hard it is to obtain grant funding. This, he pointed out, is an opportunity to capitalize on the grant fundings. Citing the work being done to upgrade the Lane's Cove Fish Shack he reiterated his support for the breakwater project.

Damon Cummings, 1063 Washington Street, said this was his third Lane's Cove breakwater repair which appeared to be a more permanent solution. He said he knows the capital demands on the city are huge, and he extended his thanks for seeing the repairs through.

Francis Wright, 12R Sunset Point Road, pointed out there were many people present in favor of the loan order for the repair of the Lane's Cove breakwater. He extended his thanks to Mike Hale, Public Works Director for working to bring this project to fruition for the past four years, putting the city in a position to take advantage of grant funds. He urged the Council to vote in favor of the loan order.

Ken Dowdy, 10 Sunset Point Road, a mooring holder in Lane's Cove, said his boat sunk twice in the past two years because of the swells coming in due to the damage to the seawall. He pointed out that visitors come to take advantage of the Cove's beauty and walk on the breakwater which he said is concerning given its current disrepair.

He said that the Cove is a working port for lobstermen. Noting his father was an executive with the pier company that owned the Cove before it was turned over to the city, he said that the breakwater means a great deal to his family and the Lane's Cove residents. He expressed support for the loan order.

Mary Ellen Lepoinka, 17 Hammond Street, Co-Chair of the Historical Commission pointed out that Lane's Cove is a cultural resource for the city and is eligible for National Registry status. Pointing out that the Lane's Cove seawall is protecting the historic fish shack; the seawall repair will protect that cultural asset for future generations.

At the request of **Council President Lundberg** for supporters of the Lane's Cove Breakwater Project Loan Order to raise their hands, 15 members of the audience did so.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Communications: Email in support of loan order from Craig Cervo, 19 Norseman Avenue dated Feb. 13, 2018

Councilor Questions: None.

This public hearing is closed at 7:47 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council authorize the following loan order:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Three Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,700,000) to pay costs of the Lane's Cove Breakwater Rehabilitation Project including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the city upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Cox advised the Council of the following information: Due to the extraordinary efforts of city departments and the Administration, particularly the Fire, Harbormaster's, Public Works and Police Departments, the city is in receipt of a \$1.3 million from the FEMA and just recently a \$1 million grant from the State Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs for the Lane's Cove Breakwater Repair Project. The caveat is that the FEMA grant must be spent down by December 30, 2018 because the event occurred in 2013. The DPW Director informed the B&F Committee that he anticipated the bid to completion schedule appeared aggressive; he believed the Lane's Cove Seawall will be completed by the end of December. The CFO advised that the city will go out for a loan short term for \$3.7 million -- and that after the grant funds are applied, the city will then go out for the long-term debt, anticipated to be \$1.4 million. She expressed her appreciation for members of the public who showed up to speak this evening.

Councilor Gilman conveyed that she'd vote in favor of the loan order, adding that Mike Hale did an amazing job. She recounted that one of the most important things Mr. Hale did in 2013 during the storm was take photographs before the damage occurred and afterwards of the damage which she said was a key to the awarding of the grant funds. About a year ago she noted Mr. Hale spoke to Lanesville residents to answer questions for commercial fishermen and mooring holders in the Cove. She said the Lane's Cove Historical Association and the Lanesville community have a great deal of pride in the Lane's Cove area and its historic fish shack.

Councilor Holmgren offered her support for the loan order. She said this has been a long, protracted effort especially on the part of Mr. Hale and the Lanesville Historical Association whom she thanked.

Councilor Nolan expressed his support saying he knew how scarce grants are; and when an opportunity like this presents itself it's important to act fast. He said that he's pleased to see this happen.

Councilor O'Hara offered his support saying that the Lane's Cove seawall is an important city asset acknowledging that Lanesville is a unique area of the city. He noted he attended the B&F meeting and heard Mr. Hale's explanation of the project. He said they all look forward to the finished product.

Council President Lundberg thanked residents for appearing before the Council and for all those present for raising their hands in support of the loan order. He said it helps the Council in its deliberations to hear and see the kind of public support they've had this evening.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to authorize the following loan order:

Ordered: That the City of Gloucester appropriates Three Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,700,000) to pay costs of the Lane's Cove Breakwater Rehabilitation Project including costs incidental or related thereto. To meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, or pursuant to any other enabling authority. The Mayor and any other appropriate official of the city are authorized to apply for, accept and expend any grants or gifts that may be available to the City to pay costs of the projects. Any premium received by the city upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Further Ordered: That the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

- 4. PH2018-006: Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-267 "One-way streets- Generally" and Sec. 22-145 "Stopping, Standing and Parking" re: Concord Street during certain hours on certain days**

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

Those speaking in favor:

Dr. Richard Safier, Superintendent of Schools, explained as follows: These amendments to the Code of Ordinances are meant to alleviate chronic traffic congestion at the West Parish School at dismissal time. The congestion is caused by the number of cars picking up children in the afternoon. There are many cars that instead going into the live pick-up queue, remaining in their vehicles and picking up their student(s), people are parking their vehicles in the adjacent area, walking to the school and walking children back to their cars. Another element are vehicles coming in from Essex Avenue, coming up from Concord Street and exiting school grounds. Some of the action steps taken were first to identify the current bus ridership based on submitted applications to the School Department's Director of Transportation at the start of school. Phone calls were placed to families who live beyond the two-mile school limit who are eligible to take the bus for free. Approximately 10 to 15 of those families now have their students riding the bus. There are about 18 families that have walkers in an area that has no sidewalks which is a safety issue, and those families have been offered free bus service even though they're not beyond the school limit per school district policy. People are parking their cars and then walking to get their students. A number of notices have been sent out to "build a culture" which allows for pick-up of students but to be a part of that live queue flow to facilitate student dismissal. The School Department is before the Council asking for a one-way "directional" between the entrance/exit to West Parish west towards Essex Avenue about 300 feet. **Dr. Safier** said that the one-way directional will help alleviate vehicle congestion instead of having cars come up from the Fire House towards West Parish and have cars coming in from Essex Avenue while cars are exiting and entering West Parish. This traffic change is on a trial basis which he said will help to reduce some of the traffic congestion and not impede any egress of cars or buses leaving West Parish.

Jonathan Pope, School Committee Chair, said that the traffic changes are to make a safer situation at West Parish School. They've observed that people are parking on Essex Avenue and crossing it; parking on both sides of Concord Street and trying to cross while traffic is leaving the school, including buses. He said this is to create one-way traffic for only one half hour a day -- 15 minutes before school is released and 15 minutes after. He said they've observed that by 3:15 p.m. all the pick-up traffic has cleared out. They've had public meetings at the school

and many neighbors attended offering their opinions with none expressing their opposition, he noted. **Mr. Pope** said this was the neighbors' suggestion to make Concord Street one way from the entrance of West Parish School to Essex Avenue. He pointed out as vehicles leave school grounds they can choose to travel either way. People won't be trying to turn into the school which will stop the parking along the roadways, he said, and asked for Council support.

Deb Telep, 22 Addison Street, a School Choice West Parish parent, said that they're not entitled to busing at first and said she has a lot of experience with the pick-up process. She expressed her concern for safety issues for school dismissal. She said the school is a hub for the community and should be a welcoming place. She said that while they agree with the neighbors, families want to be able to park their cars on school grounds and allow their children to feel welcomed to play on the playground after school and experience that community. She said that at this time that isn't the case. She suggested that issue needs to be explored also.

Those speaking in opposition:

Kevin Philbrook, 8 Traverse Street, said this is a "Band-Aid" solution, which will alleviate nothing and only push the problem to the "left rather than equally from left to right." This action, he suggested, will create budget issues by needing to hire someone to block the roadway. He said he'd like to see this action declined. He said this won't help, only delay, a serious problem and that a better solution should be found.

Dawn Alves, 6 New Way Lane, said her mother was a crossing guard for the school who was almost killed on duty because Essex Avenue is a highway with vehicles travelling 40+ mph. She recounted that since the West Parish School was completed, cars park on both sides of Essex Avenue, on the right and left-hand sides which is dangerous. She pointed out that when the school was designed sidewalks were installed which negated the ability to expand parking opportunities on the school site which results in endangering children's' safety. On the bottom of the driveway on the corner to the Fire Station there are no sidewalks, she noted, and that anyone who parks and walks their child to their car puts their child in danger. She asked if she should have to wait in the queue line on Concord Street if she doesn't know it's a school half day afraid she'd be stuck in that line. She asked how a community school can be welcoming if there is no parking, with the staff taking up most of the parking currently at the school. One way is not the solution, she said. She offered the suggestion of utilizing the Beachbrook Cemetery property for the overflow queue. She suggested further that buses driving on the school property is a very difficult situation now, and touched upon the needs of a school bus compared to the needs of a private vehicle. She expressed concern that as an abutting neighbor she wasn't noticed about this meeting.

Jane Sweet, 14 Concord Street, noted it has been said by Mr. Pope the School Department is in the process of hiring a crossing guard but pointed out she didn't see that open position on the city's website. She said the school should use the Beachbrook Cemetery property and that there should be drop off at the base of West Parish where there are sidewalks with staff or police at that location to supervise.

Wendy Rose, 369 Essex Avenue, said there is live parking on Route 127, a highway; parking on private property and along Essex Avenue, Route 133. She said that the principal informed people to stay in the live queue, but parents are still parking on the streets with their cars running. She noted that every day she witnesses parents crossing the street with their children and cautioned that someone will be hurt; that greatest concern is for safety. She also pointed out no vehicles are being ticketed. She said she opposes this measure which will make it difficult to access her home, and that she remains concerned for public safety and the need for a solution that takes those concerns into account.

Judy Rose, 17 Landing Road, expressed her concern that as an abutter of Concord Street she wasn't notified of the Council meeting and only learned of it from a friend, pointing out there was notice when there was a meeting to West Parish School but she didn't receive that notice from her Ward Councilor either. She advised she'd written a letter to the Mayor, the Interim Police Chief, the Superintendent of Schools, her Ward Councilor, and the principal of the school as to why it was she wasn't notified as an abutter for this meeting saying that she heard back from no one. Pointing out that Landing Road is a private way, she said people are parking on both sides of it and that emergency vehicles wouldn't be able to access her street. She also expressed concern for public safety. Noting that school bus fees were waived she asked what kind of affect those waivers had on the budget and what is the cost for free bus rides to the taxpayer. She pointed out she sees empty buses. **Ms. Rose** concluded her remarks by saying she was in opposition to the one-way street scheme because it is a temporary fix and didn't say what that temporary window is.

Council President Lundberg said these are all good suggestions to solve the problem as described by Dr. Safier when he spoke about why they're amending this particular ordinance and is what the Council has under consideration -- whether to pass this ordinance or not. He advised the Roses that all of the other issues they raised are "relevant" and should be taken up with the school about other ways to deal with those issues and are not what the Council can consider this evening. He said that the Council is only dealing with the request to make Concord

Street one way (at school dismissal time). He conveyed that the City Council's public hearing on this matter was properly noticed in accordance with the city's Code of Ordinances -- notice was published in the newspaper. He suggested that the method by which public hearings are noticed could be construed as "arcane" because of technology, but he assured the public hearing was noticed properly according to Council rules. The meeting at West Parish School, he pointed out, was a Ward meeting and Councilors may do what they want under those circumstances.

Patti Amaral, 14 Myrtle Square, said she's witnessed what is going on at West Parish and that the traffic issue is "terrible." She asked that something be done before a child is gravely injured. She asked for a permanent solution for the sake of public safety.

Communications: None.

Councilor Questions:

Councilor Hecht asked for a series of statistics related to the on-site parking spaces, number of staff, the number of cars that can be accommodated in the queue, and student population. In response, **Mr. Pope** conveyed that about 350 kids attend West Parish School; there are about 75 staff and just under 100 parking spaces. The queue can hold at least 50 to 59 cars before they get out to Concord Street. Cars line up for the queue as early as 2:15 p.m. He assured the queue is a very smooth operation, he said. **Mr. Pope** then addressed concerns raised when the school was in the design phase. He explained that the former school had buses travelling all the way around it as did cars. Kids were walking in front of and behind buses to get to parents' vehicles. One of the main criteria set when the school was designed was to have a safe exit for the kids to get on the bus, walk home or get into the parents' cars without having to cross traffic -- that's why there is a circle for the buses to go around and pull in and make the turn. Now the only bus that needs to back up at all is a small special needs bus in order to get to the head of the queue and is assisted by staff to allow assuring student safety. Students aren't allowed to get into a car unless the car is in front of the school, and that area allows for eight to nine cars at a time. Staff monitors the entire process, and kids are prevented from crossing traffic. If parents come late, they don't want to get into the queue, so they park on Concord St., Landing Rd. and Essex Ave., leaving their cars, many running, and walk up and take their children as walkers, walk them back down and crossing with them on those same roadways.

Mr. Pope said parked cars on Essex Ave. and Concord St. are one of the main problems, but the only way to solve it is to make the queue work better, that is to let cars run out onto Concord Street and back up towards the Fire Station. There is still plenty of room for cars to go both ways with cars parked on both sides of the road until 600 feet to the corner where the road narrows greatly. That would accommodate about another 20 cars to enter the queue which accounts for the cars parking illegally. He reported that they don't have a capacity as a school to ticket cars, nor can the principal -- they can only suggest parents get into the queue but have no way to enforce it. He pointed out that students will take the bus in the morning only to have parents, caregivers, grandparents, pick up those same students to take them to after-school activities. The parking for events is a separate issue, and he said they're working on resolutions, he advised, and isn't part of this issue under discussion. He said that additional parking will not solve the pick up at the end of the school day.

Councilor Hecht asked how many of those 350 students take the bus. **Mr. Pope** said 205 students take the bus; 56 of them pay the fee. **Councilor Hecht** said with 350 kids, 70 staff with 100 parking spaces on site that he understands the bus area functions so that isn't an issue. He said this means 145 kids are being dropped off and picked up with a queue that holds 58 cars. **Dr. Safier** reiterated there are 205 students that ride the bus and approximately 43 School Choice students. He said by School Committee policy School Choice students have to be transported by parents or caregivers to school. Students that live greater than two miles from the school, about 57, and of that number now 12 are taking the bus. He advised there are parents who say outright they're not going to put their students on the bus for whatever reason whether they have to pay a fee or not. There are about 15 students who reside in an area where there are no sidewalks, and they've been offered free transportation to those families with about half having taken advantage of it. He conveyed there are a number of students with disabilities whose parents feel obligated to drive their students to school as well. **Councilor Hecht**, noting there's a 58-car queue and between 100 and 145 kids being picked up; they have about 60% of the queue they need. He asked if there was a way to do a double drive through and solve the issue with land on site. **Dr. Safier** conveyed that those folks who spoke about short-term versus long-term solutions are correct -- they're trying to alleviate the congestion now for the remainder of the school year. He said there is space on the grounds, and in order to widen the queue they'd have to cut into some of that land. He questioned if there was land adjacent to the school to allow providing parking for parents to walk to get their students and bring them back that would be coordinated, increase capacity and be a safe way to do so. **Councilor Hecht** said it seemed to him that the long-term solution needs to be on campus. On further inquiries by **Councilor Hecht**, **Mr. Pope** said when they were before the O&A Committee the discussion led to the conclusion that they'd try this tack now for the rest of the school year along with all the other things they've done to

alleviate this problem. The West Parish Construction Project is not closed out, he advised, saying that the question they have for MSBA is if they bring back the designers to review traffic flow and parking would it be reimbursable. The MSBA hasn't responded yet to date. He advised it would still cost money, even with getting 50% in costs back from the MSBA.

Councilor Cox said this is nothing new -- this problem was the same when they had the transitional school housed in the old St. Ann's School during construction. The solution was that they bused students to the O'Maley Innovation Middle School for pick up there. She asked if there were any thoughts to that sort of solution and advised that she wasn't in favor of making a small segment of an already narrow, congested road one way because it is too chaotic of an area to impose this kind of solution. She asked what other solutions they've looked at. **Mr. Pope** said they've considered (off-site pick up) but not tested it yet for School Choice pick-up for 43 students, noting that those parents aren't all coming from the same place. **Councilor Cox** suggested the enforcement issue had been seriously considered. She acknowledged that the School Department can't write tickets, but there is a city department that can; and that there has to be some level of enforcement. She advised she hasn't seen much push back from the school regarding the pick-up issues parents are creating. She recounted her experience of completing her volunteer reading to West Parish students at the end of the day and trying to exit the school property at pick-up time. She said it was very difficult to leave the school grounds at all. **Mr. Pope** said once the queue starts to form it blocks most of the parking spots in the parking lot. **Councilor Cox** expressed concern that the one way coming from the Fire House will cause residents of the immediate area to experience issues accessing their homes. **Mr. Pope** said that all it would prevent is people from turning off of Essex Ave, down onto Concord St. People coming from the Fire Station would be able to go through. He said there is "plenty of room." If they can extend the queue onto Concord St. -- the queue works well once it starts, but he pointed out that parents start lining up 45 minutes before dismissal time is not within their control. **Councilor Cox** expressed concern that the School Department hasn't explored every option available to solve the issue before making this one way.

Councilor Holmgren said if the Council passes this ordinance amendment it will take a month to go into effect. She said she is a West Parish parent and elects to send her school children on the bus noting she lives only six-tenths of a mile away. She expressed her appreciation for the work done towards resolution on this issue. She asked if the School Department can have a contractor reassess the queuing and how quickly it can be done. **Mr. Pope** said it depends on funding. If a designer comes to assess this, again, it then becomes a question of cost -- it could be that they'll need to access adjoining privately-owned land and said he didn't know where the funding would come from.

Councilor Nolan citing the timeframe with the MSBA and the highlighted design flaws, pointed out he'd worked with all concerned who have devoted a great deal of time on this matter through meetings and minutes which people can read on the subject. They're working on the design, he said, and asked what the realistic idea is for the next step without funding to work on the School Choice pick-up in two locations; or would they move to make better access at the back of the school and open up the lot as a short-term consideration. **Mr. Pope** said off-site pick-up is something actively being worked on. They're talking to the bus manager to identify buses not completely full. They will move forward on the design as quickly as they can; but he advised there isn't a simple solution even by trying to extend the queue all the way around the school. He said that interferes with the bus circle, and he didn't have a solution to that either. He said they didn't budget this for FY18, but it has been brought up that they could make busing for all students at West Parish a must because there is no safe path to West Parish School even if families live 600 yards from the school. He pointed out that even on Essex Avenue the sidewalks exist up to the cemetery and 300 to 400 yards towards the railroad tracks. Those houses are the only houses that are safe to walk to the school in that district. **Dr. Safier** added that when the queue starts it works and moves quickly and reiterated that what they're asking for is a way to expedite the queue. They can't work the queue any faster without moving the flow of cars out more quickly.

Councilor Memhard extended his thanks to the families who have students at the school and the School Committee. They can't allow parking on Concord Street or Essex Avenue (Route 133) without sidewalks, he said, and that needs to be enforced as it's a matter of safety. With due respect to families whose relatives are interred at Beachbrook Cemetery, he recalled when he was at the school looking out from the third floor Beachbrook Cemetery was clearly close by. He asked if they've fully explored Beachbrook Cemetery as a community resource that would be of value to the school facility to "augment" the situation. He admitted he didn't know the legal or practical issues involved but suggested it is a potential solution. He asked what the barriers would be to using the Cemetery or Paws Lane abutting the school. **Mr. Pope** said they've been informed that it is against the law to utilize the Cemetery, and it is not to be encouraged. **Councilor Memhard** asked they look for creative solutions.

Councilor O'Hara suggested they can't mandate School Choice parents must participate in off-site parking for student pick up. He said they sent out letters, made suggestions, and what they're doing is a "Band-Aid" solution.

Citing poor design for parking and traffic flow at the school, he said, this appears to be a three month solution. He said a better solution needs to be found; the short-term solution isn't the best answer but they have to try something.

Councilor Cox noted that it was brought up that a crossing guard was supposed to be hired. If these amendments are approved to close the road, she asked what the status for the hiring of a crossing guard is and where the guard would be located. She asked that when the 31-day waiting period is over would the School Department request a police officer be utilized in conjunction with the crossing guard for public safety when the one-way traffic is instituted. **Dr. Safier** said that whether these amendments pass or not, enforcement will require more than one agency, not just the school on a state road or on Concord St. -- they don't have the jurisdiction. He said that during the 30-day waiting period from date of passage of the traffic amendments, the School Department would post the job for a crossing guard. He advised they've had preliminary discussions with the DPW; and for the 30 minutes when the road would be one way, there would be a moveable and safe physical barrier to prevent cars coming from Essex Ave. onto Concord St. for those 30 minutes and the crossing guard would be there. He expressed he anticipates that with a barrier that the crossing guard will be able to help cross students across Essex Ave. where necessary.

Councilor Cox said walkers aren't supposed to be picked up. **Dr. Telena Imel**, Principal of West Parish School said that last year there was "no walkers" and that in the letter to parents they informed them there was only bus transportation or pick up of students. She advised parents created their own "walker line." This year they have a "walkers spot," for a variety of reasons, for parents, and have since said that walking isn't the best solution because of the traffic situation that's escalated. It's a work in progress, she said.

This public hearing is closed at 8:56 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 Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-267 "One-way streets-Generally" by ADDING: "While school is in session on weekdays, Concord Street from the entrance of West Parish School southwest to Essex Avenue (approximately 285 feet) from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., and on early release days from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m."

DISCUSSION:

Councilor LeBlanc explained that at the O&A Committee discussion with Chairman Pope and Dr. Safier, they agreed that during the summer this entire matter would return to the Committee's agenda to hold a discussion to see if this problem can be better addressed with other possible solutions on the horizon. He said it would appear on the Committee's first agenda in July after a brief discussion with **Councilors Gilman** and **Cox**. With that, **Councilor LeBlanc** moved and **Councilor Gilman** seconded to amend the main motion that after the word, "12:15 p.m." to ADD the words, "effective to June 30, 2018."

The motion to amend the main motion passed by a unanimous vote of the City Council.

DISCUSSION ON THE MAIN MOTION:

Councilor LeBlanc said he'd support the main motion and the motion that follows with the same amendment as this is about safety for the children. Noting that this is a temporary fix until there is a solid solution, right now there's nothing else ready in place having talked about various solutions at O&A. He said this is the safest remedy at the moment until they can find the right one. As to the use of the Beachbrook Cemetery, with many veterans interred there, and were any of his family members there as well, he said that he would be upset it was being used as a parking drop-off, and that if any member of a family was buried there he would be upset to have parking taking place there. If they start disregarding the use for the cemeteries they are opening a "Pandora's box."

Councilor Nolan said he's spent a great deal of time on this issue observing traffic, watching the queue come and go. The immediate choice is to regulate traffic coming from Essex Avenue onto Concord Street so there can be live parking only on Concord Street heading towards Essex Avenue with the long-term solution to fix something that doesn't work. The School Committee is aware of this entire issue, and briefly touched upon the method by which the issues had been coming to light and why this solution was the best at this time. He pointed out that the most dangerous point is coming from Essex Avenue, going around by Wendy Rose's house to a blind corner. Cars are waiting to turn into West Parish School going left but being held up because of the live queue and stay there on the right-hand side of the road backing them up to Essex Ave. He said working with the city's emergency services and DPW, the short-term solution is to try this for at least three months and hopefully to find a long-term solution

with the School Department by doing something in the school yard. He pointed out that this is the only thing they can do right now, so for safety sake it's all they can do right now, reiterating his support of the GCO amendments.

Councilor Holmgren added her support for the amendment expressing empathy with the neighbors and school parents alike. She expressed appreciation for work by the School Department, Councilors Nolan and Lundberg. This is not a permanent solution, she noted, and expressed her hope that a resolution can be found as soon as possible.

Councilor Cox said while she's not really in favor of this amendment, she would support it for the short-term trial period. She indicated she wouldn't vote for this in July if it came forward again. She expressed concern that it took until mid-February to realize this was a problem and that this was what they came up with. She highlighted that when the West Parish transitional school was located downtown, there was mandatory pick-up off site which worked. She conveyed that she looked forward to better solutions in July.

Councilor Hecht said there is 4½ months between now and July 1, and offered he was willing to meet anyone at the site to look at options for solutions. He offered his support of the amendments.

Council President Lundberg advised that this problem didn't just come forward in the last few weeks; Councilor Nolan came to him in September about this situation. He said there've been several meetings at the school and explored many of the options offered up this evening. He explained that this is a stop-gap measure; that there has to be a better one, but they'd like to try this for a temporary period. As to enforcement, during his and Councilor Nolan's discussion he advised they agreed that enforcement is a city issue, and that they both thought it would be best to get the traffic solution in place and then add the enforcement piece. He pointed out that if they're going to tell people on Essex Ave. they can't park there any more, there had to be an alternative for them. Now there will be an alternative and enforcement will follow as a part of this trial period, he said. This has, he assured, been discussed with the Police Department; and reiterated that enforcement will be a part of this temporary trial. He added his support for the amendment.

Councilor Nolan noted as to enforcement, it will include Landing Road as a private road with no parking. He asked the residents to contact him about the signage.

Councilor Gilman said she was concerned about vehicles left running while parents go to get their students and asked that the city's no idling policy is enforced as well.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-267 "One-way streets-Generally" by ADDING:

"While school is in session on weekdays, Concord Street from the entrance of West Parish School southwest to Essex Avenue (approximately 285 feet) from 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m., and on early release days from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. effective to June 30, 2018."

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 Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-145 "Stopping, Standing and Parking" by ADDING:

"Live parking (drivers to remain with their vehicles) for the purpose of picking up students at West Parish School will be permitted on the north side of Concord Street from the entrance of West Parish School 444 feet in a northerly direction (towards the Fire Station) during the same hours as described in Sec. 22-267."

DISCUSSION:

Councilor LeBlanc moved to amend the main motion to end with, "effective to June 30, 2018." Council President Lundberg seconded. By a unanimous vote of the City Council the main motion was amended as presented.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-145 "Stopping, Standing and Parking" by ADDING:

"Live parking (drivers to remain with their vehicles) for the purpose of picking up students at West Parish School will be permitted on the north side of Concord Street from the entrance of West Parish School 444 feet in a northerly direction (towards the Fire Station) during the same hours as described in Sec. 22-267 effective to June 30, 2018."

For Council Vote: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

Individual Councilor's Discussion including Reports by Appointed Councilors to Committees:

Update of the Fisheries Commission by City Council Representative, Councilor Scott Memhard who extended an invitation through Sal DiStefano, the city's Economic Development Director, the Mayor and Mark Ring, Fisheries Commission Chair, to appreciate the efforts of the Fisheries Commission is doing both the Gloucester Fresh initiative and this year's Gloucester Fresh Pavillion at the Seafood Expo North America, March 11 through 13 at the Boston Convention Center Booth #2186. He encouraged that the Council attend to help staff the booth, which is a corner booth. Numerous grant resources have been utilized to underwrite the cost of the book and advertising of the Gloucester Fresh Program. The 99 Restaurant continues to promote Gloucester haddock even though Mazzetta is no longer processing fish in the city; there will be billboards on Route 1 marketing the city's Gloucester Fresh program and promotion on North Shore 104.9 FM. The Mayor and the Fisheries Commission, he pointed out, have done a great deal of work on this marketing effort on behalf of the city. He described some of the activities surrounding the Seafood Expo. He urged his fellow Councilors to support this effort.

Councilor Hecht advised he attended the Expo last year and thought the marketing was "amazing." He said he's been working with Mr. DiStefano, attending the seafood auction as well as meeting with Mark Ring to learn how they "get names on contracts." He said his goal is to line up prospects such as college and university food services. There are niche markets they can sell to, he said, and asked that the attitude be, "how can they get signatures on contracts," focusing on prospects.

Councilors' Requests to the Mayor:

Councilor Holmgren thanked Chris Sicuranza and James Pope for their quick response to a request she made to implement an "800" number for people to call in; on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at City Hall at 3:00 p.m there will be the event, "One Billion Rising" sponsored by the City of Gloucester, HAWC, Gloucester Coalition for Prevention of Domestic Abuse, Strong Men Don't Bully, YWCA North Shore Rape Crisis Center featuring women's rights activists and musicians.

Councilor Memhard announced that Thursday, Feb. 15 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sawyer Free Library there will be a community discussion about proposed beach zone parking restrictions with tow-away zones for resident sticker parking only. He noted interesting discussions are going on with some people saying it's great and others aren't so enamored.

Councilor Cox announced that on Sunday, April 29 it's time for Pride Stride starting at 12 noon. She said she'd appreciate more City Councilors' participation. The Cape Ann Animal Aid Ball is Saturday, Feb. 17. She urged people to contact Cape Ann Animal Aid for more information given tickets are limited.

Councilor LeBlanc mentioned Damon Cummings, thanking him for letting two women who attended this evening know that they left their purses behind.

Councilor Hecht noted he's meeting Friday with the Chamber of Commerce and Discover Gloucester. He said he is the Council's liaison to the Tourism Commission, and will work to learn how they can enhance what is in the city. He said work is on-going to promote the shoulder seasons, and that he'll work to keep things moving forward.

Councilor Gilman asked to clarify for the Council a correction to a comment made by General Counsel, Chip Payson, at the January 23, 2018 Council meeting. She explained that when discussing language regarding the city's zoning moratorium pursuant to Recreational Marijuana, Mr. Payson said that it shall be in effect through December 31, 2018 or six months from the date the final (state) regulations will be issued on March 15, 2018. He pointed out were that the case, the city's zoning moratorium could be over on September 15, 2018 not December 31, 2018. She said that the language states that whatever date is later, not earlier, so in this instance December 31, 2018 would be that date.

Councilor O'Hara thanked the DPW for patching potholes recently and asked the Administration to focus on private roads that were in good shape but because of plowing are rapidly becoming unrepairable which he said is because of the lack of action on the part of the Administration to patch potholes on private roads. He said these roads are unsafe for emergency vehicles to pass over because of roadway deterioration. He asked that through the Administration the Council dais be revamped to remove a raised section, as he said he understood there were funds available to do so. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Hale and the Fire Department for a fixing a failed fire house door. He asked they institute an inspection process for overhead doors at fire stations by someone who is qualified to do so. He mentioned the CERT program needs to be moved forward. He noted that the National Academy of Science reported rising tides will continue indefinitely due to the melting polar cap which he said ties into the Jan. 4 flooding at the Gloucester High School parking lot when 73 people lost their cars. He conveyed that the city needs to assess its properties and infrastructure in flood zones and consider where those facilities could be relocated.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:

- **Oral Communications:** Linda Romano submitted Mass.gov document on Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-off Abatement Program; Karen Spencer Favazza submitted written statement, book entitled, "Pregnancy and Fluoride Do Not Mix and a pamphlet entitled, "Rethinking Fluoride, It's Time to Change! and "Dentists & Doctors who did their own homework and changed their minds"; written statement submitted by Tracey Ritchie speaking against fluoridation of the city's water supply; written statement of Patti Page, 3 Tidal Cove Way speaking against fluoridation of the city's water supply