

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on September 3, 2020:

Pursuant to R.I. Executive Orders # 20-05 and # 20-25 executed by Governor Gina Raimondo this meeting is being teleconferenced via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: George O. (Buster ) Steere, Jr. President; Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; William E. Reichert; Patricia Henry; and Julian (Jay) Forgue

Also Present: Matt Floor, IT Director; Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Ken Johnson, Bldg/Zoning Official; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Manager; Adam Muccino, Finance Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Councilor G. Steere reminded the Council that there may be some people joining this meeting by telephone or without video capability so Council members should identify themselves when speaking particularly when making or seconding a motion.

Councilor G. Steere went on to explain the procedure for the zoom meeting and stated that participants expressing inappropriate behavior or being disruptive may be removed from the meeting by the moderator.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor G. Steere stated those wishing to speak, should raise their hand and Karen Scott will recognize those that wish to speak in turn.

Councilor G. Steere stated at this time, Council will Convene Executive Session at which time the Host will place all those present into a waiting room. Councilor G. Steere also stated that following Executive Session, when open session is reconvened, everyone in the waiting room will be allowed back into meeting.

Councilor J. Forgue asked that the Senior Center Director & the EMA Director be allowed to participate in Closed Session.

IV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) 2 - Potential Litigation - Discussion and/or Action  
MOTION was made by Councilor J. Forgue to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) 2-Potential Litigation, Covid-19 Virus, Discussion and/or action; seconded by Councilor P. Henry

Council Discussion: none

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye  
Councilor Henry - Aye  
Councilor Reichert - Aye  
Councilor W. Steere - Aye  
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session

V. Reconvene Open Session

**MOTION was made by** Councilor P. Henry to RECONVENE Open Session; **DISCLOSE** no votes were taken in Closed Session; and to **SEAL** the minutes of Closed Executive Session; **seconded by** Councilor J. Forgue

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye  
Councilor Henry - Aye  
Councilor Reichert - Aye  
Councilor W. Steere - Aye  
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED

VI. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor G. Steere stated those wishing to speak, raise your hand and K. Scott will recognize you in order.

None

VII. Resolution- #2020-04: Relating to State Assistance During the COVID 19 Emergency - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated the Finance Director brought forward a request of support from the League of Cities and Towns regarding the distribution of federal funds to our cities and towns:

Councilor P. Henry read the following:

**The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

**Resolution #2020-04**  
**Town of Glocester**  
Relating to State Assistance During the COVID 19 Emergency

**WHEREAS**, the Governor and municipal leaders across the state have declared a state of emergency as a result of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, municipal leaders have worked cooperatively and productively with the state administration to respond to and contain the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Glocester has incurred expenses associated with its efforts to respond to and contain the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, cities and towns have been given guidance that there will be delays in receiving reimbursements from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for qualifying COVID-19-related expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, the state has received \$1.25 billion dollars under the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund to cover state and municipal costs associated with the emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of the Treasury has stated that the Coronavirus Relief Fund may be used for COVID-19 expenses not otherwise reimbursable by FEMA, including public safety expenditures, personnel costs associated with COVID-19 response and the mandatory local match for expenses submitted to FEMA; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the National League of Cities, Rhode Island is one of only three states that have not distributed a portion of their Coronavirus Relief Fund to local governments; and

**WHEREAS**, cities and towns across Rhode Island face potential revenue risks resulting from the economic impacts of COVID-19, including a possible reduction in state aid programs, lower collection rates of property taxes, and other business activity revenue losses, all of which could exceed \$100 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the state has withheld scheduled state aid payments in the current fiscal year by over \$50 million dollars through the beginning of August; and

**WHEREAS**, the state has not yet completed a budget for Fiscal Year 2021, creating even greater uncertainty about expected aid to local governments and schools.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Glocester Town Council calls on the Governor to execute a plan for distributing CRF funds to cities and towns taking into account expenses incurred and revenues lost by each city and town as a result of the emergency; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Glocester Town Council urges the General Assembly to fully fund the state education funding formula at the FY 2021 projected levels and to support total state aid to local governments at the same aggregate levels as in FY 2020.

George O. Steere, Jr., President

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of September, 2020

**seconded by Councilor Reichert**

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye

Councilor Henry -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor W. Steere -Aye

Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of August 20, 2020

B. Pole Grant - Douglas Hook Road, Install new pole for service

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the minutes of the Town Council meeting of August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and to APPROVE the Pole Grant - Douglas Hook Road, Installation of new service pole; seconded by Councilor Forgue

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye

Councilor Henry -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor W. Steere -Aye

Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

IX. Unfinished Business

A. Bds. and Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Land Trust - One five year term to expire 2/2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust for the five year term to expire 2/2022; seconded by Councilor Forgue

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Zoning Board - Alt. #2 - One year term to expire 1/2021

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to TABLE the appointment to the Zoning Board, Alt. #2 position for the one year term to expire 1/2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

B. Human Resources Services - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: The need to hire a part time consultant or contractor was discussed by all Councilors. David Igliozi, Town Solicitor, explained some of the options he has determined that may fit the town's current needs.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to AUTHORIZE the Town Council liaison to Human Resources, J. Forgue,; Finance Director, Adam Muccino; and Councilor Reichert; to interview potential candidates to fill a temporary HR position and report back to the Town Council at a future meeting; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

X. New Business

A. Covid-19 Updates/Actions

1. EMA Update - Discussion and/or Action

Gerry Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the positive COVID rate is currently down to below 1% with 56 new cases as of yesterday. G. Mosca encouraged people to celebrate the Labor Day weekend safely by wearing masks and social distancing. G. Mosca stated he is meeting with Foster and Scituate next week to discuss the plan (MED PODS) to dispense a vaccine, when available, and he will rely on Health Department as to date this vaccine may be available and not rumors. Councilor Henry asked about the number of hospitalizations which G Mosca stated he believes is currently 88. Councilor W. Steere asked if G. Mosca receives inspection reports, particularly as to the schools, when the state conducts random inspections. G. Mosca responded that he does not and expressed his concern that he hears news at the same time as the public which does not allow time to prepare.

2. Senior Center Opening - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor J. Forgue stated no action necessary.

3. Consideration of Amendment - EDC Meeting - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue requested this item be placed on the agenda for discussion as the EDC wishes to meet in person. Councilor Henry agreed and stated the public usually does not attend. Councilor W. Steere stated that this is the third time the Council is discussing this topic and the decision remains that, in accordance with the Governor's executive order, there can be no "in person" meetings. W. Steere stated he was more concerned with the EDC Chair bypassing the Town Council's decision and contacting M. Floor, IT director, to have him host a meeting. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, reminded the Council that the Governor's Order allows for zoom meetings to avoid Open Meetings Act violations. D. Iglizzi stated the amended order states that even if they can have an "in person" meeting the board must still provide alternative computer or audio access to the public. D. Seaver, EDC Chair, stated that Matt Floor contacted her and offered to host the meeting. M. Floor stated he did not solicit D. Seaver to host a meeting but rather returned her phone call due to a message he received. Councilor W. Steere stated again that he is more concerned with the process of a board going "around" a Town Council decision and that it must be clear that there can be no meetings until a process is in place that won't violate the Open Meetings Act. W. Steere questioned how D. Seaver got an employees cell phone number. D. Seaver again stated that M. Floor contacted her and offered to set up a meeting for her. M. Floor again reiterated that he did not happen as D. Seaver stated. W. Steere stated he would also like to meet in public but the stipulations of the Governor's orders do not allow this right now.

4. Emergency Declaration Status, Extension, and/or Amendments  
**(Currently in place until 9/3/2020)** - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Council members discussed extending the Emergency Order until the next Council meeting on September 17, 2020.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to EXTEND the Emergency Declaration of the Town to September 17, 2020 seconded by Councilor Forgue

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

#### MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

##### B. 2020/2021 Budget status - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Steere stated the State has not given out funds as they should and the F/G Regional School Committee passed a budget without authority so he is concerned that as a town we need to look at ways to save money because he is anticipating that revenues will be low due to the times. W. Steere stated he wants to be prepared with ways to save money and asked the Council for their thoughts. A. Muccino, Finance Director, offered to review capital, operating expenses and speak with Department Heads to see where they could cut spending and save money. A. Muccino stated that if the state passes a budget with a new car tax rate then a decision would need to be made if the town will send out supplemental tax bills. A. Muccino added that the town is ready, when Vision is ready, to send out car tax bills at last year's rate, in accordance with state law. A. Muccino stated he does not want to wait much longer because that will decrease the length of time the taxpayer has to pay the bill which places an unfair burden on the taxpayer. A. Muccino continued that past practice is a taxpayer has four chances to pay the bill. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that by law bills are due when levied and the law allows for four quarterly payments.

##### C. Community Septic System Loan Program - Discussion and/or Action

1. Authorization for signature: Loan Closing Documents
  - a. Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank & TOG Loan Agreement
  - b. Non-restoring - Line of Credit Promissory Note
  - c. General Certificate

Councilor G. Steere stated the Council has received the closing documents to procure more funds for the Town's ongoing Community Septic Loan Program and the Solicitor has reviewed these documents.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the closing documents relating to the \$500,000 Non-Restoring Line of Credit between the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank ("Lender") and the Town of Gloucester, Rhode Island ("Borrower") under the Community Septic System Loan Program, dated September 3, 2020, to include the Lender & Borrower Loan Agreement; the Non-restoring Line of Credit Promissory Note; and the General Certificate; seconded by Councilor Henry

Council Discussion: A. Muccino, Fin. Dir., stated the closing documents are based on the application, previously approved, by the Town Council.

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye

Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Request for Exception - Debt to Income Ratio  
95 Putnam Pike - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated the Council has received a request from Rhode Island Housing for the town to consider granting an exception to the Debt to Income Ratio percentages originally agreed to.

Councilor G. Steere stated the Town Finance Director has reached out to discuss with the property owners and has asked that we table the request until our next meeting, September 17, 2020.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to TABLE the request for an exception of the debt to income ratio for property located at 95 Putnam Pike to the Town Council meeting of September 17, 2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- D. Short term Rental Properties

1. Proposals to be considered for first reading - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated the Planner presented Council with an Ordinance option, regarding short term rentals, to consider at last meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated our Solicitor has proposed another option, with input from the Planner, for consideration by Council.

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, said he spoke with K. Scott, Town Planner, about different ways to solve the public nuisance of parties primarily held at homes on the lake. D. Igliazzi continued that one approach is the short term ordinance similar to the Town of Narragansett which includes fines and stickers being placed on homes where nuisance parties are held. K. Scott stated that the nuisance ordinance as proposed by the Town Solicitor will solve the problem more simply without over regulating. After discussion, Councilors G. Steere and Forgue stated that the Solicitor's solution was a good plan. Councilor Henry requested more time of one meeting to review details. Councilor Henry was reminded that this meeting is to set a first reading date.



MOTION by Councilor Henry to set a first reading for the proposed ordinance:  
Part 3: General Legislation, Chapter #254 Unruly Gatherings for September 17, 2020; seconded  
by Councilor Forgue

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- E. Personnel
  - 1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Town Clerk's Office - Senior Clerk

Councilor G. Steere stated that Council has received the resignation of Maureen Baxter from the position of Senior Clerk in the Town Clerk's Office, effective 9/1/2020.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to ACCEPT, with regrets, the resignation of Maureen Baxter from her position as Senior Clerk, Town Clerk's Office, effective 9/1/2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- 2. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Police Dept.- Part time Dispatcher

Councilor G. Steere stated the Council has received a request for appointment from the Chief of Police:

TO: Honorable Town Council Members  
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete  
Date: August 31, 2020  
Subject: Police Department Dispatcher Position

Dear Council Members,

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

Appoint Martine Aubuchon of North Smithfield, to a part-time dispatcher position within the Gloucester Police Department at a training rate of \$14.00 per hour. Once she satisfactorily completes training her salary will increase to \$17.51 per hour. This position is considered a permanent part-time position not to exceed 16 hours per week with no fringe benefits. Twelve candidates applied for this position, and her, schedule, and previous experience will be best suited for this appointment.

I further request that her training schedule start during the week of September 1, 2020.

A criminal history and complete police background investigation is a condition of her employment to this position.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete  
Chief of Police  
(End of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to APPOINT Martine Aubuchon to the position of part-time Dispatcher, Gloucester Police Dept., effective September 3, 2020, at a training rate of \$14.00 per hour and upon satisfactory completion of training the hourly rate shall increase to \$17.51. Said position is a permanent part-time position not to exceed 16 hours per week with no fringe benefits; accepted criminal history and complete police back ground investigation are conditions of employment; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- F. Bds. and Commissions
  - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
    - a. Housing Authority
      - One Five year term to expire 7/2025

Councilor G. Steere stated this appointment is for the expired term of Judy Branch from the Housing Authority. Councilor G. Steere stated that Ms. Branch has requested to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to REAPPOINT Judy Branch to the Housing Authority for a five term to expire 7/2025; seconded by Councilor Henry

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Conservation Commission - Discussion and/or Action

1. Williams Mills Hunting 2020 - Approval of Hunting Regulations

Councilor G. Steere stated the Conservation Commission has stewardship of the Williams Mills Hunting area and each year the Town Council adopts their hunting rules and regulations, which are in their packets. Councilor G. Steere stated there are no changes to the proposed rules from last years and these rules, once approved, will be available to the public and posted on the town's website.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to ADOPT the Williams Mills Hunting 2020 Rules and Regulations as presented; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Authorization: Appoint Town Council member or members to meet with Department Heads to discuss aspects of a municipal court - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated he requested this item be placed on the agenda to determine if it was agreeable to the Council if a Council member or members sat with the department heads when they discuss the pros and cons of a municipal court. Councilor J. Forgue stated that could then be reported by to Council. Councilor W. Steere stated questioned that as we are already waiting to hear the pros and cons from the Chief, which can then be discussed by the Council as a whole. The Council agreed no action.

- I. Consideration or First Reading of Comprehensive Plan Amendment #20-01.  
Proposed text Amendments to sections re: Goals, Policies, Actions and Implementation Program, Land Use, Natural, Historic and Cultural Resources, Open Space and Recreational Resources, Services and Facilities, Economic Development and Housing - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated the Clerk has forwarded email text from K. Scott, Planner, regarding a proposal for Comprehensive Plan amendments:

Over the past 2 years since the Comprehensive Plan was adopted, the Town has been the recipient of several large grants and undertaken several large planning projects related to Chepachet Village. The amendments have been prepared to review all sections of the plan to ensure that the language is consistent and complementary to this work with nearly \$1 million in new investment intended for Chepachet Village over the next few years. In addition, language around large projects currently under consideration (for example, police department improvements, dam safety improvements, etc.) has been added to ensure eligibility for potential grant funding and new approaches to creating affordable housing have been added.

(End of text)

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, stated over the last two years we have invested over \$2 million dollars in the district. K. Scott stated that the Comprehensive Plan will be a five year plan to revitalize, improve, establish opportunities for small scale scatter site affordable housing, increase tourism with recommendations of innovative ways to preserve the character of the Town. K. Scott continued that the current projects are aligned with the character of the Town and is an investment in the Town. K. Scott stated that the amendments to the Comprehensive Plan will help in future funding applications by making the plan more cohesive. K. Scott stated we are currently stacking programs and reviewed the grant projects underway. K. Scott stated we want to not only protect our resources but the investments we are now making in this area. K. Scott stated the current Comprehensive Plan does not address the targeted Revitalization Plan and this amendment will correct that. Councilor W. Steere stated that K. Scott had put in a lot of hours and asked when she began this project and where did the directive come from as he did not know she was working on this. K. Scott responded that there are a lot of projects going on and things have changed in the 2 and ½ years when the Comprehensive Plan was last looked at so she was making sure it was included in the larger vision. K. Scott stated these revisions will help with future grant opportunities to show that we have been planning for these projects. K. Scott stated we have been able to create some affordable housing that she wanted to be sure to receive credit for towards our goal as well as ensuring that housing initiatives we are considering are consistent with the Comp Plan. Councilor W. Steere thanked K. Scott for her work and asked where this idea come from . K. Scott explained she is trying to make sure the larger vision is included. Councilor W. Steere stated he understands the proposals and remarked as to the hours of work K. Scott put it but just was trying to determine the genesis for this project. Councilor G. Steere stated said that he gives K. Scott credit for having the vision to include these items in the Comp Plan. Councilor W. Steere told K. Scott not to feel pressured to have this done before she feels it is ready as there is plenty of time for review. Councilor Forgue questioned if Councilor W. Steere felt that K. Scott was being pressured.

Council debated W. Steere's questions.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to ADOPT proposal as a first reading and set a joint Public Hearing for the Town Council and the Planning Board for the October 1<sup>st</sup> Town Council Meeting; seconded by Councilor Henry

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

#### J. Political Fundraisers - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor G. Steere stated the Town Clerk received a Special Event application, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, for a political Fund raiser. Councilor G. Steere stated the application is for an event to be held on September 12<sup>th</sup> and there isn't time for a public hearing. Councilor G. Steere stated the clerk has conveyed that the applicant stated another event was also planned but they weren't ready to turn in application. Councilor G. Steere stated the Council can waive public hearing for reoccurring events, but this is a new event.

D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the current Gloucester Special Event ordinance is not clear as to the types of events and the Council may want to clarify in the future but needs to be concerned with not inhibiting freedom of speech which includes political fund raising in the meantime. G. Kain , applicant, stated that the car wash was a meet and greet and not a fund raiser. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she was not comfortable issuing a special event license unless the stated procedures are followed. D. Iglizzi, Solicitor stated that the Town Council should clarify the ordinance and that there is a difference if alcohol is to be served. Councilors G. Steere, Henry and Forgue stated that as they are all members of the Republican Town Committee and as this matter involves the Republican Town Committee they would have to recuse themselves from any vote if taken. J. Fecteau stated she agrees that they may not need a license but feels it should only be treated this way by political committees only and not businesses. Councilor P. Henry stated they were just ensuring the rules were followed as they were two years ago. J. Fecteau continued that the application process has changed over the last 2 years. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk , stated she can't issue a license because they can't comply within the special event guidelines and suggested this not be considered a special event. G. Kain , applicant, stated he would pull the application. Councilor W. Steere agreed that work should be done to clarify our special event ordinances. The Clerk felt that the group should contact the EMA Director regarding their Covid plan.

#### XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

No correspondence

Councilor W. Steere raised the issue of Hills Tavern because they had an event last weekend without an application in blatant disregard to the Town Ordinance and the Governor's ordinance. Chief Delprete stated there were no complaints last weekend. J. Fecteau , Town Clerk has told

Hills Tavern, repeatedly, that all documents must be submitted and to date he has not complied. J. Fecteau questioned why the establishment isn't stopped when this problems occur. Councilor Henry stated that as the Council is the licensing board she feels Hills should be brought before the Council in open session. D. Igliazzi, Solicitor, stated this would require a public hearing because when the Council sits as the licensing board they are a quasi judicial board which requires evidence to be gathered and heard of any violations in order for the Council to take action. D. Igliazzi stated he would work with the Clerk to schedule a meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated video is present on social media. Councilor P. Henry stated she would like to know what the options would be at hearing. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk asked if the Council should wait until November to address these issues because that is time for renewals of all licenses, especially special events outside. Councilor G. Steere stated he has received complaints from a person several times regarding an outside band. Councilor G. Steere stated he contacted Chief Delprete from Big Bear, the adjoining property where he could hear the 3 piece band with amplification. Councilor G. Steere stated the police responded and shut Hills down, so they do have some evidence. Councilor Henry asked that if we wait until November what should we do. Councilor W. Steere stated that between now and November to call the police if there are violations.

## XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Steere questioned K. Johnson, Building Inspector regarding the status of the Purple Cat building. K. Johnson stated he has received complaints and has discussed this issue with K. Lavoie. K. Johnson stated he would like something to happen with this building. Councilor Henry stated that she has been asking questions about this building for the past 4 years and that she can't believe the Town would allow a resident to have such a derelict building in the center of town. Councilor P. Henry question if the town should just allow a resident to continue to say they are working on a violation and not do any work. K. Johnson stated that the only tool left is to use the legal process and he will do what the Council wants but will need to go forward legally. Councilor P. Henry asked how many years the restaurant has been closed and stated it was an eyesore. Councilor P. Henry stated it is ridiculous. K. Johnson stated he will have another discussion with the owner and if he says the same thing then K. Johnson will contact the Solicitor to discuss the next legal procedure.

Chief Delprete responded to Council's discussion about Hill's Tavern. Chief Delprete stated they have responded to Hills multiple times. Chief Delprete stated he will work the Solicitor to send Hills another letter that the licensing board will suspend or revoke the tavern's license.

Chief Delprete stated that the school resource officer will be full time at Ponaganset starting on September 14, 2020.

Chief Delprete update the Council saying that the septic system at the police station will be completed this week.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that there is an currently an account that currently holds approximately \$400,000 from the former Western Repair Home Program and/or the Gloucester Home Repair Program that is accumulating additional funds due to program income. J. Fecteau stated program income is a payback when a recipient of the grant passes or sells the property they are required to pay back the grant money. J. Fecteau stated the Town has received two repayments this year. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, would like the Council to start the Gloucester Home Repair Program again for our residents, as it was intended, and she is asking the Council to consider options and discuss and consider establishing some sort of program. J. Fecteau continued that she

will put together a memo of the history of the programs, and the number of homes improved over the years.

Adam Muccino, Finance Director, stated the region voted to expend approximately \$900,000 for repair to the pump house. Councilor P. Henry stated that those repairs did need to be made and this has come forward at budget time.

Adam Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the Gloucester School Committee, at their meeting this past week, voted and approved a private local day care provider to use Fogarty Memorial School and West Gloucester School for before and after school daycare for no cost. Councilor Henry raised the points that the intent may have been good because of the governor's rulings as to COVID but she has concerns as to liability of the town with a private business taking care of children in a town school. Councilor P. Henry stated it is giving special treatment to a business owner and she feels it should have gone to bid. Councilor P. Henry stated the school is not charging the business because the parents are already paying the private provider, Harmony Day Care. Councilor W. Steere stated Councilor Henry made good points and added that he believes the school committee was solicited by a private day care. Councilor W. Steere stated he was also informed the daycare will also be using the town building even when school is not in session. Councilor W. Steere raised the question of who is cleaning and who would pay for the cleaning. D. Igliazzi, Solicitor, stated that Title 16 provides that school buildings are under the control of the school committee and that town rights are very limited. D. Igliazzi continued that he told the school committee about the liability issue but they went ahead and approved this anyway. Councilor W. Steere asked if the town could discuss the fact that it did not go out to bid because he feels the favoritism is not good. Adam Muccino, Fin. Dir., stated he asked at the school committee meeting about the sole source and the attorney for the school committee disagreed and does not feel purchasing policies apply. Councilor G. Steere stated the owner of another day care business contacted him and stated this action would put them out of business. Councilor G. Steere stated he is also not comfortable with the process the daycare took and asked if the town is covered as to liability for a private company working under a town building. Councilor W. Steere stated there is already a special bus that goes back and forth to this facility that the taxpayers fund. A. Muccino, Fin. Dir., stated he received the certificate of insurance from both schools and has sent the certificates to the Trust for review to determine if the limits of liability are sufficient. A. Muccino will let the Council and the Solicitor know what the Trust determines. D. Igliazzi will work with A. Muccino and provide a draft of a letter to the School Committee. Next Agenda.

### XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor P. Henry questioned whether Bds. and Comm. submit monthly reports. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk stated that boards and commissions are not required to submit monthly reports.

Councilor J. Forgue questioned whether he should be putting items on the agenda when asked by taxpayers. Councilor J. Forgue stated he felt obligated.

Councilor G. Steere stated we will have to figure out a way to get meetings going for our Boards and Commissions again.

Again, Councilor J. Forgue stated he feels obligated when he is asked by a resident to add something to agenda. Councilor J. Forgue questioned if that was correct procedure.

Councilor W. Steere stated he took issue with the Board member circumventing the Council and going right to a dept. head.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated as a reminder that anyone can speak at open forum and it may not necessarily be a need to put items on the agenda. J. Fecteau stated the Council is very obliging to the public with two open forums.

#### XIV. Open Forum

J. Fecteau asked Council to question whether the daycare arrangement at our elementary school was a permanent arrangement.

Councilor G. Steere stated Council will now Convene to Executive Session and the Host will place all those present into a waiting room. Councilor G. Steere stated following Executive Session, when open session is reconvened, everyone in the waiting room will be allowed back into meeting.

#### XV. Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) 1 - Personnel
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) 2 - Potential Litigation
  - 1. Tax Exemption
  - 2. Real Estate Assessment Card

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to convene to Closed Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)1- Personnel; R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a) 2 - Potential Litigation ; 1. Tax Exemption & 2. Real Estate Assessment Card; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Fogue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

After Executive Session:

#### XVI. Reconvene Open Session

Disclosure of votes take in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor P. Henry to **RECONVENE** Open Session; **DISCLOSE** there was no discussion or votes were taken in Closed Session relative to Item A. and no votes were taken in Closed Session relative to Item B. ; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:



Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor P. Henry

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue -Aye  
Councilor Henry -Aye  
Councilor Reichert -Aye  
Councilor W. Steere -Aye  
Councilor G. Steere -Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor P. Henry to ADJOURN at 11:09 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Council Discussion: None

Councilor President G. Steere requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Forgue - Aye  
Councilor Henry - Aye  
Councilor Reichert - Aye  
Councilor W. Steere - Aye  
Councilor G. Steere - Aye

MOTION PASSED