

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on December 19, 2024

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:00 P.M. by Councilor Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliozzi, Town Solicitor ; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Gary Treml, DPW Director; Chief Joseph Delprete, Police Chief

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak on agenda items to please come forward and state your name.

None

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council would move ahead on the agenda to Item VI Consent Items and wait on the Resolution due to high traffic congestion in town, as people may be late.

MOVED TO ITEM VI

VI. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of November 21, 2024, & meeting of December 5, 2024
- B. Tax Assessor' Additions and Abatements - November 2024
- C. Finance Director's Report - November 2024

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of November 21st, 2024 and December 5, 2024; to APPROVE the ABATEMENTS to the 2024 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,365.21; NO ADDITIONS to the 2024 Tax Roll; and to ACCEPT the Finance Directors Report of November, 2024; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Zoning Board -

1. Alternate #2, 1-year term to expire 12/31/2024

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are no recommendations at this time, Council can TABLE to next meeting if they chose.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to the Zoning Board of Review, Alternate #2, position to January 16th, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Parade Committee (continued from 9/5/2024)

1. Alternate #2, Alternate #3

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are no recommendations at this time, Council can TABLE to next meeting if they chose.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to the Parade Committee, Alternate #2, position to January 16th, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Authorization for Signature - Discussion and/or Action

1. Annual APRA Certification - Town Clerk

Councilor W. Worthy stated that each year the employees appointed to the position of Records Officers have to meet training requirements and file a certification form. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Clerk is the officer for town hall offices and has completed the on line Attorney Generals' training. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council must now approve the certification.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign an Attorney General Certificate of Compliance Access to Public Records Act form for Jean Fecteau, Certified Personnel, for 2024-2025; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. FY 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant Award Letter

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a Grant Award Assurances document and Lobbying Form for the FY 2024 EMPG Program. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the grant award is in the amount of \$9,450 and is designated for salaried EMA Operations, Town of Gloucester Emergency Management Program. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the signature of the Council is required.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Grant Award Assurances document and Lobbying Form for the FY 2024 EMPG Program grant award in the amount of \$9,450 for salaried EMA Operations; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Finance Department

1. FY 24 appropriations- Transfer of Funds: Restricted Accounts to General Fund Surplus - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director has requested the following transfer of funds as contained in a memo which he read as follows:

Memo To: Honorable Town Council
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director
Re: Fiscal 2024 Fund Balance Reassignment
Date: December 19, 2024

I am requesting the transfer of \$20,000 from the assigned Technology Fund (MC) be assigned to the Unassigned General Fund, and for approval to include this reassignment as part of the Comprehensive Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2024

Respectfully,
Elizabeth A. Beltram
Finance Director
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to Transfer \$20,000 from the assigned Technology Fund (MC) to the Unassigned General Fund; said reassignment to be part of the Comprehensive Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2024; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

RETURN TO ITEM V. RESOLUTION #2024-04

V. Resolution - #2024-04

RI State Division III Super Bowl Champions

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has a Resolution this evening to celebrate the 2024-25 Ponaganset High School Chieftains Football team for their very successful season which he read as follows:

RESOLUTION #2024-04
2024 RI State Division III Super Bowl Champions

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Town Clerk of the Town of Glocester would like to congratulate the 2024-25 Ponaganset High School Chieftains Football team for achieving the distinct honor of being the 2024 Division III State Super Bowl Champions; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains set the tone for their Super Bowl win from the first play of the game and defeated top seeded Classical High 28-13; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains hard work and dedication throughout the entire season resulted in an outstanding record of 10-1; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains team spirit, sacrifice and comradery demonstrated by this group of young men and their coaches, throughout their season, will continue to serve as an outstanding inspiration to other students and a source of extreme pride for northern Rhode Island; and

NOW THEREFORE , LET IT BE KNOWN, that the Town Council, the Town Clerk, and the residents of the Town of Glocester express our sincerest congratulations to :

The 2024 RI State Division III Super Bowl Champions

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Adopted this 19th Day of December, 2024
(End of Resolution)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council also has a citation for each of the team members and members of the coaching staff.

Councilor W. Worthy asked Coaches Caito, DeLuise, Plouffe, Calabro to come up and receive their citation.

Councilor W. Worthy read the citation for Head Coach Caito into the record as follows:

The State of Rhode Island
Town of Glocester

Citation

Be it hereby known to all that:

The Town of Glocester
hereby offers its sincerest congratulations to:

Head Coach David Caito
in recognition of
your dedication to the 2024 Ponaganset Chieftains Football Team

The leadership and comradery demonstrated by Coach Caito, throughout the season, has proven to be an outstanding inspiration to all our coaches and students and a source of pride for Gloucester and northern Rhode Island; and

The Town Council, Town Clerk and citizens of Gloucester are proud to honor your work as a leader of the team that achieved the title:

2024 R.I. State Division III Super Bowl Champions

Councilor W. Worthy stated each coach's name as he presented their citation.

Head Coach Caito stated each player's name, in attendance, as well as a brief statement of their contribution to the team before presenting the citation to the named player.

Councilor W. Steere stated his congratulations and stated that the hard work and determination to achieve this title will follow the players throughout their lives.

RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING ITEMS

- C. Bid Extension Request - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. IFB 2024-04 Road Sand

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

December 12, 2024

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director

Re: IFB 2024-04

The existing bid IFB 2024-04 for Road Sand from Barnes Concrete expires on 12/31/24. Barnes Concrete has agreed to extend the bid, with pricing, terms and conditions remaining the same until December 31, 2025. I am requesting that the IFB 2024-04 extension be approved.

Gary Trembl
DPW Director
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to EXTEND IFB 2024-04 to December 31, 2025 with the existing terms with Barnes Concrete to supply Road Sand - at a price of \$21.10/ton delivered or \$ 16.10/ton picked up; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Personnel

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. DPW - Building & Facilities Supervisor

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a recommendation for appointment has not been received from DPW Director at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the appointment to DPW- Building & Facilities Supervisor to the Town Council meeting of January 16, 2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone had any legislative news or questions.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the new legislative session would be starting soon and to keep an eye out as to items of interest.

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone had any correspondence.

1. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he received an email from D. Zimmerman, Human Resources Consultant, regarding the increase to minimum age in January. Council acknowledged that the town would be obligated to follow the new legislation and will ratify that change, should it effect any employees, at their next regular meeting.
2. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council received correspondence from the State Traffic Commission regarding a reduction in speed in the vicinity of 976 Putnam Pike.
3. Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks and appreciation to all town employees and volunteers and wished them all a safe and happy holidays. Councilor W. Steere stated congratulations and welcome to Stephanie Calise as the newly elected and soon to be sworn in Town Council member.

Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks and great appreciation to Councilor S. Arnold for his service over the last four years. Councilor W. Steere stated that Councilor S. Arnold went above and beyond in serving the town and that he will be missed.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that he felt it was an honor and privilege to serve the town and thanked his family. Councilor W. Steere stated that Councilor S. Arnold coined the term "Team Gloucester" and truly embodied that team spirit. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are no words to describe the great job done by Councilor S. Arnold and stated he was proud to have served with him.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

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

1. Chief Delprete stated that the Wreaths Across America was a great event again this year as was the Christmas parade . Chief Delprete thanked all the volunteers. Chief Delprete stated that a town resident donated a check in the amount of \$11,000 to the police for renovations at the station. Chief Delprete stated that the renovations to the dispatch area are going well. Chief Delprete stated that there were two retirements this month and that a new officer would be sworn in tomorrow after his graduation from the Police Academy.
2. Chief Delprete stated that an agenda item may be required as the current dispatcher in training was hired at one rate but the rate may need to be adjusted due to the increase coming as to minimum wage.
3. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated she wanted to express her thanks to Councilor S. Arnold for his hard work and that it has been an honor to work with him .
4. G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the hazard mitigation plan has been approved for a five year period. G. Mosca stated that the flu clinic held recently was very organized and efficient. G. Mosca stated all the volunteers did a great job. G. Mosca stated that EMA received \$4000 towards the clinic.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

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

1. W. Morin, Land Trust Chair, gave an in depth summary of the 2024 Land Trust activities. Council thanked Mr. Morin for his dedication.

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. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1), "Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1) Sessions pertaining to discussion of the job performance, etc. - (employee notified) Discussion, consideration, vote, or other action by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1), Sessions pertaining to discussion of the job performance, etc. - (employee was notified) Discussion, consideration, vote, or other action by Town Council; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Arnold- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None
MOTION PASSED

XV. 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 one vote was taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that Council should disclose that the motion taken in executive was for the Town solicitor to continue to conduct the responsibilities of the assistant town solicitor and/or assign to outside counsel as needed until further notice. D. Iglizzi also stated that in executive session, a motion was made and passed to amend the agenda as to potential litigation for discussion purposes only.

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Arnold- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to ADJOURN at 8:25 P.M.; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Burlingame, Greathouse, Steere and Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED