

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on February 3, 2022 .

Councilor Reichert stated that pursuant to current R.I. Executive Orders this meeting is being teleconferenced via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; Walter M.O. Steere III, Vice President; Stephen Arnold; William Worthy, Jr.; and David Laplante

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor; ;Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Joseph Delprete,; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Reichert went on to explain the procedure for the zoom meeting and how participants can be recognized when requesting to speak. Councilor W. Reichert also stated that participants expressing inappropriate behavior or being disruptive may be removed from the meeting by the Council.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of January 20, 2022

B. Pole Grant- Old Quarry Road, Install new pole No.20 and anchor

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of January 20, 2022 and to APPROVE the Pole Grant on Old Quarry Road for the installation of a new pole #20 and anchors; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Laplante -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Authorization to Sign:

1. Agreement for Information Technology Products & Services
Between Avenu Insights & Analytics, LLC & Town of Gloucester
Five Year Contract to expire February 16, 2027 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from the Town Clerk which Councilor Reichert read as follows:

January 31, 2022

TO: Town Council
FROM: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk
RE: Avenu Contract

Council;

On November 4, 2021 the Town Council awarded IFB 2021-05 Land Evidence Management System to Avenu Insights & Analytics.

After extensive review of the proposed contract, we now request that Council authorize the signing of the "Agreement for Information Technology Products and Services" between the Town of Gloucester and Avenu Insights & Analytics" .

This document will ensure a five year contract for continued services relating to the recording, indexing, and preservation of land evidence documents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jean Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Agreement for Information Technology Products and Services" between the Town of Gloucester and Avenu Insights & Analytics for the term 2/17/2022 to 2/16/2027; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- B. American Rescue Act Funds: Consideration of Dept. Head grant requests
 - 1. Internal Proposals - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Senior Center - iPad loaners

Councilor Reichert stated that Council received information from Matt Floor regarding the cost of (15) ipads, two different versions, and a Verizon program “Digital Inclusion Program” to help defray the cost of service. Councilor Reichert stated that Council and the Senior Center Director need to decide which ipads to purchase and Council will need to sign the contract with Verizon when in final form.

Councilor Reichert stated that Council needs to first decide whether to set funds aside, and the motion could be a “not to exceed amount” until we work out all the details.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to SET aside an amount not to exceed, \$17,000 from the American Rescue Act funds for an iPad borrow program for the Gloucester Senior Center; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked which ipads were a possible purchase. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, stated that she would like to have the full size 4G ipad rather than the mini ipad as the full is better for older individuals in terms of handling and vision. Councilor Laplante asked if each device included unlimited data for \$10 per month which M. Bouvier confirmed. M. Bouvier also stated that the cost would work in the senior center budget going forward. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that M. Floor, IT Director, and M. Bouvier could work out the details.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- C. Authorization to enter into contract: Audio/Video upgrades (equipment & labor) Between PMA Industries Inc. (State MPA # 416) & Town of Gloucester (ARPA Funding) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk is requesting this item be tabled to March to ensure that all required elements of receiving ARPA funds are included in the final contract.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the authorization of a contract between PMA Industries Inc. and Town of Gloucester to the Town Council Meeting of March 3, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

D. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Recreation Commission

All Recreation terms expire 12/31/2022

1. Position # 1- one unexpired term

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #1; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 5- one unexpired term

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #5; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

b. Economic Development Commission

1. Ad Hoc Non Voting member- term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Ad Hoc Non Voting Member position; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Position #2 - Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #2, for a term to expire 12/31/2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion:None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

c. Conservation Commission

1. Alternate- One year term to expire 2/01/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has recommended Bruce Payton to be the Alternate member but has asked we hold the recommendation until March. Councilor Reichert asked what the council wanted to do.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Conservation Commission for the Alternate, One year term to expire 2/01/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

- Councilor Arnold -Aye
- Councilor Worthy -Aye
- Councilor Laplante -Aye
- Councilor Steere -Aye
- Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

d. Planning Board

1. Position # 4- One 5-year term to expire 3/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair of the Planning Board has asked Council to table while they seek out a potential member.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Planning Board, position #4, for a term to expire 3/2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

- Councilor Arnold -Aye
- Councilor Worthy -Aye
- Councilor Laplante -Aye
- Councilor Steere -Aye
- Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

e. Budget Board

1. Position # 3- One unexpired term to end 12/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3, for a term to expire 12/31/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance- Proposed Amendment- Discussion and/or Action

1. 1st Reading- Chapter 113. Recreation Commission

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has a proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinance. Councilor Reichert stated that tonight Council can read the entire document proposed for the code or explain the proposal.

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, explained that the proposed amendment simply expands the current three duties as contained in the Code to provide a clearer understanding while keeping the original intent as evidenced in the history of past meeting minutes which she reviewed. J. Fecteau stated that no new duties were added but that the existing ones were expanded to be more clear. Councilor Worthy stated that he feels these better explained duties will make all work more smoothly. Councilor Worthy stated he feels these duties, explained, will help all to understand what is expected.

The Clerk stated she sent a copy of the proposal to the current Recreation Commission members.

2. Set Public Hearing Date for consideration of amendment to Code of Ordinance, Chapter 113 Recreation Commission

Councilor Reichert stated that Council now needs to set a public hearing for the consideration of this proposed amendment to the Code.

Councilor Reichert stated that there is a message from the Clerk which he read as follows: We have this public hearing and the public hearing for a proposed subdivision chapter amendment to schedule. We may know by our next meeting when we can meet in person, would the Solicitor recommend waiting to schedule both hearings.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to DECLARE the First Reading complete and TABLE the setting of a Public Hearing to hear the proposed Code of Ordinance, Chapter 113 Recreation Commission amendment; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that public hearing for the subdivision amendment was tabled by the Council as the public hearing would have to have been held by zoom and we need to be careful in order not to infringe on anyone's right to be heard if there was, perhaps, technical issues. J. Fecteau stated she suggested waiting to schedule the public hearing for both the subdivision amendment and the Chapter 113 Recreation Commission amendment until an in person public hearing may be held for both at the same time.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

B. Set Financial Town Referendum Dates for FY 2022/23 - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk has taken the annual financial calendar and formula and prepared a list of dates regarding the budget process for Council to approve.

Councilor Reichert stated that the schedule is included and read it as follows:

FRAMEWORK FOR SETTING CALENDAR FOR FINANCIAL TOWN REFERENDUM

March 17 , 2022 **COUNCIL RECEIVES BUDGET: Town Council receives from Budget Board (Per Charter C8-2.1c) and Council approves for Public Hearing.**

April 16th to April 21, 2022 **BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING: Should be held no sooner than 30 days nor more than 35 days after receipt and approval of budget. Per Charter C8-3.3. this hearing must be at least 21 days prior to FTR.**

Council needs to pick a date here.

ADOPT May 5, 2022 **ADOPTION TOWN COUNCIL: Within 15 days after final Public Hearing, Town Council ADOPTS budgets and ballot language for Financial Town Referendum.**

Per Charter C8-3.4 Council must adopt a budget not later than 15 days prior to FTR.

MAY 24, 2022

FINANCIAL TOWN REFERENDUM: Referendum to be held no less than 15 days after adoption and not later than May 31 in any fiscal year.

All procedures & dates referenced in the Town Charter (Articles: III; IV.9; & VIII) have been considered and included in the this framework.

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that the most important date to set tonight is the Financial Town Referendum (FTR). J. Fecteau stated that the dates are the result of formulas used in a spreadsheet and it is the same that has been used in past years. J. Fecteau stated that there is a window of dates to choose for the Budget Public Hearing. J. Fecteau stated that the Council should be mindful of the date they choose in order to leave time for a continuation of the hearing if it is necessary. J. Fecteau stated the FTR is typically held on a Tuesday as it mirrors state election law. J. Fecteau stated that the Finance Director may be able to offer his opinion. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that at this time in the budget process he was not anticipating controversies but he would agree with the suggestion of playing it safe and setting a date that allows for a continuation within the framework of dates. Councilor Steere added that having the Budget Hearing separate from a regular Town Council meeting enables the Council to concentrate only on the Budget and also recommends leaving time for a continuation if necessary.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to SET the 2022/23 Budget Public Hearing for April 19, 2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to SET the 2022 Financial Town Referendum for Tuesday, May 24, 2022, seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

C. Ratification of Authorization to Seek Bids/Proposals - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Reichert stated that due to time constraints these two Bids were advertised last week. Councilor Reichert stated that both Dept. Heads sought out a consensus by Council members, individually, to allow the ad. Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk and the Finance Director are asking the Council to ratify the authorization to begin the bid process. Councilor Reichert stated that the results of these processes will come back to Council for the award of bids.

1. RFP- #2022-01 Redistricting/ Reapportionment Services
2. IFB - #2022-01 Full-Depth Pavement Reclamation

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to RATIFY approval of the Bid process for RFP #2022-1 for Redistricting/Reapportionment Services and IFB #2202-1 for Full-Depth Pavement Reclamation; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

D. Boards and Commissions- Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointments
 - a. Land Trust
 1. Member at large- Conservation Commission- one year position to expire 2/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the motion made by the Conservation Commission on Dec. 2, 2021 appointing Roy Najecki to the member at large - Land Trust

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Roy Najecki to the Land Trust, Member at large, from the Conservation Commission for a one year term to expire 2/2023; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Position #1 - One 5 year term to expire 2/2027

Councilor Reichert stated that this is the expired term of Bruce Payton. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from Bruce Payton to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Shaun Thomas to the Land Trust, Position #1, for a year term to expire 2/2027; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked why another person was suggested instead of Bruce Payton who requested to be re appointed. Councilor Worthy stated that he felt the person he recommended was a good fit and is on the talent bank list. Councilor Arnold stated he has attended four Land Trust meetings our the last couple of years and there is a constancy of disturbance. Councilor S. Arnold stated our HR Director has spend hours and hours on various “incidences” and stated our HR Director has spent more time on one volunteer. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, reminded Council that they cannot talk about people in open session . Councilor Steere stated there was an investigation done in January and things have been cleared up. Councilor W. Steere stated that since then Council has not been informed of any issues within the Land Trust. Councilor Steere stated that he was wondering why we are going in this direction when we have someone who wants to be reappointed especially as the Council just went through seven openings on our boards.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Nay
Councilor Steere -Nay
Councilor Reichert -Nay

MOTION FAILED

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust, Position #1, for a year term to expire 2/2027; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Steere clarified that his no vote was as to procedure and was not applicable to the person recommended. Councilor Steere stated that he hopes that tabling the motion will give time to re-read the investigation and hopefully that clears matters up for everyone.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Nay
Councilor Worthy -Nay
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

E. Request to begin negotiation of Successor Agreement - Police Dispatchers Local Union #1322 & Town of Gloucester

1. Acknowledge request & Appoint negotiation team - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the dispatchers union which he read as follows:

Town Council President

Re: Agreement between the Town of Gloucester- Police Dispatchers and the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council on behalf of Local Union 1322

Pursuant to Article VI of the Agreement now in existence between the Town of Gloucester -Police Dispatchers and the Rhode Island Laborers' District Council on behalf of Local Union 1322 notice is hereby given that the Union elects to extend that Agreement on June 30, 2022 and to begin negotiations for a successor Agreement.

I would appreciate an immediate response in order that we may set a date, time and place for a meeting to begin negotiations.

Michael F. Sabitoni
Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer
(end of memo)

Councilor Reichert stated that Council now needs to appoint two Councilors to negotiate on behalf of the Council.

Councilor Reichert stated that Councilors Steere and Worthy, and the Chief have the Police; and that Councilor Worthy and himself have the Clerks.

Discussion: Councilor Laplante asked Attorney Iglizzi if he could be part of the negotiation team if he was a retired Gloucester police officer. Attorney Iglizzi stated that retirement benefits are part of the State system so that there is nothing in the contract that would effect Councilor Laplante personally. D. Iglizzi stated that the general rule is that if the impact of the contract does not effect you personally or your family members then you can sit on the negotiation team. D. Iglizzi stated that Councilor Laplante could sit on the negotiation team and that we can confirm that with the Ethics Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACKNOWLEDGE the request to begin negotiations received from the Police Dispatchers & the RI Laborers District Council on behalf of Local Union 1322 and to APPOINT Councilor Reichert , and Councilor Laplante , to negotiate on behalf of the Town Council and report back to same; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

F. Town Council Policy - Discussion and/or Action

1. Consider and/or Approve proposed policy: Outside legal assistance

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked for this item on the agenda due to his concerns of the wasting of taxpayer dollars on outside legal assistance. Councilor Reichert stated that the town has two attorneys. Councilor Reichert stated that department heads should seek Town Council approval of outside legal assistance before asking for an outside attorney. Councilor Reichert gave a brief explanation of prior outside attorney work for the town at a great expense. Councilor Steere agrees . Councilor Reichert stated that if the two attorneys for the town can't handle a matter then the department head should get approval from the Council before they get outside legal assistance. Councilor Laplante asked if the prior outside attorneys were hired without Council approval. Councilor Reichert stated that the prior outside attorneys were appointed on the advice of the prior attorney. Councilor Reichert stated he is against wasting taxpayer money .

The proposal is as follows:

Proposed policy:
Outside Legal Assistance

When any Town Department, including the Legal Department, determines that outside legal assistance may be necessary, it is hereby ordered that prior approval must be sought from the Town

Council, by a vote of the Town Council, before entering into an agreement with outside attorney or firm.

(End of proposed policy)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADOPT the Outside Legal Assistance policy; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked if the Finance Director could give the Council a line item breakdown of the money spent on outside counsel. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that he could provide that information to Council. K. Scott, Town Planner, wanted clarification that the outside attorney appointed to represent the town in a matter could still be used as the matter is still in process. K. Scott stated that both town attorneys had a conflict so that is why outside counsel was approved and appointed. D. Iglizzi stated that he had represented the applicant previously. D. Iglizzi stated that the town would not have gone to outside counsel unless both town attorneys were in conflict. Councilor Reichert asked D. Iglizzi if he could confirm that W. Bernstein also was in conflict and had to recuse.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- G. Personnel
 - 1. Police Department - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Resignation - Full Time Dispatcher

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a resignation of Full Time Police Dispatcher Joseph Misto.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ACCEPT the resignation of Full time Police Dispatcher Joseph Misto effective February 6, 2022; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert request the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

b. Appointment - Full Time Dispatcher

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Chief which he read as follows:

TO: Jean Fecteau
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: January 31, 2022

Subject: Police Department Full-Time Dispatcher Appointment

I would respectfully request to make the following employment appointment to the Gloucester Police Department.

Appoint Sean Tikiryman of North Providence to a Full-Time dispatcher position on the Gloucester Police Department. Mr. Tikiryman was originally hired as a part-time dispatcher in December 2021 and has completed the necessary training. He would move into the full-time dispatcher position left by the resignation of Joseph Misto on February 6, 2022.

Mr. Tikiryman will be afforded the first step salary and fringe benefits under the Laborers International Union Local 1322 full-time dispatchers collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Tikiryman has already completed a criminal history and police background investigation. This appointment will be effective February 6, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Sean Tikiryman to the position of Full time Police Dispatcher effective February 6, 2022, said position will be afforded the first step salary and fringe benefits under the Laborers International Union Local 1322 full-time dispatchers collective bargaining agreement.; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Building/Zoning Department - Discussion and/or Action

a. Resignation - Mechanical Inspector

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the resignation of Al Danti from the position of Mechanical Inspector effective February 1, 2022.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT, with regrets and many thanks, the resignation of Al Danti from the position of Mechanical Inspector; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Reichert stated that Al has done a really great job and we wish him the best. Councilor Worthy also stated what a great job Al has done for the town and offered many thanks too. All Councilors gave their thanks to Mr. Danti and recognized his years of service.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

b. Authorization of temporary assistance

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Building Official which he read as follows:

TO: Town Council
FROM: Ken Johnson
SUBJECT: Temporary Mechanical Inspector
DATE: February 1, 2022

As you may know, Al Danti, our Mechanical inspector has given his resignation effective February 1, 2022. Al's hire date on file with us is July 1991.

I would like to have Roland Belanger, the Burrillville Mechanical inspector fill in while we are looking for Al's replacement. Mr. Belanger will be paid on a per inspection basis at the same rate the Town of Gloucester currently pays for our inspections.

Thank you,
Ken Johnson
(end of memo)

Discussion:None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Roland Belanger to temporary Mechanical Inspector to be paid on a per inspection basis at the current inspection rate; appointment shall run until position of Mechanical Inspector is filled; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Reichert stated that R. Belanger is a very good mechanical inspetor and does a great job in Burrillville.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

3. Dept. of Public Works - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Request & Acknowledgment of FMLA status

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from a Public Works Employee to acknowledge their status under the Family Medical Leave Act:

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked if all were okay with the FMLA. A. Muccino stated that this is historically how the town has handled FMLA requests. D. Zimmerman, Acting Human Resources Director, stated that the employee has exhausted all paid benefits and will have exhausted the additional sick pay previously granted by the Council and that he has met the required years of service to qualify under the FMLA statute.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACKNOWLEDGE the FMLA designation for a current Public Works employee until their return to work; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

4. Tax Assessor - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Resignation - Tax Assessor Clerk

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the resignation of Tax Assessor Clerk, Michelle A. Mariani

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT the resignation of Michelle Mariani, effective February 1, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

b. Authorization to seek Tax Assessor Clerk replacement

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the HR Director and Tax Assessor to begin the search process to fill the Tax Assessor Clerk position; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

H. Authorization to Sign

1. Services Agreement/Order Form between Flock Group Inc. & Town of Gloucester, Police Department - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Services Agreement between Flock Group Inc & the Town of Gloucester for a security program; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Release of Claim - Motor Vehicle Accident - Discussion and/or Action
MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Town Council President, in consideration of the receipt of Eight Hundred and Fifty Three Dollars and 34/100 Cents (\$853.34), to sign the “ Full Release of All Claims and Demands For Fixed Property Damage” discharging claimants from any and all claims, actions, causes of actions, rights, demands, damages, costs, expenses, loss of use on account of or in any way growing out of any and all known and unknown property damages resulting from a vehicular accident which occurred on or about May 8, 2021, at or near RT 44 Chepachet, RI; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that she did not have any backup information but if Council needs it she believes A. Muccino can explain.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

I. Gloucester Memorial Park - Recreation Development Project - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a memo from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: February 2, 2022
Re: Gloucester Memorial Park – Reduction in Project Scope

In 2019, the Town of Gloucester received a RIDEM recreation development grant for \$400,000. The Town committed to a \$224,000 cash/in-kind match to this grant for a total project budget of \$624,000. The full scope of the original project included a new playground with two (2) separate play structures, fitness obstacle course, swing set, two (2) covered picnic areas and benches, reconfiguration and replacement of the basketball court, improvements to the pedestrian connection to Putman Pike via Sherman Lane, new signage and a new bocce court. Construction was to begin in summer of 2020 and be completed by December 2021.

Due to the impacts of the global coronavirus pandemic, we faced unanticipated delays to the project schedule. To date the following work items have been completed:

1. Surveyed the Town's easement that will be the foundation of the pedestrian connection to Putnam Pike via Sherman Lane;
2. Completed a conceptual design for the park including all grant elements;
3. Completed final design and bid specifications and cost estimates for original project scope (including pedestrian pathway, basketball court, internal pedestrian connections, parking area and site work related to the bocce court);
4. Obtained preliminary cost estimates for playground, picnic area and bocce court equipment and installation; and
5. Removed the existing skate park and basketball court and brought the entire area for the playground and basketball court to rough grade.

To date, \$66,590 has been allocated and spent on pre-design/engineering to survey the easement, prepare the conceptual and final project designs, prepare preliminary cost estimates, and prepare the bid documents.

As most of us are aware, the construction industry has been and will continue to face unprecedented escalation in material pricing as the world begins the rebound from global coronavirus pandemic. S&P Global Platts, the leading independent provider of information, benchmark prices and analytics for the energy and commodities market, indicates that steel prices at mills in the United States are up 60% to 100% in 2021, affecting the cost of structural steel, steel joists, reinforcing steel, metal deck, stairs and rails, canopies, and furniture. Similarly, according to RS Means, the world's leading provider of facility and construction cost data, from the last quarter of 2020 to the end of the first quarter in 2021, lumber costs were up 32%. Locally, the playground supplier M.E. O'Brien & Sons, Inc. has indicated that prices for plastics and polymers were up significantly in 2021 resulting in across the board price increases in all projects.

The current estimated cost of the Gloucester Memorial Park project using the original scope of work is \$1,153,455.48. This leaves the Town with a budget shortfall of \$529,455.48 or, 46%.

I am requesting that the Town Council authorize a reduction in the scope of work for this grant project with no reduction in overall original approved budget based on the above documented price escalations experienced across regions and industries. The reduced scope will omit one (1) covered picnic area, the walkways connecting to the Senior Center, the parking area and the entire bocce court from the project. While the decision around this request was very difficult, it is the only way to both stay close to the allotted budgeted funds and ensure that the majority of the project moves forward in a timely manner. The bid specifications for the reduced scope are ready to be released and construction could still begin on the remaining project elements as early as Spring 2022.

We have received preliminary cost estimates for the reduced scope of work, which are still above the total available budget of \$624,000. I am also requesting an allocation of up to \$75,000 from the American Rescue Act funds to cover any budget overruns that result from the bid process.

Lastly, it is my intent to aggressively look for opportunities to complete the project as originally envisioned through additional funding opportunities and alteration of design features to reduce overall costs. The project has been designed and bid specifications completed therefore it is just construction funds that are required.

Thank you for your consideration
(end of memo)

1. Approval of Reduction in Scope for Gloucester Memorial Park Recreation Development Project

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPROVE the reduction in scope for R.I. DEM Recreation Grant #2020-70-06, submitted by the Town of Gloucester, as follows:

1. omit one (1) covered picnic area
2. omit walkways connecting to the Senior Center
3. parking area
4. bocce court

seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Councilor Worthy suggested waiting to do these projects for a few years instead of paying an additional \$500,000. Councilor Arnold stated that K. Scott is suggesting that these items be omitted from the plan in order to stay within budget due to the escalation in prices of materials. Councilor Arnold clarified that the basketball court is still in the plans and it is the additional parking area that is being omitted. Councilor Reichert asked for clarification as to the cash and in kind services. K. Scott stated that about \$60,000 of the \$224,000 is in kind and the rest is cash from various sources that the town was going to spend anyway but was leveraged to get the grant. K. Scott stated that the request is to omit items to stay in budget and not for an additional \$500,000. K. Scott stated that she does not want to delay the project as so much in kind work as already been done and that there is an expiration date on the grant so it can't be postponed. Councilor Steere asked if American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds can be used for other parts of the project. K. Scott stated that she would like to get the first part completed and then work with DPW to look at the project to see what could do and possibly fund through ARP. Councilor Steere stated that a lot of work has been done and would like to see the work continue.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

2. Approval to seek bids for Gloucester Memorial Park Recreation Development Project

Councilor Reichert stated that Karen Scott has indicated she is ready to begin the process to seek bids for work relating to the project.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the bid process to begin for the Gloucester Memorial Park Recreation Development Project; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: K. Scott stated that the bids are ready on the reduced scope of work but that she can't send them out until DEM approves the scope reduction. K. Scott stated that she is hoping DEM will approve and keep the grant money the same. K. Scott stated that she will release the bids when she receives DEM approval.

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

- J. American Rescue Act Funds: Consideration of Dept. Head grant requests-Discussion and/or Action

1. Approval of Allocation of ARPA funds for Gloucester Memorial Park Project

Councilor Reichert stated that as contained in the Planners memo, Karen Scott is seeking an allocation of ARPA funds to cover the shortage of funds as described for the Gloucester Memorial Park Project. Councilor Reichert stated that Karen has reviewed the use and feels it is a qualifying use of funds.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to SET aside \$75,000 from the American Rescue Act funds for use on the Gloucester Memorial Park Project, to cover any budget overruns, not covered by previously received grant funding; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

K. Social Media Policy Update - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Arnold stated that there has been a great amount of headway on the policy and the final draft should be ready by the next council meeting. Councilor Arnold stated that there has been great teamwork.

No Action Taken

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no correspondence in Council's packet and asked if any Councilors have anything they would like to bring forward.

Councilor Worthy stated that he has received some calls from his boards and commissions that are deflated because they can't have meetings. Councilor Worthy stated that these boards feel like they can't do things.

Councilor Reichert thanked Gary Treml and the entire DPW for the great job they did with the blizzard. Councilor Reichert stated he received some calls saying how great the DPW did in clearing up after the storm. Councilor Steere stated that it was not an easy storm. G. Treml, Director of Public Works stated his appreciation for the department.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. K. Johnson, Building and Zoning Official, stated kind words for retiring mechanical inspector, A. Danti.
2. M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, wanted to let the Council know that before COVID she had been looking into a non profit company called Village Common that helps seniors age in place by handling a variety of matters. M. Bouvier was checking with Council for a consensus to continue to research and bring the information back to Council. Councilor Steere and Arnold stated that it sounds interesting and advised M. Bouvier to get more information to bring back to the Council.
3. J. Fecteau reminded the Council that at the last meeting they passed a motion authorizing the IT Director to purchase zoom accounts for the boards and commissions after Feb 4, as the current Executive Order is in place till tomorrow, Feb. 4th. J. Fecteau stated that all boards and commissions were notified that if they needed to meet the Clerk's office would work to accommodate them. J. Fecteau stated that all boards and commissions were notified. Councilor Reichert reminded the Council that the buying of these zoom licenses is a big expense and it would be a waste to buy them if they are not needed. J. Fecteau recommended that any board can put on their agenda that the meeting may or may not be by zoom and advise the

public to check the state's website and the town website 48 hours ahead of time. Councilor Worthy stated there could be communications issues.

4. A. Muccino stated that the Finance Office has not received a UCOA report from the Department of Education that is a necessary part of the audit. A. Muccino stated that he contacted the Auditor General's office as the extension approved by the Town Council is getting close and the Auditor General's office is sending another approved extension . A. Muccino will forward to Council.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor Steere had a question for G. Mosca, EMA Director as to how the numbers were looking at the scheduled COVID vaccination clinic on Saturday. G. Mosca stated that the numbers were low; that he put out a Code Red ; and, that the schools put out an electronic message about the clinic. G. Mosca stated that walk ins would be welcome and they can register at that time. G. Mosca stated that a booster clinic would be held in 2 weeks at the high school.

XI. Open Forum

1. Laurie Gaddis-Barrett expressed her opinion on the past appointment to Land Trust and her view that there were continuing issues with Land Trust.
Ms. Gaddis-Barrett expressed her opinion that Councilor Laplante should not serve on the negotiations committee despite Town Solicitor approval and a submission for review to the Ethics Commission.
Ms. Gaddis-Barrett stated that she has had conversations with the Harmony Fire Department Chief about COVID antibodies.
Ms. Gaddis-Barrett thanked the police for their increased presence at dismissal time at the schools.

Councilors Worthy and Steere were prompted to discuss the Land Trust appointment and investigations by the acting HR Director in response to L. Gaddis Barret comments.

Councilor Steere stated that the Land Trust volunteers all work hard and that a confidential investigation was done in January 2021 which came back with findings that there was nothing illegal occurring. Councilor Steere stated that the Council appreciates all volunteers. Councilor W. Steere stated the Council has not received a written notification as to any issue. Councilor Worthy stated that he's been at meetings and has seen unprofessional and scary behavior that is ongoing including a threatening situation at one of the last meetings. Councilor Steere stated again that Council decides issues and that Council has not received written notice of any issues. Councilor Worthy stated that the investigation is ongoing. Councilor Steere stated that the Chair has not informed Council of any issue. Councilor Worthy stated that the Chair went to the HR Director. Councilor Steere stated that the proper course of action is to come to the Council who decides if the HR Director should be involved. D. Igliozzi stated he is not familiar with the particular situation and suggested the matter be placed on the agenda and heard in executive session. Councilor Reichert stated that the HR Director is for employees and that these are volunteers so agrees that the matter should be heard in executive session.

Councilor Reichert stated that council will now Seek to Convene to Executive Session.

- XII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:
- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council pertaining to land acquisition for municipal purposes - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
 - B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Convene to Executive Session pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council pertaining to land acquisition for municipal purposes - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert asked Christine, to please move everyone to waiting room.

XIII. Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure of votes take in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of Minutes - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert asked Christine to let everyone back in after Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

XIV. Ratification & Authorization to Sign Collecting Bargaining Agreement - Between Town of Gloucester and National Association of Government Employees (NAGE)
Effective July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to RATIFY and AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of Gloucester and the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE), the DPW Union, for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 10:48 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED