

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 6, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M.O. Steere, III; Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr. , President

Member absent: Jonathan E. Burlingame

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor (arrived at 6:35 P.M.) ; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Elizabeth Beltram, Finance Director

Arrived at 7:50 pm

Gary Trembl, Director Public Works; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Chief Joseph Delprete, Gloucester Police Chief; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked everyone to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilor W. Worthy stated the Council will now seek to Convene to Executive Session:

IV. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Sessions pertaining to discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons –
 - 1. Job Interview - (applicant notified) - Discussion, considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Sessions pertaining to discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons 1. Job Interview - (applicant notified) - Discussion, considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council

seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Arnold- Aye

Councilor Worthy-Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

Executive Session

Public Session 7:50 p.m.

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session and to Seal the minutes of Executive Session; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

VI. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to speak on an agenda item please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of May 16, 2024, & Special meeting of May 22nd, 2024

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of the regular meeting of May 16, 2024 and the Special meeting of May 22, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions - Appointments

1. Parade Committee -

Position #4, Alternate #2, & Alternate #3 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is an agenda item about the membership later on the agenda.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that for this item, there is no recommendation from the Chair at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can review the talent bank list and appoint from that list or table the appointments.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointments to the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Economic Development Commission - One Ad-hoc non voting member, term to expire 12/31/2024 - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Matthew Haczynski to the Economic Development Commission for one Ad-hoc non voting member position; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Economic Development Commission

1. Review ARPA Funds availability and consider/approve allocation for proposed project for EDC - Place Branding - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item was tabled until the town budget process was completed

Discussion: B. MacArthur, EDC Chair, stated that she is not sure if there is anything new to say but wants the Council to know that EDC is not asking Council to say they love the project . Rather, B. MacArthur stated that EDC is asking Council to allocate funds so they can reissue the RFP in order to rebid the branding project and then bring a proposal back to Council for consideration.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if EDC is going out to the same companies but with different parameters. B. MacArthur stated that the RFP is the same but it will contain a clause that they will not consider proposals over \$25,000.

Councilor W. Steere asked if \$25,000 is the bare minimum EDC needs. B. MacArthur stated that the \$25,000 would be for the expertise and legwork that EDC can't do. Councilor W. Steere stated that \$25,000 was too much for him and that he'd go to \$10,000. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is not saying it isn't important but he worries about the return on investment.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he has been shocked at the cost of marketing he is experiencing

with his single directed business. Councilor W. Worthy stated that \$25,000 is a lot less than he is experiencing and is not much in terms of return on investment for this project which is trying to benefit the entire town.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked if the companies from the prior bid were over \$25,000. B. MacArthur stated that the companies that responded were all over the amount. B. MacArthur stated that the RFP did not state a limit and she feels the bids can be scaled down. Councilor W. Worthy asked the amount of the most recent bid. B. MacArthur stated it was \$55,000 but it did contain a lot of pieces that EDC were not looking for them to do.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the EDC included businesses in town. B. MacArthur stated that the companies doing the research to present a bid reach out to the businesses and residents.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the EDC has been before the Council time after time and thanked them for their patience. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that the \$25,000 is too much. Councilor S. Arnold stated that it is not because the project doesn't warrant it but rather because the Council needs to think about being responsible and the state of the ARPA balance. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he wants to believe that the place branding would bring value to the town but it is hard to put a concrete value on it. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he does not want to allocate funds that will be useless to EDC. Councilor S. Arnold stated the concern that if the amount is not \$25,000 then it will be irrelevant to EDC but Councilor S. Arnold stated he feels comfortable with a number that is less than \$25,000. B. MacArthur stated her opinion that it would be difficult to fund the project if it is less than the \$25,000.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked B. MacArthur to define the outcome of the project. B. MacArthur stated that some of the outcomes are to do the following: to engage every business to define what Gloucester wants to be; to maintain the rural character; to promote the Land Trust and its resources; to have no development; and to promote the day tourist.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked B. MacArthur what avenue would EDC use to get this information out. B. MacArthur stated that some of the avenues would be the use of the EDC website, social media, way finding signs.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the EDC would consider going to the businesses in town to see if they would do some kind of match. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this would give the town businesses some skin in the game. Councilor W. Steere stated that EDC has a visible relationship with Land Trust and maybe EDC could discuss with Land Trust contributing funds towards this project.

Councilor W. Worthy stated his suggestion of offering \$12,500 as a set aside for EDC. Councilors W. Steere and S. Arnold stated they are okay with the offering of \$12,500. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he likes the possible idea of the Land Trust joining this initiative as it is a worthy cause.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to allocate \$12,500 of ARPA funds for the proposed project for EDC place branding; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization for EDC to Re-bid “Place Branding” - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated this item was addressed already in the prior motion, indicating with the award of funds the EDC could re-bid.

C. Political Signage/Campaigning - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that he likes the changes and that they are only guidelines to help people understand the political sign process.

Councilor W. Steere asked about the time period to put up signs. D.Igliozi, Town Solicitor, stated that Council is not making an ordinance which would require enforcement but rather, these are requests to cooperate regarding political signs. J. Fecteau, stated that the guidelines included a statement of thirty days before an election.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADOPT a Political Signage information handout to be distributed to political candidates and posted on the town’s website; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Authorization of Signature

1. Correction: Renewal of Agreement for Statewide ePermitting Software System, between Town of Gloucester & OpenGov - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council approved the renewal and authorized Council President signature on April 18, 2024. Councilor W. Worthy stated, however, that the state has submitted a corrected agreement with a pro rated subscription amount.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the corrected Renewal of Agreement for Statewide e-Permitting Software System, between the Town of Gloucester and OpenGov, for the period 5/1/2024 to 6/30/2025 per terms of the contract agreement dated 4/25/2024; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Extension of Contract and Authorize to Sign- Discussion and/or Action

1. IFB #2016-02 Cleaning Services (Glocester Senior Center)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the following request from the Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

5/28/2024

To The Honorable Town Council,

I am requesting that we extend the contract with Simply Clean for the cleaning of the Senior Center. Wendy-Lee, of Simply Clean does a wonderful job, our members frequently make mention as to how immaculate the center is kept. She also has great lines of communication with myself and the DPW to keep us informed of any maintenance issues that she comes across.

Lastly, the rate has not been increased in the last 7 years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Melissa Bouvier

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to EXTEND IFB #2016-02 Cleaning Services, for the Glocester Senior Center, for the period June 2024 to June 19, 2025 at the original IFB award terms; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Boards and Commissions -

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action

a. Housing Authority, Position #5, Term to expire 6/30/2025

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Sheree Bowker from the Housing Authority.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Sheree Bowker from the Housing Authority, Position #5; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

a. Housing Authority, Position #5, Term to expire 6/30/2025

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is no recommendation from the Chair at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can review the talent bank list and appoint a member or table the appointment.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Housing Authority, Position #5; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Parade Committee - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Efforts to fill vacant positions

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk’s office has reached out to members of the Parade Committee that have been absent for some time, per the chair, to determine how many positions actually need to be filled. Councilor W. Worthy stated that those that indicate they do wish to formally resign can be removed by Council’s vote next meeting. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Deputy has been working to determine if any of the people on the talent bank are still interested in joining. Councilor W. Worthy stated that if Council would like, the Clerk can send out an ad, to run next week seeking volunteers to add to the talent bank list and bring the list back to Council next meeting for consideration.

Discussion: Councilors W. Steere and S. Arnold stated they were in support of an ad.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere for the Town Clerk to send out an ad seeking volunteers to add to the talent bank list for the Parade committee; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold asked if the ad would be specific for the Parade or could include an invitation for all boards and commissions. J. Fecteau stated that the ad would include all boards and commissions but the Parade Committee would be at the top.

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Personnel

1. Appointment
 - a. Building/Zoning Official - Full Time - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor to APPOINT Dennis Begin to the position of full time Building/Zoning Official, at the annual rate of \$73,055 and with the additional agreed upon terms as outlined in the offer letter ; said position is subject to all benefits as outlined in the Employee Handbook; effective date of hire shall be June 17, 2024; said appointment is contingent upon successful BCI check, proof of current State of R.I. Building Code certification, and satisfactory reference checks; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Safety Services - ACO compensation time pay out - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has requested the following which he read:

TO: Don Zimmerman, Human Resource
FROM: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
DATE: May 27, 2024
RE: Animal Control Officer

It is respectfully requested that Animal Control Officer Jennifer Grundy be reimbursed for accrued compensation hours during fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

ACO Grundy is a non-union employee who works a 40-hour work week schedule. During this fiscal year she has been called out more than times 20 times after normal business hours and weekends. These after hour call outs were to assist police impounding domestic animals and other pertinent ACO investigations.

ACO Grundy accrues (4) four hours compensation time after each normal business hours call out. As of May 31, 2024, ACO Grundy has accumulated a total of 81 hours.

I would request that ACO Grundy receive a payout for 81 hours-times \$24.72/hour for a total of \$2,002.32. The current fiscal year Animal Control Budget can support this request.

Respectfully,
Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE a payout of accrued compensation hours, a total of 81 hours, for a total of \$2,002.32 from the current ACO budget to ACO, Jennifer Grundy; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. DPW - Authorization of temporary re-assignment and compensation of position within the Dept. of Public Works - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that the DPW Director has submitted a request which he read as follows:

June 6, 2024

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director
Re: Temporary Re-Assignment

The current Building & Grounds Supervisor has been out on sick leave and will be placed on

Family Medical Leave due to serious health complications. I am requesting to temporarily move a current DPW employee to the Building & Grounds Supervisor position. This will not affect the budget since the current Building & Grounds Supervisor is not being compensated
Respectfully,

Gary S. Trembl
DPW Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: G.Trembl, DPW Director stated that the position will be posted per the union contract, interviews will take place and then he will come back to council with a person chosen for consideration.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the DPW Director to temporarily move a current DPW employee to the Building & Grounds Supervisor position; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

4. Ratify Contract Between Town of Gloucester & the National Association of Government Employees, NAGE- July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Deputy Clerk has worked with NAGE union rep., Paul Saccoccio, to prepare a proofread final document to serve as the successor contract between the Town of Gloucester and the DPW Collective Bargaining Unit, NAGE. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Solicitor has reviewed the final document.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to RATIFY the Contract Between the Town of Gloucester and the National Association of Government Employees, NAGE - for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2027; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Police Department -

1. Police Station Addition & Renovations- Public outreach plan - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that the bills have gone to the governor's office and that he is working with the public affairs person on the marketing campaign. Chief Delprete asked the councilors to send him any frequently asked questions to use in marketing. Chief Delprete described some ways to promote the police station renovations on social media and the town

website as well as press releases. Chief Delprete stated that the architect and bond counsel are available for the June 20th town council meeting to be able to provide information especially as to the financial impact on taxpayers.

Chief Delprete stated that the open house recently held was well attended and the feedback was positive. Chief Delprete stated that another open house was planned for next week. Chief Delprete stated that he spoke at the Gloucester Business Association.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Chief can answer the questions as to the need and how long the renovations will last. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the biggest concern that the Council has to answer is how much will this cost. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he feels those answers should be answered by the bond counsel.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the questions people are asking at the tours should be put out because others will probably ask the same questions. Chief Delprete stated that the most questions are the financial impact.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if several councilors could be appointed to work on the questions and suggested Councilors Arnold and Steere.

D.Igliozi stated that bond counsel will have the final bottom line as to the financial impact. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he would be happy to work on questions but he is not available for the June 20th meeting. D.Igliozi stated that Chief Delprete needs the information sooner. Councilor W. Steere also stated he would be willing to work on the questions and could provide the information before the meeting. D.Igliozi recommended a motion be made to make sure people know that the councilors are acting with the authority of the council.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere for Councilors S.Arnold and W. Steere to work with the Finance Director and Chief Delprete to gather financial information for a press release and for the meeting on June 20th; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Authorization of Compensation -

1. Alternate Building Official (as needed basis) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Building/Zoning Office has been utilizing the assistance of a Building Official from North Smithfield for building inspections on an as needed basis. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the office is now looking for the authorization to compensate the individual for his work. Councilor W. Worthy stated that currently the town is paying state inspectors, per an M.O.U. between the Town of Gloucester & R.I. Dept. of Business Regulations at the rate of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per hour, charged in fifteen (15) minute increments plus \$0.575/mile (gas/travel fee).

Discussion: D. Igliozi stated that with the Town Clerk's guidance, he contacted the Town Administrator of North Smithfield to handle the one initial matter. D.Igliozi stated that because the state was not up to speed on the Memo of Agreement, that there were a handful of matters that needed to be done. D.Igliozi stated that the North Smithfield Inspector did the inspections .D. Igliozi stated that he agreed with the town clerk's position that the North Smithfield inspector

should be paid the same as the state inspectors as he came when the state could not come in order to help our residents . D.Igliozi stated that the inspection money comes out of the fee for the permit.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the payment at the rate of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per hour, charged in fifteen (15) minute increments plus \$0.575 / mile (gas/travel fee) to Leo Cote, North Smithfield, as reimbursement for performing building inspections for the Town. This authorization is for completed inspections and future inspections as needed, seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

G. Approval of Special Referendum Election ballot question (pending legislation passage), August 6, 2024 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that legislation authorizing the Town to seek to bond for the renovation/addition to the existing Police Station is working its way through our legislative bodies and is anticipated to go to the Governor’s Office soon for a signature. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council approval of the proposed ballot question is necessary. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the text of the question will then go to the Board of Canvassers for certification to the Board of Elections.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the ballot question language for the Special Referendum Election (pending the passage of legislation of House Bill #8239 and Senate Bill # 3030) of August 6, 2024 as follows:

“Shall an act, passed at the 2024 session of the General Assembly, entitled ‘AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF GLOCESTER TO FINANCE THE RENOVATION AND/OR EXPANSION AT THE EXISTING GLOCESTER POLICE STATION AND INCIDENTAL FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,700,000 BONDS AND NOTES THEREFOR’ be approved?”; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that bills are coming fast and furious as the session is almost at its end.

No action taken by Council

XI Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received the following items of correspondence:

1. Council has received three letters expressing concerns regarding gun fire noise in the Olney Keach area.
Councilor W. Worthy stated that a cease and desist order has been issued for the issue at the property with the gun noise in Burrillville.
2. The Council has received correspondence regarding his concerns with building permit approvals at a specific location. (Referred to Solicitor)

XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any department heads had anything to report or if any Councilor had any questions for department heads.

1. Chief Delprete stated that he had included a front line vehicle in the budget process but that the vehicle got pulled back. Chief Delprete stated that he had already ordered the vehicle. Chief Delprete stated that he did receive a \$6500 grant to go towards that vehicle. Chief Delprete stated that he is asking for \$30,000 in ARPA funds to complete the purchase of a new police vehicle. Chief Delprete stated that he would use \$30,000 of forfeiture funds towards payment of the vehicle. Councilor W. Worthy asked for this matter to be placed on the next agenda.
2. G. Treml, DPW Director, asked if Juneteenth was a holiday for the DPW . D.Igliozi indicated that the Council approved it as an employee holiday in coordination with the State.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Board or Commission had anything to report or if any Councilors had questions for any Board or commission.

None

XIV. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone had anything to discuss on any other subject and if so to please state your name when you come to the microphone

1. Walter Steere, resident, stated that he had several items to speak to and stated them as follows:
 1. Asked if the raises in the new DPW contract were contained in the budget. E. Beltram, Finance Director, stated that the raises were included in the budget.
 2. Stated his opinion that the Rte. 44 road project was not going well and that the crews were great but the signs were confusing.
 3. Stated that the Regional School committee dismissed their attorney at the last meeting and it was not one of their finer moments. W. Steere stated the fees for the use of the building was also discussed.
 4. Stated his opinion, his opinion, that town departments are nicked and dimed and that when a request is made for ARPA money it is found. W. Steere stated he felt that is not fair.

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 8:46 p.m.; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold , W.Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED