

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on July 18, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Cheryl A. Greathouse; Jonathan E. Burlingame; Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr. , President

Member absent: Walter M.O. Steere, III

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Elizabeth Beltram, Finance Director ; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Gary Treml, DPW Director; Chief Joseph Delprete; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Dennis Begin, Building/Zoning Official

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked everyone to please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

V. Public Hearing

A. New Victualing License- Discussion and/or Action

Applicant: Matthew Dee
Corporate Name: Donelans Supermarket, Inc.
D.B.A.: Dino's Park N Shop
Location: 1020 Putnam Pike , Chepachet, RI

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this public hearing reflects the new ownership of an existing business. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the sale of the property is scheduled for July 23, 2024.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on June 27th, July 3rd, and July 11th, 2024 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to speak for or against the license to please raise your hand and step to the microphone and state your name for the record when called on.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Worthy asked M. Dee, applicant, if he was planning on continuing the business as it has been run. M. Dee stated that is his intention. Councilor W. Worthy asked M. Dee about his other stores. M. Dee stated that Donelans has four other stores in Massachusetts and Dino's would be the first one in Rhode Island. M. Dee stated that Dino's is a great location. M. Dee stated that his intention is to continue what Steve (Kopeski) has created including holding events for sports teams like car washes. M. Dee stated that Donelans is a family company and he has worked for them for the past 37 years. M. Dee described several of the other Donelans stores and their locations. S. Arnold stated his welcome to M. Dee. S. Arnold stated that Dino's has been a big part of the community. M. Dee stated that Doug (Kopeski), his intended manager, has come up through the ranks and does a great job.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that hearing none, DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to GRANT the Victualing License to:

Applicant:	Matthew Dee
Corporate Name:	Donelans Supermarket, Inc.
D.B.A.:	Dino's Park N Shop
Location:	1020 Putnam Pike , Chepachet, RI

contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 4) current Health Department approval; 5) current Food Manager Certificate; and 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid upon transfer of property to November 30, 2024; seconded by; Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes- Regular meeting of June 20, 2024
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements- June 2024
- C. Finance Director Report- June 2024

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of June 20, 2024; NO ADDITIONS or ABATEMENTS to the 2023 Tax Roll; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for June 2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, J. Burlingame , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

RECUSAL- S. Arnold

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. (Continued from 5/16/2024) Disposition of Memorandum of Agreements relative to certain maintenance and clerical services related to school maintenance for the Gloucester School Department:

1. Between DPW (NAGE) ("the Union") and the Town of Gloucester approved by Town Council on 1/18/2024 - Discussion and/or Action
2. Between the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 1322, ("the Union), and the Town of Gloucester approved by Town Council on 1/18/2024 - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE

No Second

Discussion:

Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that a contract has already been signed with Steve Essex and Gary Gras to take care of the schools. Councilor S. Arnold asked if the dates were through July 2025 and Councilor J. Burlingame stated they were. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he would like to verify the contract before the Council undoes these agreements.

G. Treml stated that it is his understanding that some type of agreement was signed. G. Treml stated that Beth is still doing the work for the school. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he was told by the school committee that they had taken care of this matter. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he would like to get a formal writing from the school committee. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the big question is where is the money coming from to pay Beth DeCorte. G. Treml stated that Beth is still doing the work for the school in response to Councilor J. Burlingame's question. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he wants to make sure of the information before Council acts.

Councilor S. Arnold withdrew his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE this matter to August 1, 2024 and to get written confirmation from the school committee or superintendent of a concrete plan; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

1. Public Safety - Assistant ACO

Councilor W. Worthy stated that no recommendation has been received and that the Chief has

requested this item be removed from the table at this time

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REMOVE from the TABLE the appointment of the Public Safety - Assistant ACO; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Resignation- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Parade Committee
 1. Position # 5

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Judy Matteau from Position #5 of the Parade Committee.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT with thanks the resignation of Judy Matteau from the Parade Committee, Position #5; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Parade Committee
 1. Position # 5

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair is working on a recommendation for all vacant slots and hopes to have recommendations for the second meeting of August.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to the Parade Committee, Position #5; to August 15, 2024, seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Gloucester Housing Authority
 - 1. Position # 3- Expired
5 year term to expire 6/30/2029

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this appointment is for an expired term. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair of the Housing Authority has indicated that member Eric Bither would like to be reappointed for another five year term.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT Eric Bither to the Gloucester Housing Authority, Position #5, for a five year term to expire 6/30/2029; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the position was # 3 and not # 5.

Councilor C. Greathouse Withdrew her motion

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT Eric Bither to the Gloucester Housing Authority, Position #3, for a five year term to expire 6/30/2029; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Bid Award: RFP # 2024-03 Payroll Services - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a recommendation from the Finance Director on behalf of the Board of Contracts and Purchases which he read as follows:

To: The Honorable Gloucester Town Council, William S. Worthy, Jr., President

From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director

Date: July 18, 2024

Regarding: Award of RFP 2024-03

The Town of Gloucester has received three responses to RFP 2024-03 Professional Payroll Service. This request was advertised in the Valley Breeze on May 9, 2024 as well as posted to the Gloucester Town website and Bidnet.

Responses were received from Paylocity, Paychex, and Harpers Payroll Service. The respondents were evaluated based on a software demonstration, system conversion, availability of training and customer service, and experience with providing professional payroll services to municipalities located in Rhode Island. References were also checked extensively for each.

The Gloucester Board of Contracts met on Monday, July 15, 2024 to review the bid and unanimously approved a motion to recommended that the Council award the bid to Paychex.

Therefore, it is also my recommendation to the Council that RFP 2024-03 be awarded to Paychex

with the following quoted fee schedule:

- FY 2025 - \$39,333
- FY 2026 - \$34,583
- FY 2027 - \$44,583

Respectfully,
Elizabeth A. Beltram
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AWARD RFP 2024- Payroll Services to Paychex for the quoted bid price of \$39,333 for FY 2025; \$34,583 for FY 2026; and \$44,583 for FY 2027; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Personnel
 - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. DPW: Full time Asphalt/Excavation Foreman

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the DPW Director which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director

Re: Appointment - Asphalt/Excavation Foreman

The FY25 Budget includes funding for a new position - Asphalt/Excavation Foreman DPW.

I posted this new position per the NAGE Union Contract for existing DPW employees to apply. I received 1 application from Todd Anderson.

I am requesting permission to appoint Todd Anderson to the new position of Asphalt/Excavation Foreman DPW at the rate of \$32.60 per hour per the NAGE Union Contract effective July 1, 2024.

Respectfully,
Gary Trembl, DPW Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Todd Anderson to the position of DPW Asphalt/Excavation Foreman, a NAGE position. Said position shall be at the rate of \$32.60

per hour and subject to the NAGE contract effective July 1, 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Public Safety, Police Dept.: Full Time Dispatcher

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Council has received a request from the Chief which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Town Council Members
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: July 11, 2024
Subject: Police Department Full Time Dispatcher Appointment

Dear Council Members:

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

Appoint Taylor-Ann Malone of Cranston to a full-time dispatcher position within the Gloucester Police Department. Taylor Malone will be afforded the first step salary and fringe benefits under the Laborers International Union Local 1322 full-time dispatchers' collective bargaining agreement and will be on probationary status for six months according to the CBA.

Taylor Malone is currently a part-time dispatcher on the Gloucester Police Department and will fill the vacancy and resignation of full-time dispatcher Tiffany Leonard on July 31, 2024. Taylor Malone has extensive dispatcher experience and has excelled at her part-time position.

I request Taylor Malone's full-time dispatcher appointment be effective on August 1, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete
Chief of Police
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Taylor-Ann Malone to the position of full time dispatcher within the Gloucester Police Department. Said position salary will be set at the first step salary and fringe benefits as outlined in the Laborers International Union Local 1322 CBA and will have a probationary status for the first six months. Position shall be effective August 1, 2024; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- C. Greathouse, J.Burlingame ,S. Arnold , W. Worthy

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

2. Notice of Retirement - Tax Collector - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the notice of retirement for Tax Collector, Jane Steere.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT, with great thanks and appreciation, the retirement notice of Tax Collector, Jane Steere, effective September 20, 2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated his deep and sincere appreciation for Jane who got the town through some challenging times. Councilor S. Arnold stated that J. Steere was a joy to work with . Councilors J. Burlingame and W. Worthy also stated their appreciation . Councilor W. Worthy stated that J. Steere did a great job to get us through hard times .

Discussion: None

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

D. ARPA Funds-

1. Deobligation of Obligated Funds: \$50,000 from Project #14, Dam Repairs/improvements - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Arnold stated that he requested this item but that upon further discussions there is a need to look at some items this coming week so he would like to table this matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the De-obligation of ARPA Funds, in the amount of \$50,000, from Project #14, Dam Repairs/improvements; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

2. Obligate ARPA funds: \$25,700 to Project #31 Sansoucy Appraisal project-Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the Obligation of ARPA funds, in the amount of \$25,700, to Project #31 Sansoucy Appraisal project; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Obligate ARPA Funds: \$24,000 towards purchase of a first line Police Vehicle- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief requested funds previously, in the amount of \$24,000, to apply towards the cost of a first line Police Vehicle.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the obligation of \$24,000 towards the purchase of a Police Department first line vehicle; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Authorization for Signature

1. CPF Community Learning Center Municipal Grant Sub-award Agreement
Between R.I. Pandemic Recovery Office & Town of Gloucester -
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this grant agreement is for the State of Rhode Island Pandemic Recovery Office ("PRO") American Rescue Plan Act, Capital Projects Fund Community Learning Centers Grant being utilized by the Harmony and Gloucester Manton libraries for capital improvements. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council must now authorize the signing of the agreement.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the CPF Community Learning Center Municipal Grant Sub-award Agreement between the R.I. Pandemic Recovery Office & Town of Gloucester, as the Subrecipient Entity; to be effective on August 3, 2023 seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had any legislative updates or suggestions.

None

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors have correspondence or a discussion item.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that he has not received any written correspondence but that he has heard from people about the new guard rails on Rte 44 and they are not favorable.

Councilor S. Arnold asked if Councilors wanted to put the potential draft of a resolution promoting litter free community on the next agenda which was included in Council's correspondence.

Councilor S. Arnold requested the draft resolution as to litter free community be on the next agenda.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

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

1. Dennis Begin, Building/Zoning Official, stated that he is appreciative of the new job; that it is going smoothly; that the staff is very knowledgeable; and, that he and the Solicitor are working through some situations from the time of his predecessor and anticipates they will go smoothly.
2. Councilor S. Arnold asked R. Shields, Recreation Director, how the summer programs were going. R. Shields stated the programs are going "A okay".
Councilor C. Greathouse stated that it is great that Marion Irons Beach is open.
R. Shields stated that it is nice to have it back open. R. Shields stated that most people are still going to Spring Grove but he hopes more migrate back to Marion Irons as the summer goes on.
Councilor C. Greathouse stated that the closing notice is still posted on the town's website. R. Shields stated that he spoke with the administrator on Sunday and changed the notice on the town Recreation page. R. Shields stated that the notice Councilor Greathouse saw may have been on a different page. R. Shields stated he would send a message to the administrator.
M. Verrier, resident, stated his thanks to R. Shields as he kids are enjoying their swim lessons.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any boards or commissions have anything to report or did any Councilors have any questions for board or commission members.

None

XIII. 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.

None

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to ADJOURN at 8:01 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED