

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on December 1, 2022

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 W. Arnold; David Laplante

Member absent: William A. Worthy, Jr.

Also Present: David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor (arrived at 7:45 PM) ; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Chief Joseph Delprete; Adam Muccino, Finance Director ; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item to please step to the podium and state your name for the record.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of November 3, 2022 and November 17, 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of November 3rd, 2022 and November 17th, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Vehicle Damage Claim Appeal- Discussion and or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Solicitor is requesting the addition of Item XII. B. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2): Sessions pertaining to litigation- **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY** by Town Council and to move Item. VI. A. Vehicle Damage Claim Appeal to the end of agenda following Item XIII.

Councilor Reichert stated that a motion is needed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADD Item XII. B. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to **R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2)** Sessions pertaining to litigation- **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY** by Town Council and to **move** Item. VI. A. Vehicle Damage Claim Appeal to the end of agenda following Item XIII; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Council consideration/approval of Code Red narrative - Trash control - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this matter was tabled from the November 17, 2022 meeting.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold drafted a proposed Code Red message which he read as follows:

"Hello - This is a message from the Town of Glocester. Due to an increasingly high volume of litter, we are asking all residents to make sure all trash is secured prior to going to the transfer station. We must rely on each other to make sure our town is litter free, by responsible transport of our trash. Our team at the DPW can only control what happens within the gates, so it's important to "self police" ourselves in a responsible way. We thank you for listening and appreciate in advance increased attention to this matter. Let's all do our part to keep Glocester beautiful"

Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that the draft was fine. Councilor Laplante stated that he feels the addition of a fence in front of the transfer station would be beneficial in catching the trash that is blown from the transfer station. Councilor Laplante stated that another problem is the nips and trash thrown out of windows. J. Colaluca, resident, stated her opinion that the fence would not be as beneficial as she feels the issue is trash coming from uncovered vehicles. J. Colaluca stated that the employees at the transfer station do a great job and she recommends that people with uncovered trash be given a warning by the police department. Councilor Arnold hopes that the CodeRed will help; hopes the police will stop and warn people driving with uncovered trash ; and, hopes to have more ideas to help with the litter issue in the future.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the Code Red narrative for the issue of trash control, covered loads, as proposed; seconded by Councilor Steere.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Political Sign Ordinance- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this matter was tabled from the November 3, 2022 meeting. Councilor Reichert stated that Councilor Steere had distributed a printout of language used by

Burrillville, in a local publication, that outlined their guidelines. Councilor Reichert asked if Council was ready to review and was prepared to discuss language Gloucester could use or consider using going forward.

Discussion: Councilor Steere requested this item be tabled till December 15th, 2022.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the Political Sign Ordinance until December 15, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Personnel

1. Planning Department- Request for sick time advance and/or relief from family care sick time allowance limitations- Discussion and/or action

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

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: November 22, 2022
Re: Family Sick Time and Sick Time Advance

Diane Wrona is the Planning Department Clerk. Her husband is having major health issues that have involved multiple hospitalizations, surgeries and constant supervision (see attached letter from Dr. Joshua Fischer, Coastal Medical). It has been necessary for Diane to be out of work since October 18, 2022 due to the nature of care needed by her spouse. I am requesting that Diane be permitted to utilize the balance of her sick time as Family Sick time and to take an advance of up to 30 days of sick time in accordance with the Town policy should she deplete all her existing paid time off and still require additional days out of the office.

I work with Diane on a day to day basis and find her to be an exemplary employee.

Diane accepts any work assignment gladly and completes it successfully and without complaint. She regularly arrives early, works more than her required 7.5 hours per day and asks nothing in return. In addition to her competency in successfully fulfilling the responsibilities of her position, Diane is always available to assist her colleagues. If she is not able to provide assistance, she works to locate the right person or office that can. It is just this type of employee that is critical to any Town government.

I am requesting that the Town Council support her in this time of crisis. Thank you for your consideration.

Discussion: Councilor Reichert asked K. Scott, Town Planner, if Don Zimmerman, HR Director, has given a recommendation for this request. K. Scott stated she spoke with D. Zimmerman and he advised as to the best course of action. A. Muccino, Finance Director, wanted the Council to be aware that the Clerk's union contract does include a provision limiting paid time off to 7 days but that has a practical matter in his opinion that the clerk's union would not have an issue. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the general rule is if the town creates a past practice that is inconsistent with the contract then it becomes a potential enforceable provision. D. Igliazzi explained that the town can reverse this potential enforceable provision by sending a letter announcing that past practices are being reversed and all contract provisions are being enforced. D. Igliazzi stated that it seems this request is for a one time exemption which he does not have an issue with. Councilor Reichert stated that the council has done this in the past.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to **GRANT** the request from the Town Planner on behalf of employee, Diane Wrona, to utilize the balance of her sick time as Family sick time and to allow an advance of up to 30 days of sick time, in accordance with the Employee Handbook, should Ms. Wrona deplete all of her existing paid time off and still require additional days out of the office; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Authorization for Town Planner to apply for a Certified Local Government Grant-
Discussion and/or Action

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

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: November 22, 2022
Re: Rhode Island Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission – Certified Local Government Grant

In December 2020, the Town completed the Chepachet Village Revitalization Plan. This planning process built on all previous planning efforts and developed a targeted revitalization plan for the Village to create a five-year implementation and investment plan. This plan outlined priority parcels, both historic and non-historic sites within the Village, that offer significant transformational redevelopment opportunities.

One of the plan recommendations focused on telling the history of the Village and created an updated guide/walking tour of historic sites, building and events. I am requesting approval to seek a \$10,000 Certified Local Government grant to contract with a firm specializing in creating these types of materials. This will assist residents and tourists in understanding the history, geography and current opportunities offered in Chepachet Village.

Discussion: K. Scott explained the match is for in kind services and described the possible descriptions of what could be included as to history and the buildings but it won't be for all advertising. Councilor Laplante asked as to the in kind services. K. Scott stated that the in kind services would be ones such as preparing the request for purchase , preparing various drafts, working with the Gloucester Business Association etc. Councilor Arnold asked about where the materials would be made available. K. Scott described various places such as online, businesses etc. and working with Gloucester Business Association, the Gloucester Historical Society and the Economic Development Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to Authorize the Town Planner to seek a \$10,000 Certified Local Government grant with the intention of contracting with a firm specializing in creating the types of materials that will assist residents and tourists in understanding the history, geography and current opportunities in Chepachet Village including an in kind services match only; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request for appointment of a new Police Officer to be effective December 12th. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chief is highly recommending this appointment which is a transfer of an officer from Barrington. Councilor Reichert stated that the request was left off agenda as an oversight and will be included on the December 15th agenda.
2. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a Petition to the Town Council regarding a Personal Injury claim which has been referred to the solicitor.
3. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request for consideration of allowing a Pedal Powered Pickup. Councilor Reichert stated that this proposal would authorize the following: "Pedal Powered Pickup will provide residential waste collection exclusively to Gloucester Residential customers. Municipal solid waste and single-stream recycling (collectively referred to as "waste") will be collected on a weekly basis using a RadExpand model electric bicycle coupled with a Bikes-at-Work 96A trailer. The waste will be carried in Rubbermaid 18-gal totes secured with ratchet straps, and brought to the Gloucester Transfer Station".

Councilor Reichert stated that Mr. Bergeron has spoken with employees of the Clerk's Office and DPW. Councilor Reichert stated that he has been told that typically only non-commercial and residents with **licensed vehicles** are allowed to dump trash at the transfer station but that he could take his request to Council.

G. Trembl, DPW Director, stated that commercial trash businesses are not permitted at the town transfer station. G. Trembl stated that commercial companies that pick up private trash for money bring it directly to the Johnston landfill.

4. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from Bob Billington, President of Blackstone Valley Tourism Council which he read as follows:
“The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council is implementing a Branding Campaign across the ten cities and towns that we represent. We are reaching out to ask for your cooperation to reinforce our application for an upcoming Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grant to fund the campaign. (We will not be asking our communities for financial support.) We are requesting a letter of support from your office”
5. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received notice from the Smithfield Town Planner’s office, as an abutter, with the following information “a Public Hearing will be held for the purpose of presenting and discussing the acceptance of a Master Plan for a proposed Comprehensive Permit Application/Major Land Development, and provide the public the opportunity to comment on the proposed land development. Time and Date of Hearing: Thursday, December 8, 2022. Meeting begins at 6:00 PM. Place of Hearing is Smithfield Town Hall. Project proposed is as follows: The Residences at Greenville Farms for a Comprehensive Permit Application/ Major Land Development Project - Master Plan Review for property located at AP 44 / Lot 82 - 89 West Greenville Road. 43 Acres/ R-80 Zone. Applicant/Owner: West Greenville Road, LLC; Engineer: Garofalo & Associates, Inc.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor Reichert asked if any Department Heads wished to speak or if any Councilors have any questions for department heads.

1. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that he wanted the Council aware that there is a possibility that the Finance Department may need to file an extension for the audit due to not receiving pension information from the State. A. Muccino will keep the Council informed.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor Reichert asked if any Board or Commission Chairs wished to address Council or if any Councilors have any questions for Chairs.

None

XI. Open Forum

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone has signed up to speak and, if so, when called to the podium, state your name for the record.

None

Councilor Reichert stated that Council will now seek to convene into Executive Session and that all present will be let back into the room after executive session.

XII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5-(a)(1)- Sessions pertaining to any discussions of job performance; **and** XII. B. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2): Sessions pertaining to litigation- **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY** by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5-(a)(1)- Sessions pertaining to any discussions of job performance; **and** XII. B. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2): Sessions pertaining to litigation- **FOR DISCUSSION ONLY** by Town Council seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilor Reichert asked to please let anyone waiting back into the room.

XIII. Reconvene Open Session; Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session and to Seal the Minutes of Closed Session

Councilor Reichert stated that we now need a motion to reconvene Open Session.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session and to Seal the Minutes of Closed Session; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

ITEM MOVED:

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Vehicle Damage Claim Appeal- Discussion and or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Authorize Payment of Claim to Nicholas Adamo regarding motor vehicle damage in the amount of \$300.00 seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to ADJOURN at 8:55 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Steere.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Laplante, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED