

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

Pursuant to current R.I. Executive Orders 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: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, 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; 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 that those wishing to speak on agenda items should raise their hand and Christine Mathieu will recognize those that wish to speak at this time.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of November 19, 2020
- B. Tax Collector's Abatement -Back taxes: Providence Water Board/Acciardo Property
- C. Pole Grant - Sandy Brook Rd
Install new stub pole No. 14-84 and anchor to guy P14

MOTION by Councilor Reichert to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meeting minutes of November 19, 2020; to ABATE the taxes (for AP 5, Lot 25) on the 2017 Tax Roll in the amount of \$344.30, the 2018 Tax Roll in the amount of \$2,105.43, and the Tax Sale fee in the amount of \$311.30 for a total abatement of \$2,760.73; and to APPROVE the Pole Grant - Sandy Brook Rd. for the installation of a new stub pole No. 14-84 and anchor to guy P14; seconded by Councilor Forgue

Discussion: Councilor P. Henry stated she will recuse from voting as she was not present at the

meeting of November 19, 2020.

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

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- VI. New Business
 - A. Covid-19 Updates/Discussions/Actions
 - 1. EMA Update

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that he has been busy planning the Flu Clinic that is scheduled for December 12, 2020 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Ponaganset High School. G. Mosca stated that he has volunteers lined up and that there is a final coordination meeting this coming Monday, G. Mosca stated that he has been attending a lot of zoom meetings with the Health Department regarding the COVID vaccine and updated that the vaccine may be given at a regional pod with ten communities involved. G. Mosca, EMA Director, reviewed the tentative state timetable. G. Mosca stated that he needs more volunteers because there will be so many more people when the public phase of the vaccine gets started. G. Mosca stated he may need to tap town employees to work. G. Mosca stated the possible good news is that depending on where the pod is, there may be a reimbursement of 75% from the State but it is not finalized. Councilor Henry asked if the volunteers get the vaccine. G. Mosca, EMA Director, responded that the volunteers working the pod are seen as first responders so they get the vaccine. G. Mosca stated that the CDC is coming up with safety specifications and will give them to the Health Department who in turn will give to the towns and he expects to have that information in about a week. G. Mosca stated that the CDC has said that they expect about 40% of people who get the vaccine to have the one side effect of a fever for 24-48 hours and to feel slightly ill. Councilor G. Steere asked if the first responders who get the vaccine and have the fever if they have to quarantine. G. Mosca answered that if the fever lasts 24-48 hours then there is no need to quarantine. Councilor G. Steere then asked that there did not have to be a ten to fourteen day quarantine and G. Mosca stated no quarantine. G. Mosca added that this side effect creates a problem if all first responders got the vaccine on the same day so he will stagger the vaccine to first responders.

- 2. Emergency Declaration Status, Extension, and/or Amendments
(Currently in place until December 17, 2020) - Discussion and/or Action

No action taken as order is in place until December 17, 2020

B. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

a. Economic Development Commission

One Ad-Hoc non voting member term to expire 12/31/2020

Councilor G. Steere stated the Chair has recommended Will Morin to fill the Ad-Hoc term, a talent bank app is on file.

MOTION was made by Councilor Fogue to APPOINT Will Morin to the Economic Development Commission to fill an Ad-Hoc non voting member term to expire 12/31/2020; seconded by Councilor Reichert

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

b. Zoning Board

One Five Year Term to expire 11/30/2025

Councilor G. Steere stated the Chair has advised Council that member Ed Crawley does not wish to be reappointed and he recommends moving Alternate member Joe Fogarty up to that position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to MOVE Joe Fogarty from the Alternate #1 position to regular member, position #1, for a five year term to expire 11/30/2025; seconded by Councilor Fogue

Discussion: All Council members stated their thanks to Ed Crawley for his ten years of service.

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

C. Presentation of Chepachet Village Revitalization Plan by Civic Moxie - Discussion and/or Action

K. Scott, Town Planner, gave a brief overview of the work done by on the revitalization plan done by Civic Moxie which was fully funded by grants. K. Scott stated the goals were to create a five year investment plan by identifying opportunities for affordable housing paired with mixed use development. K. Scott stated Civic Moxie looked at ways to preserve historic resources, strengthen and expand small business, and improve recreation. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that Civic Moxie put together a plan that identifies what exists today, recommends innovative ways to redevelop specific properties within the village and is in compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. K. Scott, further added that Civic Moxie identified, assessed, made recommendations, prepared a full inventory of all of the over 100 buildings in the Historic District; and, made findings and recommendations for improvements that property owners could choose if they wanted. Lastly, K. Scott stated that COVID changed the original process from in person focus groups to conference calls and Civic Moxie was great in adjusting the scope and getting the outreach that was anticipated.

K. Scott, Town Planner, introduced Susan Silverberg of Civic Moxie.

S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie, stated that Civic looked at what the Town has done, what is planned and then did an assessment as to the physical environment as well as businesses in terms of use, business and destination. S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie stated that in the assessment they looked at what and how much each building contributed to the town story by speaking with the property owners in terms of overall market conditions, how and where each business fits, the type of business etc. Silverberg stated that Civic took all of the information and tried to identify alignments and areas of focus as to investment. S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie, stated that the overall impression was that Chepachet village is a gem with a strong story; that the historic consultant, Jeff Gonyea, was wonderful outlining the whole picture from the buildings, infrastructure, street names that all harken to a time when Chepachet was an industrial powerhouse. S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie stated that the businesses are aligned with that historic story and that the small area of the village makes it a walkable destination, S. Silverberg stated they found local government to be flexible with helping the owners and stated she felt that all of this contributed to Chepachet being a gem. S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie made several recommendations; one having to do with economic development in getting the business owners to form a business group that could be used to coordinate actions like marketing, recruiting new businesses, getting property owners to do work or giving property owners incentives to make improvements. The second recommendation by Civic Moxie, as stated by S. Silverberg, was to try to strengthen the historic story by making it more evident and weaving it in with the economy and business group to link in the visitor. The third recommendation by Civic Moxie, as stated by S. Silverberg, is about making and strengthening the connectivity of all aspects between the historical aspects, the businesses and the recreation areas, such as the Pavilion and Gloucester Memorial Park. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that Civic Moxie gave some specific properties that were high priority due to visibility with suggested recommendations. S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie stated that they tried to be very specific as to suggestions because it is better for the town and for applying for grants.

L. Gaddis-Barret, resident, stated that she loved hearing S. Silverberg speak and asked if the report could be available to EDC members. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that a copy could be made

available and that she had plans to distribute to the different commissions after the holidays.

Councilor Henry thanked S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie, for her work and asked if they had spoken to the Gloucester Business Association. S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie, stated they had spoken to the Gloucester Business Association . K. Scott, Town Planner, stated the Gloucester business Association was very helpful throughout the process. Councilor Forgue, commented on the activity in town in the last few years as to boutiques, art studios, pop ups etc and stated that it was great to see people out and about in town on Fridays and the weekends. Councilor Forgue thanked K. Scott, Town Planner, as did S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie. Councilor W. Steere stated that we know what we have in town but it is nice to have an unbiased outside view that also says we are a gem. Councilor W. Steere continued that it is good to see the specifics plus the solutions and thanked the organization and K. Scott, Town Planner, especially for getting the grants. S. Silverberg, Civic Moxie, stated that K. Scott, Town Planner, was very clear about the goal of the study that the report was to be clear, specific and actionable.

VII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

None

VIII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

None

IX. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None

X. Open Forum

None

XI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to Adjourn at 8:11 P.M. ; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES-UNANIMOUS

MOTION PASSED