

APPROVED

At a meeting of the Town Council in and for the Town of Gloucester on February 5, 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 Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Director; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Dennis Begin, Building/Zoning Official; R. Shields, Recreation Director

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 asked if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Public Hearings

A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance -

1. Proposed Amendment to Code –Discussion and/or Action
Opened on December 4, 2025 continued to January 15, 2026; 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. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that as to Itinerant or Temporary Vendors, Chapter 198, the changes were to return to the original form by removing mobile food establishments from the chapter and to clarify that licenses are required anywhere in town.

D. Igliazzi stated that as to the mobile food establishment (mfe) ordinance there were changes discussed at the last meeting and those changes are shown in red. D. Igliazzi stated that those changes marked in red include: license required on public and private property, added the actual designation for the residential districts, all mfe permits are issued by Council, removed the penalty of jail, allows tents by Council subject to the Fire Marshall.

D. Igliazzi stated that if Council approves this ordinance as amended, then the next step for Council should be to schedule a meeting to determine by resolution the number of permits in the town.

R. Baumman, resident, asked about getting a copy of all changes. D. Igliazzi stated that he could. R. Baumann asked if the actual number of permits was removed from the ordinance. D. Igliazzi stated that there is no actual number in the ordinance as it was removed. D. Igliazzi stated that the proposed ordinance will allow Council to set the number of permits by resolution.

D. Igliazzi stated a plan of action for the Council. D. Igliazzi stated that Council may move forward on the itinerant or temporary vendor proposal as that was not changed from the original posted. D. Igliazzi stated that as to the proposed mfe ordinance that he recommends Council make a motion to amend to add all the changes in red and then make a second motion to approve the ordinance as amended.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that all questions seem to have been answered. Councilor C. Greathouse and W. Worthy stated the ordinance looks good.

D. Igliazzi stated that if Council is ready then the public hearing may be closed but if Council still has questions then the public hearing may be continued.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone from the public had any questions or wanted to speak.

None

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed .

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to PASS the proposed amendment as posted and presented of Chapter 198 Itinerant or Temporary vendors; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

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

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AMEND the mobile food establishment ordinance as proposed to include all amendments since the January 15, 2026 meeting as identified in red; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

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

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to ADOPT Chapter 206 as amended; Seconded by Councilor W. Steere

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

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

Said Code Amendment shall be effective upon adoption

VI. Resolution #2026-01 -To Request a Study by the State Traffic Commission regarding the safety concerns at the crosswalk in the center of Chepachet Village- Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that he does not want a traffic light in the center of the village. Councilor W. worthy asked if anyone had options to suggest. Councilor J. Burlingame suggested speed bumps. Councilor W. Steere stated he was open to receiving options.

C. Wilson, resident and chair Historic District Commission, stated a description of several past options by the state when the Historic District was undergoing developments. C. Wilson stated that one option was a push button pedestrian controlled light. W. Steere, resident, stated that parking is the biggest problem in the center of the village as it prevents people from seeing and drivers from seeing people. W. Steere stated his concern that any type of light would have to be timed appropriately.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has a Resolution for adoption which he read as follows :

**State of Rhode Island
Town of Glocester
Resolution #2026-01
To Request a Study by the State Traffic Commission**

Whereas: Residents and business owners in Glocester have raised the concern of safety at the crosswalk, as it currently exists, in the heart of Chepachet Village located on or about 1179 Putnam Pike; and

Whereas: Residents and business owners have stated their safety concerns due to the area consisting

of many shops on both sides of the single road through Chepachet Village; and

Whereas: Residents and business owners have described some of their safety concerns which consist of visibility due to cars parking on both sides of the main road through Chepachet Village and Chepachet Village being a main attraction for both residents and tourists to shop; and

Whereas: The Council has now been made aware of these safety concerns; and

Whereas: The State of Rhode Island has a Traffic Commission which is tasked with, among other matters, the review of traffic and safety initiatives as well as requests for traffic control devices; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Gloucester Town Council hereby requests that the Rhode Island State Traffic Commission conduct a study to determine the need of a traffic safety measure at the current crosswalk in the heart of Chepachet Village located on or about 1179 Putnam Pike

This RESOLUTION shall take effect upon passage.

Passed this 5th day of February 2026

GLOUCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Councilor Pres. William A. Worthy, Jr.

Councilor Cheryl A. Greathouse

Councilor Vice-Pres Walter M.O. Steere, III

Councilor Stephanie L. Westgate

Councilor Jonathan E. Burlingame

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to ACCEPT the Resolution;
seconded by Councilor W. Steere

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Westgate- Aye

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of January 15, 2026

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the Town Council minutes of January 15, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action

- 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

- a. Budget Board

- 1. Position # 3- One unexpired 3 year term to expire 12/31/2028

Councilor W. Worthy stated the Chair does not have a recommendation at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3, to the Town Council meeting of February 19, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- B. 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 J. Burlingame stated that he would like to get something from the Finance Director. D. Iglizzi stated that Council would need to ask the Finance Director for a recommendation. Councilor J. Burlingame stated he would ask.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment of a Tax Assessor to the Town Council meeting of February 19th, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Resignations- Discussion and/or Action

a. Home Rule Charter

1. Position # 2-One unexpired term to expire on 6/30/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this resignation is that of Jacqueline Muollo from the Home Rule Charter Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Jacqueline Muollo from Position #2, Home Rule Charter Commission; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position #4-One unexpired term to expire on 6/30/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this resignation is that of David LaPlante from the Home Rule Charter Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of David LaPlante from Position #4, Home Rule Charter Commission; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

2. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Home Rule Charter Commission

1. Position # 2- one unexpired term to expire 6/30/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair is recommending, Crystal Baris, from the Talent Bank listing.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to APPOINT Crystal Baris to Position # 2 of the Home Rule Charter Commission for a term to expire 6/30/2026; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

2. Position # 4- one unexpired term to expire 6/30/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair is recommending, John Kitson, from the Talent Bank listing.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to APPOINT John Kitson to Position # 4 of the Home Rule Charter Commission for a term to expire 6/30/2026; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

B. Personnel

1. Retirement compensation package- Chief of Police-Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W.Steere to TABLE item B. 1 Retirement Compensation package- Chief of Police to the next meeting in February; seconded by Councilor J Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Determine the process for hiring a new Chief of Police-Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that Council needs to come up with a process of how the next Chief of Police will be selected. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion to ask D. Zimmerman, Human Resources ,to give Council a directive. D. Iglizzi stated that is a good approach.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to direct the Human Resources Director to create a framework as to the hiring process for the Chief of Police for the next meeting; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Resignation- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. GIS Technician

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a letter of resignation from the GIS Technician as sent to the Town Planner , effective February 27, 2026.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to accept, with thanks, the resignation of Heidi S. Blank effective February 27, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization to seek to fill GIS Technician position -Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council has received the following memo from the Town Planner regarding the GIS Technician which he read as follows :

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: February 2, 2026

Re: GIS Technician

Effective February 27, 2026, the Town's GIS (Geographic Information Systems) Technician, Heidi Blank, has resigned as she is relocating. Heidi has been with the Town for over 20 years and has provided many essential services to the Town. Generally, the GIS Technician manages, analyzes, and interprets complex spatial data, creating maps and models to aid decision-making. The core responsibilities include creating and updating map layers, querying databases, performing spatial analysis, and ensuring data quality.

Specifically, in Gloucester, the GIS Technician assigns 911 addresses and manages the Master Address Table which is used in the Town's permitting system, manages and edits the parcel base which is the underlying data source for the Building, Planning, Tax Assessor and Tax Collector's information, maintains the link to the Tax Assessor's software and creates and prints Assessor's Maps. In addition, this position updates other GIS data layers as needed such as voting, zoning, easements, plat boundaries, roads and stormwater systems.

While this is a technical position which updates and manages the Town's ArcGIS applications and requires proficiency in ArcGIS and spatial databases, it is a position that provides support and necessary data to almost all Town Departments. This position is budgeted for \$17,251 per year, which works out to about 8 hours per week at \$41.42 per hour. I am requesting permission to work with the Human Resources Director to begin the process of refilling this position. Thank you for your consideration.(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the acting HR Director to begin the process to seek a replacement for the GIS Technician; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Discussion and/or Action regarding the removal of the jersey barriers at the Kent Pavilion

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he requested this item because he wanted to know why the barriers are in place during the winter. G. Treml, DPW Director stated that the Pavilion is always closed in winter, the water turned off in the restroom.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that as a town property it should be open. Councilor C. Greathouse stated her agreement that the Pavilion should be open. G. Treml stated that there is the expense of cleaning, plowing, sanding and trash.

P. Henry, resident, stated her opinion that the Pavilion is a jewel of the town and should be open for people to use all year.

Councilor W. worthy stated his agreement that the Pavilion should be open.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that if the restrooms have to be closed for winter to have a closed sign put up.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to remove the jersey barriers from the Kent Pavilion and to put a closed sign on the restrooms; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

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

L. Gaddes-Barrett, resident stated that she and several other Gloucester residents went to the State House in regards to a proposed bill, H 7356, that would close the loophole to prevent teachers from getting passed from school to school who have inappropriate red flag behavior. L. Gaddes-Barret described several examples of districts where situations have occurred.

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

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

1. Council received correspondence from The Blackstone Valley Tourism Council
2. Council has received correspondence from Rep. Mike Chippendale regarding the USDA and its programs

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that Council should schedule a presentation regarding the USDA correspondence. D. Igliazzi stated that the Clerk could send a letter asking for available dates from the USDA in order to schedule.

Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks to the DPW for the great job they did during the last snowstorm.

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. R.Shields, Recreation Director, stated that wanted to let Council know that he has been contacted by the Swamp Meadow Community Theater about possibly using the Kent Pavilion for a play production in August. R. Shields stated he would keep the Council informed as all details have not been worked out.

2. G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the CERT team is still training and has completed a training with the Health Department that resulted in obtaining \$4000.00 for equipment. G. Mosca stated that he attended Red Cross and FBI training response for mass casualties and the CERT team is still preparing to protect citizens of Gloucester.

Councilor W. Steere asked G. Mosca for an update on the addition. G. Mosca stated that an RFQ went out to engineers and architects. G. Mosca stated that 13 have responded and that the last day to submit is Feb 17.

XII. 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.

T. Wagner, Charter Review Commission stated that the commission decided to meet two times per month on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 6:00 PM.

T. Wagner stated that the next meeting is Feb 24 and the commission will be discussing Articles of the school and finance.

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.

1. L. Gaddes-Barrett stated a request for two agenda items. L. Gaddes Barret asked Council for an agenda item authorizing the town council president to find out what it would cost for an independent investigation of an incident at F/G Regional High School as well as to negotiate with the Foster Town council as to how payment may be shared.

2. L. Gaddes Barret also asked for an agenda item for the council to issue a Resolution in support of proposed legislation H 7356 and S2216.

Councilors stated both items could be on the next agenda.

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that although this is an important situation but this is not really the Council's purview although it is our community. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that maybe we should be talking about how to get the Regional school district to do an investigation. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the public needs to know and all children need to be safe.

W. Steere, resident, stated that he was at the school committee meeting Monday night and the school committee draft budget for the coming year is asking for a 7% increase. W. Steere stated his opinion that is too much for the town. W. Steere stated that the Regional budget is coming in at 0% but the proration between Foster and Gloucester and the debt service may result in about \$360,000 more for Gloucester.

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

XIV. 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:

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 Solicitor to call the roll:

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Westgate- Aye

Councilor Greathouse- Aye

Councilor Steere- Aye

Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

All present will be invited back into the room after Executive Session

Executive Session

All were invited back into the room

XV. Reconvene Open Session, Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

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

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 9:45 PM.; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

