

## APPROVED

At a meeting of the Town Council in and for the Town of Gloucester on January 15, 2026

### I. Call to Order

Councilor W. Worthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: David Igliozi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Dennis Begin, Building/Zoning Official; Chief Joseph Delprete

### III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

### IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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.

R. Baumann, Phillips Lane stated he would speak as to the MFE proposal. D. Igliozi stated a recommendation that R. Baumann wait to the agenda item. R. Baumann stated his agreement.

### V. Public Hearings

#### A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance -

#### 1. Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments - Discussion and/or Action

**This Hearing was opened on October 16, 2025 continued to November 6<sup>th</sup>, and continued again to this meeting.**

#### a. Addition to "Table of Use Regulations" Zoning Chart to allow earth processing (not related to an earth removal license) in a B-2

Highway/Commercial zone - Discussion and/or Action

**Applicant: Coluch Organization LLC**

**Owner:** William & Bonnie Cooper  
**Location:** 640 Putnam Pike a.k.a. AP 17, Lot 107

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we can now resume the Public Hearing:

Discussion:

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that he had researched a possible way that would allow this type of use in town if council were to approve, for discussion purposes only. D. Igliazzi stated that the use could be allowed by a twostep process. D. Igliazzi stated that the town ordinance of use could be amended to include this type of activity as a special use in this particular zone. D. Igliazzi stated that if the use ordinance was amended then an applicant could apply to the Zoning Board for a special use permit. D. Igliazzi stated that if a special use permit was granted then an applicant could apply to the town council for a license.

D. Igliazzi stated that as a general rule, municipalities do not have the capacity to monitor this type of activity as to noise, dust etc. and that the council would need to consider any cost associated with the monitoring.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that he has received complaints as to noise and dust.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that this type of business does not generate revenue for the town. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the business would pay tangible tax on equipment.

J. Colucci, applicant, asked how noise could be distinguished between his property and the one behind his doing earth removal. D. Igliazzi stated that there would have to be a way to monitor.

J. Colucci stated that there are machines moving on the property but that no crushing has been done. Councilor S. Westgate suggested to put the monitoring into any license requirement. D. Igliazzi stated that is the issue and that there are many aspects that would need to be determined as to license requirements especially as to monitoring.

D. Igliazzi stated that his proposal would be limited to properties of 8 acres with a 300 foot buffer from any residential zoned property. D. Igliazzi stated that this would effectually limit the properties available for a proposed license to 9 in this B-2 Highway commercial zone.

J. Colucci stated he does not understand the complaints and that he is trying to run a business. Councilor S. Westgate stated that his type of operation is not currently allowed in town.

Councilor W. Steere stated that council needs to keep in mind the ability to monitor this type of activity and that the Planning board gave a negative recommendation.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that there are questions about how to monitor this activity as well as the cost involved in monitoring.

M. Paolucci, Reynolds Road, stated his opinion that a blanket approval for this activity will be a problem. M.Paolucci stated his opinion regarding the potential contamination, if any, in the type of material being brought in and crushed.

T. Colucci, applicant, stated that the material being brought in has been approved by engineers at the sites as the land is tested before work is done on these properties. T. Colucci stated that the sites they do work at receive permits to develop before they start work.

J. Lowell, Putnam Pike, stated that she can understand the frustration of the applicants. J. Lowell asked a question about the 300 foot buffer. D. Igliazzi stated that the 300 foot buffer is from residential property line. J. Lowell read her prepared statement which outlined her reasons for asking council to deny the application in order to preserve the rural and peaceful community of Gloucester.

Councilor W. worthy CLOSED the public hearing

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated the options are to have a vote yay or nay or to have the solicitor do the work for this amendment. Councilor S. Westgate stated that this effects the entire town and not just one location.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to DENY the application;  
seconded Councilor S. Westgate

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Westgate- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated the reasons for the denial as the Planning Board gave a negative recommendation as well as the town would need to monitor as to noise dust etc and the potential cost to do so. Councilor W. Worthy stated the constituents have spoken. Councilor S.Westgate stated that zoning is in place for a reason.

MOTION PASSED

2. Proposed Amendment to Code –Discussion and/or Action  
**Opened on December 4, 2025 continued to this date.**
  - a. Replace existing Chapter #191 Itinerant or Temporary Vendors  
With: 1. **Chapter # 198 Itinerant or Temporary Vendors**  
(text includes Hawkers and Peddlers only)  
AND  
2. **Chapter #206 Mobile Food Establishments**  
(text includes MFE’s only)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can now resume the Public Hearing for the consideration of a code amendment relating **only** to MFE’s, Hawkers, & Peddlers.

Discussion: D. Iglizzi stated that there were questions from the public raised at the last public hearing that he will now respond with answers D. Iglizzi stated that the answers are as follows:

1. Catering is not involved as that is controlled by zoning
2. There is an increase to the liability of the town because it issues a license but the liability is limited
3. A hold harmless clause protects the town
4. Jail time is allowed for criminal offenses
5. Town can issue a cease and desist as well as fine and impound vehicles
6. The criteria to determine an annual license is at the discretion of the council
7. No preference is given to town residents by constitutional law
8. Size of the vehicle is by preference and state law maximum size is 40 feet
9. Expiration of town permit same as annual is for administrative convenience
10. The town does keep copies of all licenses it issues
11. The MFE Act allows towns to regulate
12. Trash cans need to be covered for safety
13. MFE event is an event that is scheduled; an MFE operator is the person who drives the truck
14. The town currently does not issue licenses on line
15. not sure what is meant by the question but if a town business has an mfe license from the state then they can apply to the town for a permit
16. Not sure what is meant by the question of an mfe being allowable but the state authorizes issuance of mfe licenses
17. There is no surrender and transfer of the MFE license

18. There is a tired approach as to fees and the fees are \$25 per day; \$50 per week; and \$75 per year

D. Iglizzi stated the process of how licensing works and what permits will be required for all. D. Iglizzi stated his recommendation to council that if they decide to proceed that, he make a clean copy of the proposed ordinance for review and consideration at the next town council meeting.

Councilor W. Worthy asked the number of annual licenses. C. Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk stated there are five.

D. Iglizzi stated his recommendation to not put a set number of annual licenses in the Code but to state that the number can be set by Council Resolution.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if there were a set number of daily licenses. D. Iglizzi stated that council needs to decide how they want to control the licenses and the number is one item involved in that control. D. Iglizzi stated that council could set the number of daily or monthly licenses by resolution.

Councilor W. Steere stated that there are limited spots available for these trucks to be. Councilor J. Burlingame stated a suggestion to possibly use the Kent Pavilion.

Councilor W. Steere stated that a concern of distance between trucks. Councilor W. Steere stated expansion can be good but need to control. Councilors discussed the possibility of having a set number of daily licenses. C. Mathieu questioned the logistics of issuing daily licenses and stated the concerns that the clerk's office would face. Councilor S. Westgate also stated that a problem could be if an MFE operator wants to get multiple daily licenses and the issue of record keeping that could be created.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any would like to speak.

R. Baumann, Phillips Lane, stated the process he has followed in the various cities and towns in RI in applying for permits to operate in those cities and towns.

R. Baumann stated he disagrees as to Glocester fees being lowest in state.

R. Baumann stated his request to ask the council to consider the proposed ordinance and how it is written.

C. Wilson, 1177 Putnam Pike, stated his opinion that the annual license number should not be limited. C. Wilson stated his opinion that private rights are being taken away if a permit is required for a private person having a party on their own property. C. Wilson stated that the locations should be specified in the proposed ordinance.

Councilors S. Westgate and J. Burlingame each stated their opinion that a private event is different. D. Iglizzi stated that a private event for the homeowners guests

could be included in the proposed ordinance as an exception. D. Igliazzi also stated a recommendation that the penalty for violations of this proposed ordinance could be fines only.

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that there should be a set number of annual licenses. D. Igliazzi stated that the number of permits can be set by council resolution

D. Igliazzi stated his recommendation to continue the public hearing in order to make the proposed changes.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to CONTINUE the Public Hearing to the Town Council meeting of February 5, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Westgate- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

W. Steere, resident asked if Council would consider moving Item H.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to MOVE Item H. Gloucester School Department- Summary of RIDE's Accountability Report to be heard at this time; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate , Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: R. Palazzo, Superintendent Gloucester Schools, stated an explanation of the accountability report from RIDE regarding the two elementary schools in town. R. Palazzo stated the explanation as to how and why each school has improved in their RIDE rating. R. Palazzo stated that both schools are high performance schools.

E. Macphee , teacher, stated her opinion that both schools are the jewels of the town and hopes that we can continue to move forward.

Councilor W. Worthy stated his thanks to both.

## **RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA**

### **VI. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action**

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of December 18th, 2025
- B. Tax Assessors Additions and Abatements December 2025
- C. Finance Director's Report December 2025

MOTION was made by Councilor s. Westgate to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of December 18, 2025; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements, No Additions to the 2025 Tax Roll, Abatements to the 2025 Tax Roll in the amount of \$6,140.64; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for December 2025; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

### **VII. New Business**

- A. Approve dates for the Gloucester Financial Referendum: 2026/27  
Budget - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor w. Worthy stated that the Clerk has consulted with the Finance Director and together they have reached the proposed dates for the process to adopt the budget for 2026/27 which he read as follows:

## **FRAMEWORK FOR SETTING CALENDAR FOR 2026 FINANCIAL TOWN REFERENDUM**

**COUNCIL REC. BUDGET:**

**Town Council receives Budget from  
Budget Board (Per Charter C8-2.1c) and  
Council approves budget, at that time,  
for Public Hearing.**

**March 19<sup>th</sup> , 2026**

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:** Should be held no sooner than 30 days nor more than 35 days after receipt and approval of budget. Per Charter C8-3.3. this hearing must be at least 21 days prior to FTR.

**APRIL 20, 2026 @ 7:00 P.M. (Special Mtg)**

**ADOPTION TOWN COUNCIL:** Within 15 days after final Public Hearing, Town Council **ADOPTS** budgets and ballot language for Financial Town Referendum. Per Charter C8-3.4 Council must adopt a budget not later that 15 days prior to FTR.

**ADOPT May 4<sup>th</sup> , 2026 (Special Meeting)**

**FIN. TOWN REFERENDUM:** Referendum to be held no less than 15 days after adoption and not later than May 31<sup>st</sup> in any fiscal year.

**MAY 19, 2026**

All procedures & dates referenced in the Town Charter (Articles: III; IV.9; & VIII) have been considered and included in this framework.

(End of schedule)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that these are very important dates as the budget process has already started. Councilor W.Steere asked if the public hearing date of April 20<sup>th</sup> would allow for another date if the hearing. C. Mathieu stated that the hearing could be continued within that same week if needed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADOPT the Public Hearing date, April 20, 2026, for the 2026 Referendum and ADOPT the all day Referendum date, May 19, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: P. Henry, Chestnut Hill Road, is asking as the chair of the Charter Commission for the date that questions need to be submitted to

Council. D. Igliazzi stated that questions need to be at the Secretary of State by August 1, 2026. C. Mathieu stated that the end of June would allow for the required public hearings and that the questions would appear on the ballot for the general election in November.

B. Authorization of Expenditures from Restricted Opioid Fund - Discussion and/or Action

1. Up-fit costs for Narcotics K-9 handler and cruiser kennel  
Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has submitted a request which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Chief Joseph DelPrete

Date: December 31, 2025

RE: Appropriation of Restricted OPIOID FUNDS

It is respectfully requested that the Town Council consider appropriating **up to \$45,000.00 in** restricted Opioid Funds for up-fit on a newly purchased 2024 Chevrolet Silverado front-line police K-9 vehicle. These funds will be specifically appropriated for the Glocester Police Department Narcotics K-9 handler and a cruiser kennel for K-9 Tate. K-9 Tate is a certified narcotics K-9 who has participated in numerous narcotics multi-jurisdictional investigations and numerous community narcotics service outreach events.

All lighting and K-9 upfit will be purchased and installed at ITS in Warren, Rhode Island under the Greater Boston Police Council Master Pricing Agreement.

This appropriation will include \$4,486.50 for a new Motorola Police radio for this front-line vehicle. This pricing and purchase will be from the Rhode Island Master Pricing Agreement Contract.

Thank you for your consideration in this important program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete

Chief of Police

(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to GRANT the appropriation of an amount not to exceed \$45,000, in restricted Opioid Funds, for an up-fit on the recently purchased 2024 Chevrolet Silverado front-line police K-9 vehicle. Said upfit will be installed by ITS (of Warren RI) under the Greater Boston Police Council Master Pricing Agreement; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Bds. and Commissions

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action

a. Budget Board

1. Position #3, One unexpired 3-yr term to expire 12/31/28

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this resignation is that of Jake Desilets from the Budget Board.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Jake Desilets from position #3, Budget Board; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Conservation Commission

1. One Alternate 1-yr term to expire 1/31/2027

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is for the expired term of Bruce Payton, and the Board recommends his reappointment.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to REAPPOINT Bruce Payton to the Conservation Commission, Alternate position, for a term to expire 1/31/2027; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

b. Land Trust

1. One Member-at-Large from Planning Bd. Exp. 1/31/2027  
Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is for the expired term of Brian White. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair of the Planning Board has requested his reappointment to the Land Trust.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to REAPPOINT Brian White as the Member-at-Large from Planning Board to Land Trust for a one year term to expire 1/31/2027; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

2. One Member-at-Large from Conservation Comm. Exp. 1/31/2027

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is for the expired term of Roy Najecki. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair of the Conservation Commission has requested his reappointment to the Land Trust.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to REAPPOINT Roy Najecki as the Member-at-Large from Conservation Commission to Land Trust for a one year term to expire 1/31/2027; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

c. Parade Committee (Tabled from 9/18/2025)

1. Position #5 (Voting member)
2. Alternate #2 Position

3. Alternate #3 Position

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has not received any recommendations from the Chair at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to TABLE all appointments to the Parade Committee to the Town Council meeting of March 5, 2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

d. Budget Board

1. Position #3, One unexpired 3-yr term to expire 12/31/28

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair does not have a recommendation as this resignation was just received two days ago. Councilor W. worthy stated that the talent bank list will be reviewed and a recommendation will follow if Council will table.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3, to the Town Council meeting of February 5, 2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Authorization for signature - Discussion and/or Action

1. Memorandum of Understanding

“By and Between The Rhode Island Department of State and The Town of Glocester” for the purpose of allowing the transfer of the municipalities Trade Name records

Councilor Worthy stated that the Secretary of State’s Office is currently in the process of setting up a Trade Name registry with all trade name records previously maintained by each municipality per a new state statute. Councilor W. worthy

stated that Cities and Towns are required to sign Memorandums of Understanding outlining the transfer of records.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the RI Dept. of State and the Town of Glocester for the transfer of Assumed Name (Trade Names) records in the possession of the town; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: C. Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk, stated that this is one more example of the state taking revenue from the cities and towns. C. Mathieu stated that the trade name revenue process in Glocester involves filing an application and a fee. C. Mathieu stated that the state has taken away revenue in the form of trade name certificates, holiday licenses and antiques licenses from the cities and towns. C. Mathieu stated that this is another example of revenue being taken from cities and towns.

E. Traffic Control, Chepachet Village Area - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated that he requested this item. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the dangerous intersection is on Putnam Pike in front of Brown & Hopkins store. Councilor W. Worthy stated he has spoken to Rep. M. Chippendale. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that an electric sign may be needed. Councilor S. Westgate stated that many people have spoken to her about this issue. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that it is dangerous.

Chief Delprete stated that this is a state traffic issue because it is a state road. Chief Delprete stated he would contact the state tomorrow and report back to council.

B. Brown stated that he and C. Wilson have been fighting this issue for many years. B. Brown stated his opinion that there is a need for some type of electric sign in place when people need to cross. C. Wilson stated his opinion as to the need for some type of electric sign too. C. Wilson described how the busy foot traffic as well as parking on the street contributes to this issue.

D. Igliazzi state that the process would be for the town to petition the state traffic commission to conduct a warrant study. D. Igliazzi stated that council would need to pass a resolution requesting the study.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate for a Resolution to ask the state Traffic safety commission to conduct a study the need for a crosswalk traffic light at this location; seconded by Councilor W. Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Clerks Union Local 1322 request to begin successor agreement negotiations - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appoint Town Council team to negotiate

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has received the following memo and forwarded to Council which he read as follows:

January 5, 2026

To: Jean Fecteau  
Town Clerk  
From: Beth DeCorte  
Union Steward Local 1322  
Re: Contract Negotiations

Jean:

The Clerks Union Local 1322 contract expires June 30, 2026. We are ready to begin negotiations for a successor agreement on behalf of the bargaining unit.

Please notify who shall represent the Town in negotiations so I can contact them to set up a meeting.

Thank you,  
Beth DeCorte  
Union Steward  
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to ASSIGN Councilor J. Burlingame and Councilor C. Greathouse to the negotiating team for the Clerk’s Union Local 1322 negotiation for the successor agreement contract effective July 1, 2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

G. Personnel

1. Tax Assessor Appointment-Discussion and/or Action  
2- year Term to expire 12/31/2027

Councilor W. Worthy stated that per Public law, the Town Tax Assessor is appointed every two years, in the “off” year as other appointments.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated a recommendation to table as there is no correspondence. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he would like to hear from the finance director regarding this appointment.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment of a Tax Assessor to the Town Council meeting of February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

2. Police Department
  - a. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action
    1. Full time Dispatcher

Councilor W. Worthy stated Council has received the following memo from the Chief which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Chief Joseph DelPrete  
Date: December 30, 2025  
RE: Dispatcher Resignations

It is respectfully requested that the Town Council accept the resignation of full-time dispatcher Taylor Ann Malone on Saturday December 27, 2025. Taylor Malone has been an excellent dispatcher and employee at the Gloucester Police Department and would like to wish her well in the future.  
Respectfully

Chief DelPrete  
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to ACCEPT the resignation of Taylor Anne Malone from the position of Gloucester Police Department full time Dispatcher effective December 27, 2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0  
MOTION PASSED

b. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action  
1. Full time Dispatcher

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a memo from the Chief which He read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council  
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete  
Date: December 30, 2025  
RE: Full-time Dispatcher Appointment

It is respectfully requested that the Town Council appoint Kimberly A. Ballou, of Dayville, Connecticut to a full-time dispatcher position. Ms. Ballou has been selected among 25 candidates for this position. She has extensive police and fire dispatch experience as a part-time dispatcher on the Foster Police Department for the past two years and will require minimal training for this position.

Kimberly Ballou will be afforded the first step salary and fringe benefits under the current Laborers International Union Local 1332 collective bargaining agreement and will be on a probationary status for six months according to the CBA.

She will replace the December 27, 2025 resignation of full-time dispatcher Taylor Malone.

I would further request that this appointment be retroactive to Sunday January 4, 2026 in order that she can attend essential training with all members of the Gloucester Police Department on a new records management software at RI State Police Headquarters.

During training her hourly rate will be \$18.00 per hour.  
This appointment is further contingent on this candidate successfully passing a Police Department background investigation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete  
Chief of Police  
(end of memo)

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated the reasons that he is asking for the appointment retroactive as being one for the new appointee to be able to attend training.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Kimberly A. Ballou to the position of full time dispatcher on the Gloucester Police Department. Appointee will be afforded the first step salary and fringe benefits under the current Laborers International Union Local 1332 collective bargaining agreement and will be on a probationary status for six months according to the CBA. Said appointment to be retroactive to Sunday, January 4, 2026 During training appointees' hourly rate will be \$18.00 per hour and appointment is further contingent on candidate successfully passing a Police Department background investigation; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- H. Gloucester School Department - Discussion and/or Action
  - 1. Summary of RIDE's Accountability Report for Gloucester Elementary Schools

**MOVED to AFTER ITEM V**

VIII. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

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

Councilor W. Steere stated that the legislative proposals are coming.

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that council has received the following correspondence:

- 1. Council has received FEMA Floodplain update notice from FEMA.
- 2. Council has received correspondence with concerns regarding notice process used for recent public hearings.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he has received correspondence on why the jersey barriers are up at the Kent Pavillion.

R. Palazzo stated that there will be a budget subcommittee for Gloucester Schools on January 20,2026 at 3:00PM at the Region if any councilors wanted to attend.

X. 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

XI. 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.

P. Henry, Charter Review Commission Chair, stated that the first meeting will be Jan. 27, 2026. P. Henry stated that she received a resignation and has a suggestion

for the replacement for council to consider. P. Henry asked the council that if they had any suggestions about the Charter to please send them to her. Councilor W. Steere stated that department heads could be notified to send suggestions also.

## XII. 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.

W. Steere, Putnam Pike, stated he attended the school workshop that was held recently at the Region. W. Steere stated that it was very eye opening to learn of the areas of the school that have been neglected. W. Steere stated that some issues have been addressed. W. Steere stated that the school has some big capital projects coming up and he hopes that better care will be taken of the buildings in the future.

W. Steere stated his opinion for no light at the crosswalk in front of Brown & Hopkins.

R. Palazzo stated some of the items that have been fixed and those that need to be fixed. R. Palazzo stated that the facilities personnel started in 2022 and are very competent. R. Palazzo stated an offer to hold a facilities workshop with Council.

Councilor W. Worthy asked D. Begin, Building Official if he had seen any permits from the schools. D. Begin stated that he has seen permits and has done inspections.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council now needs a motion to convene to closed executive session.

## XIII. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

1. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, etc.;
  - a. One Personnel Session (Employee notified)
2. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to potential litigation:
  - a. Negotiations for successor union contracts (Police & Dispatcher Unions)
  - b. Potential Litigation

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

Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

1. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, etc.;
  - a. One Personnel Session (Employee notified)
2. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to potential litigation:
  - a. Negotiations for successor union contracts (Police & Dispatcher Unions)
  - b. Potential Litigation

Seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Westgate- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

All were asked to leave the room until after Executive Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION

All were invited back into the room

XIV. Reconvene Open Session, Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of the Minutes of Closed Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye  
Councilor Westgate- Aye  
Councilor Steere- Aye  
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XV. Authorization to Sign Agreement to Waive Time Period Set Forth in the Municipal Police Arbitration Act- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a formal request to enter into negotiations for the collective bargaining agreement for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Councilor W. Worthy stated that in order to waive time frames in place Council has the opportunity to sign an agreement to waive the time period set forth.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Agreement, between the Gloucester Town Council and the IBPO, to Waive Time Period Set Forth in the Municipal Police Arbitration Act to enter into negotiations for the 2026-27 fiscal year; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 12:00 am.;  
Seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Steere, Worthy  
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED



