

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on May 15, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by William A. Worthy, Jr., President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Jonathan E. Burlingame, Stephanie L. Calise; Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Jessica Parker, Tax Assessor

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to MOVE ITEM IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items to follow ITEM VI. Reconvene Open Session on agenda; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

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

A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:

1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re:
Potential litigation - West Gloucester LLC & Factory Mutual Insurance Company -

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we now need a motion to convene to closed executive session:

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:

1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re:
Potential litigation - West Glocester LLC & Factory Mutual Insurance Company -

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Calise- Aye

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

Executive Session

Following Executive Session: Public Session Approx. 7:30 p.m.

All were invited back into the room

VI. 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 J. Burlingame to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Calise- Aye

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

MOTION PASSED

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items (**moved to this point on agenda by previous motion**)

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. **Resolution #2025-06**

In Support of House Bill # 5957 Relating to Towns and Cities -- Low and Moderate Income Housing - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that at Council's last meeting Council discussed House Bill #5957 and it was agreed to support the bill with a resolution. Councilor W. Steere read the Resolution as follows:

The State of Rhode Island
Town of Glocester
Resolution #2025-06
In Support of House Bill # 5957
Relating to Towns and Cities -- Low and Moderate Income Housing

Whereas: Our Legislators have introduced in 2025 House Bill 5957 that proposes an amendment to the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act; and

Whereas: The proposed Low and Moderate Income Housing Act Amendment (H-5957) recognizes that a one size fits all approach to the construction of affordable housing does not work among the diverse municipalities in Rhode Island; and

Whereas: The proposed Low and Moderate Income Housing Act Amendment (H-5957) recognizes that the definition of "consistent with local needs" requires a balance between the state's need for affordable housing and the local needs to protect the health and safety of all its residents; to promote site and building designs suited to the environment; to preserve open spaces; and, to apply local zoning ordinances to all equally; and

Whereas: The proposed Low and Moderate Income Housing Act Amendment (H-5957) would expand the definition of the term" consistent with local needs" by adding that low or moderate income housing can also exist if the town were to adopt an inclusionary zoning ordinance that would allow all housing developments to include at least 50% low or moderate income housing units; and

Whereas: The proposed Low and Moderate Income Housing Amendment (H-5957) could be an incentive for Gloucester to add inclusionary zoning to its zoning ordinances as it would foster a local needs approach to the construction of low to moderate income housing that would be consistent with local needs; and

Whereas: The proposed Low and Moderate Income Housing Act Amendment (H-5957) should contain a minimum number of units to which the legislation applies; and

Whereas: The Town of Gloucester, in being consistent with its local needs recommends that the proposed Low to Moderate Housing Income Amendment contain a minimum number of units not less than six units; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Gloucester Town Council hereby requests that the General Assembly support the proposed Low to Moderate Income Housing amendment as it offers municipalities a realistic alternative to meeting affordable housing needs while recognizing that there is not a one size fits all solution to affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the Town Clerk is hereby authorized to forward this resolution to the Town of Gloucester's legislators in the Rhode Island General Assembly and to all cities and towns for their support in this bill.

This RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage.

Passed this 15th day of May, 2025

GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Council Pres. William A. Worthy, Jr.
Vice-Pres Walter M.O. Steere, III
Councilor Jonathan E. Burlingame

Councilor Cheryl A. Greathouse
Councilor Stephanie L. Calise
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of May 1, 2025; and Special meetings of May 5th & May 12th, 2025
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions & Abatements - April, 2025
- C. Finance Director's Report - April, 2025

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to APPROVE the Town Council regular meeting minutes of May 1, 2025; the special meeting minutes of May 5th & May 12th; NO ABATEMENTS or ADDITIONS to the 2024 Tax Roll; and to ACCEPT the Finance Directors Report for April 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Land Trust - Member at Large from Planning Board
One Term to expire 1/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Planning Board Chair has recommended a

member of the Planning Board to fill this position, Brian White.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Brian White to the position of Land Trust, member at large from the Planning Board, for a term to expire 1/31/2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Authorization for signature - Discussion and/or Action

1. RI Resource Recovery Agreement

Councilor W. Worthy stated that DPW has received the current Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement Between the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the Town of Glocester. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the agreement has been reviewed by the Town Solicitor.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement Between the Rhode Island Resource Corporation and the Town of Glocester. The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date of municipal execution or July 1, 2025 whichever is the later and end on June 30, 2027, unless sooner terminated or extended as provided in said contract; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. Amendment to explanation only of Budget Ballot Question for 2025/26
FTR Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council adopted the ballot questions for the FTR on May 5th. Councilor W. Worthy stated that to best explain to our residents the Clerk added a brief explanation to each question. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the explanation for question #2, did not include both park areas possibly involved in improvements. Councilor W. Worthy stated that in order to clarify the Clerk received

a consensus from Council to correct the explanation only, no questions were changed.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ADOPT the amendment to the language in the explanation, only, to proposed Question #2 on the ballot for the 2025 Financial Town Referendum to add Gloucester Memorial Park; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Boards and Commissions

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action

a. Conservation Commission

One 3-year term to expire 1/1/2028

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Jonathan Smith, effective immediately, from the Conservation Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to ACCEPT the resignation of Jonathan Smith from the Conservation Commission; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

a. Conservation Commission

One 3 year term to expire 1/1/2028

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chairman is recommending, Brian Scribner, from the Talent Bank listing.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to APPOINT Brian Scribner to the Conservation Commission for a three year term to expire 1/1/2028; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Gloucester250 Commission - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointments - 7 members

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk's office has added this Commission to the list of town boards and commissions and has advertised for members. Councilor W. Worthy stated that currently, Roy Najecki has agreed to join and he has been working on suggestions for this event for some time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that if Council wants to appoint Roy, a motion can be made to do so and the other 6 positions can be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Roy Najecki to the Gloucester250 Commission, Position #1, for a term to 12/31/2027; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the 6 remaining appointments to the Gloucester250 Commission to the Town Council meeting of June 19, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated a recommendation to advertise the open positions. J. Fecteau stated that ads are already being run.

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. 2025 Budget Referendum - Public Notification Call/Communication - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion:

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he would like to send a Code Red message to ask the residents to support this year's budget. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that it is important for the budget to pass; that many have worked hard on this budget;

that it is lean and the Budget Board did the best they could with the monies they had. Councilor W. Steere stated that if the budget does not pass then it will be much worse for the town.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE Councilor W. Worthy to utilize the Public Notification Call system (Code Red) to forward the Town Council's message relating to the Financial Town Referendum to be held on May 20, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Pavilion Tree - Naming - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that DPW planted an 8' – 10' Norway Spruce tree at the Pavilion at Kent Field. Councilor W. worthy stated that it has been suggested that this tree would be a symbolic tree for future generations to enjoy and should be given a "name" for future reference. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the name suggested was "Chet" in reference to Chepachet.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to Grant the name "CHET" to the 8' – 10' Norway Spruce tree planted, May 8, 2025, as a gift to our residents and generations to come; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Bid Extension Request - Discussion and/or Action

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

May 12, 2025

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Gary Trembl

Public Works Director

Re: Bid Extensions

Bid extensions were requested from the vendors on the following bids:

IFB 2001-10 Low Sulfur Diesel and Gasoline

IFB 2024-01 Hot Mix Asphalt

Both vendors have agreed to extend their bids at original pricing and conditions.
(See attached bid extension agreement).

I am requesting that these bid extensions be approved.

Thank you,

Gary Trembl

(end of memo)

Councilor W. Worthy read the bid as follows:

1. IFB 2001-10 Low Sulfur Diesel and Gasoline
April 23, 2025

Reichert and Sons Fuel Oil Co., Inc.
210 Old Snake Hill Rd
Chepachet, RI 02814

Your bid IFB 2001-10 with the Town of Glocester RI to supply low sulfur diesel and gasoline (89 octane) at a price of \$0.085/gal over cost expires on May 31, 2025

If you wish to extend your bid to us at original pricing and conditions in accordance with the approved motion at the May 7, 2015 Council Meeting, you must sign the agreement below and return this letter in its entirety to us no later than May 9, 2025

This agreement must be signed by an officer of the Company.
(end of bid extension)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this agreement was signed by Reichert & Sons Fuel Oil Co., Inc. as follows:

We agree to extend the above referenced bid with pricing, terms and conditions remaining the same until May 31, 2026.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to EXTEND IFB 2001-10 Low Sulfur Diesel and Gasoline, as per agreement with existing terms, to remain the same to 5/31/2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. IFB 2024-01 Hot Mix Asphalt

Councilor W. Worthy read the form sent and returned to T. Miozzi as follows:

April 23, 2025

T. Miozzi, LLC.

80 Compass Circle

North Kingston, RI 02852

Your bid with the Town of Glocester RI (IFB#2024-01) to supply Hot Mix Asphalt, 3" compacted at a price of \$119.00 and 4" compacted \$119.00/ton in place, tack coat \$0.65 per sq. yd and \$8.00/ln ft for berm expires on 6/30/2025.

If you wish to extend your bid to us at original pricing and conditions you must sign the agreement below and return this letter in its entirety to us no later than May 9, 2025

This agreement must be signed by an officer of the Company.
(end of bid extension)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the VENDOR replied & signed: "We agree to extend the above referenced bid with pricing, terms and conditions remaining the same until 6/30/2026"

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to EXTEND IFB 2024-01 Hot Mix Asphalt, as per agreement with existing terms, to remain the same to 6/30/2026; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Personnel - Appointment

1. Police Dept.: Part-time dispatcher position - Discussion and/or Action

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

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

From: Chief Joseph DelPrete

Date: May 6, 2025

Subject: Part-time dispatcher position

Dear Council Members,

I would respectfully request to appoint Christopher Branch age 63, of Smithfield to a part-time dispatcher position on the Gloucester Police Department. Christopher Branch is a retired Smithfield Fire Department Dispatcher and former Public Safety Dispatcher on the Gloucester Police Department from 1988 through 2012. Mr. Branch needs no training and is familiar with all aspects of Police and Fire Dispatch in the Town Gloucester. Mr. Branch also has a part-time dispatch position with the Lincoln Fire Department and Scituate Police and can immediately assist in filling shift vacancies at the police department when available.

Mr. Branch has already completed a Police Department background check. This part-time position will be afforded an hourly rate of \$24.00 per hour and not to exceed 24 hours per week. There will be no fringe benefits with this position and respectfully request this appointment to be effective on Sunday May 25, 2025.

This extra part-time dispatcher will be helpful in filling overtime vacancies and mandatory order backs for full-time dispatchers.

Joseph DelPrete
Chief of Police
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Christopher Branch to the position of part-time dispatcher on the Gloucester Police Department at an hourly rate of \$24, not to exceed 24 hours per week; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XI. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had updates on legislation.

1. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the assault weapon ban bill has been held for further study.
2. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that councilors need to keep an eye on legislation as the session nears the end of its term. Councilor W. Steere also stated that other cities and towns have been sending similar resolutions to the ones Gloucester has passed. Councilor W. Steere stated that Scituate sent a letter of support regarding the council's resolution on homeless student

bussing.

XII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

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

1. Gloucester Housing Authority is currently accepting applications for housing.
2. No. Smithfield & Scituate School Committees supporting legislation re: prioritizing funding for homeless student transportation.
3. Portsmouth School Committee supporting legislation to increase allowable pupil passenger limits.
4. State Traffic Commission re: a flashing signal at the intersection of Route 94 and Route 44

Councilor J. Burlingame stated a request for D. Begin, Building Official, to respond to residents requests in a more timely manner.

Councilor W. Steere stated that P. Alviti, DOT Director, came to Gloucester and met with J. Fecteau, G. Treml, DPW Director and himself to discuss the Roadworks Program.

XIII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

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

None

XIV. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

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

None

XV. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if anyone wishes to speak on any issues to please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

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

A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:

1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re:
West Gloucester LLC & Factory Mutual Insurance Company

No Action Taken by Council

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

No motion required as no Executive Session

XVIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 7:55 P.M.; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED