

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on January 7, 2021:

Councilor Forgue stated that 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: Julian (Jay) Forgue, President; William E. Reichert Vice President; Walter M.O. Steere III; Stephen Arnold; and William Worthy , Jr.

Also Present: 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; Adam Muccino, Finance Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Councilor Forgue 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 Worthy went on to explain the procedure for the zoom meeting, how participants can be recognized when requesting to speak, and further stated that participants expressing inappropriate behavior or being disruptive may be removed from the meeting by the Council.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Forgue stated that those wishing to speak on agenda items should raise their hand and Christine Mathieu will recognize those that wish to speak.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of December 17, 2020

B. Pole Grant- Huntinghouse Road, Pole #36-84 & Anchor

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPROVE the Town Council Meeting minutes of December 17, 2020 and to APPROVE the Pole Grant - Huntinghouse Road, Pole #36-84 & Anchor: seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Abstained (Not a Council member 12/17/2020)

Councilor Worthy - Abstained (Not a Council member 12/17/2020)

Councilor Steere - Aye

Councilor Reichert - Aye

Councilor Forgue- Aye

MOTION PASSED

VI. New Business

A. Covid-19 Updates/Discussions/Actions

1. EMA Update

G. Mosca, EMA Director stated the COVID vaccination clinics are ongoing and that approx. 1000 individuals have been vaccinated with the first dose and that the second round of vaccinations for these same individuals will begin in about four weeks. G. Mosca, EMA Director, discussed the preparations for our clinic and volunteer training. G. Mosca recommended that Council extend the Town Emergency Order to February 18, 2021. G. Mosca discussed with Council members the details of the upcoming clinic and the volunteer status. G. Mosca stated he will be meeting with School Officials and a Council member to iron out the final details for Gloucester. G. Mosca will update when that meeting is set.

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that for the clinic for Gloucester residents the vaccination clinic would require people to register in order to get the vaccine and that walk ins would not be allowed. Councilor Steere stated that he volunteered at the recent clinic and he wanted to compliment G. Mosca and everyone involved at how well it was run. Councilors Forgue and Steere both thanked G. Mosca, EMA Director.

2. Emergency Declaration Status, Extension, and/or Amendments

(Currently in place until January 7, 2021) - Discussion and/or Action

G. Mosca, EMA Director, recommends extending the Emergency Declaration until February 18, 2021.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to EXTEND the Emergency Declaration of the Gloucester Town Council, due to Covid-19, to February 18, 2021 ; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated he would like to make an amendment to the motion that would state if the president makes a decision then he must notify the rest of the Council in writing within twelve hours of that decision.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to AMEND the MAIN MOTION to include: If the Town Council President makes a decision, as provided in the Gloucester Emergency Declaration, the entire Council must be notified, in writing, within twelve hours of said decision; seconded by Councilor Forgue .

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council as to the amendment:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council as to the MAIN MOTION as amended:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- B. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Land Trust

Position #3 - One unexpired term to expire 2/28/2023

Councilor Forgue stated the Council has received the resignation of Steve Mitchell from the Land Trust, effective January 1st, 2020.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to ACCEPT, with regrets, the resignation of Steve Mitchell from the Gloucester Land Trust effective January 1, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Arnold thanked Steve Mitchell and stated that lots of progress has been made maintaining our Land Trust properties. Councilor Steere thanked Steve Mitchell for all his time and energy, as did Councilors Forgue and Reichert.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Zoning Board
 - Position #2 - One unexpired term to expire 11/30/2022

Councilor Forgue stated the Council has received the resignation of Tracey Donnelly from the Zoning Board of Review

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ACCEPT, with regrets, the resignation of Tracey Donnelly from position #2 of the Zoning Board of Review; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Forgue thanked Tracey Donnelly for her work.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Land Trust

Position #3 - One term to expire 2/28/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received in your packets a talent bank listing for the Land Trust. Councilor Forgue stated Council can appoint or table at this point if more time is needed to review listings.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Land Trust for a term to expire 2/28/2023; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Zoning Board
- Position #2 - One term to expire 11/30/2022

Councilor Forgue stated the Chair of the Zoning Board has requested the Alternate #2 member, Christopher Harkness, be moved to this position.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Christopher Harkness to the Zoning Board, Position #2, for the term to expire 11/30/2022; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, corrected the pronunciation of Harkness for the record.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Position #1 - One Alternate Term to expire 11/2021

Councilor Forgue stated the Zoning Board Chair is requesting Council TABLE this Alternate

position until the next council meeting when he hopes to have a recommendation for this position and the Alternate position previously held by Chris Harkness.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Alternate #1 position to the Zoning Board of Review; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

c. Historic District Commission

Position #1 - One expired three year term to expire 11/2023

Councilor Forgue stated this is for the expired term of Michael Robinson and the Chair has indicated that Mr. Robinson would like to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to REAPPOINT Michael Robinson to the Historic District Commission, position #1, for a three year term to expire 11/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Position #6 - One expired three year term to expire 11/2023

Councilor Forgue stated this appointment is for the expired term of Charlie Wilson and Mr. Wilson has indicated that he would like to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to REAPPOINT Charlie Wilson to the Historic District Commission, position #6, for a three year term to expire 11/2023; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Personnel

1. Police Department - Resignation (Lieutenant) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated the Chief of Police has submitted to Council the resignation of Lieutenant Kim Bertholic effective January 19, 2021.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT, with regrets, the Police Department resignation of Lieutenant Kimberly Bertholic, effective January 19, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Forgue thanked Lieutenant Bertholic for all her work and stated she will be sadly missed. Councilor Steere echoed the sentiments and stated that she has been an asset to the town, that she will be missed and hopes to be able to acknowledge her service, in public, at a later date.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Appointment:

a. Human Services Department

1. Temporary Part Time Van Driver - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated the Council has received a request from the Human Services Director to hire a temporary part time van driver.

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked A. Muccino, Finance Director, as to the source of payment and if the position needed to be posted. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the money is incremental. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that this is a temporary position and that if the regular person that holds that position were to decide to resign the filling of that position would then be posted. Councilor Arnold stated that they have a name for a temporary person from John Luszcz, Human Services Director. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated there are savings, due to the absence of the person holding that position, in that account. Councilor Steere stated that if the person in that permanent position decides not to return to work then the job should go out for posting and the person we are temporarily appointing may apply as well.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Stephanie Kain to the position of

temporary part time van driver for the Human Services Department, effective upon receipt of acceptable BCI check; said position it to cover a current van driver out on leave; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- D. Authorization for signature - Town Council President - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Municipal COVID-19 Response Fund Certification

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a request from the Finance Director to sign the Fund Certification.

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated a signature is required to attest to the conditions to receive federal funds, CRF, from the State. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the State is dividing up the money based on motor vehicle data. A. Muccino stated we have submitted our vehicle tax roll. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the funds are to offset public safety costs, which is approx. 38% of our public safety costs, from March 2020 through December 2020. A. Muccino stated the total expenditure is \$869,200 of which the town has already received \$138,710.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Municipal COVID-19 Response Fund Certification dated January 7, 2021; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion:None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold-Aye
Councilor Worthy-Aye
Councilor Steere-Aye
Councilor Reichert-Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- 2. R.I. Dept. of Revenue, Division of Municipal Finance
Transparency Report as of 6-30-2020

Councilor Forgue stated the Council has received a request from the Finance Director for a signature on a Transparency Report dated 6-30-2020

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that this is a required state report that ties to our ledgers and needs the signature of the Town Council President.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Transparency Report Budget to Actual 3, FY2020 Actual as of 6-30-20; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold-Aye
Councilor Worthy-Aye
Councilor Steere-Aye
Councilor Reichert-Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS: Terms Concurrent with Town Council - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Forgue stated this item is for the appointment of department heads for terms to run concurrent with the Town Council's term:

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT

1. Chief of Police (**Joseph DelPrete**)
2. Director of Finance (**Adam Muccino**)
3. Director of Public Works (**Gary Treml**)
4. Tax Collector (**Jane Steere**)
5. Deputy Town Treasurer (**Jane Steere**)
6. Zoning Official (**Ken Johnson**)
7. Building Inspector (**Ken Johnson**)
8. Deputy Town Clerk (**Christine Mathieu**)
9. Town Planner (**Karen Scott**)
10. Town Solicitor (**David Igliozi**)
11. Assistant Town Solicitor (**William Bernstein**)
12. Electrical Inspector (**James Clarke**)
13. Plumbing Inspector (**Gary Coyne**)
14. Mechanical Inspector (**Albert Dante**)
15. Animal Control Officer/Appraiser of Dog Damage (**Penny Silva**)
16. Asst. Animal Control Officer (**Angie Smith**)
17. Director of Emergency Management (**Gerry Mosca**)
18. Probate Judge (**Jane Gurzenda**)
19. Recreation Director (**Robert Shields**)
20. Deputy Tree Warden (**Todd Anderson**)
21. Sealer of Weights & Measures (**Robert Salley**)
22. Honorary Town Historian (**Edna Kent**)
23. Senior Center Director (**Melissa Bouvier**)

seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- F. Annual Appointments - 2021
 - 1. Tree Warden - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Forgue stated the current Tree Warden, Sandra Shepard, has stated she would like to be reappointed. Councilor Forgue stated Ms. Shepard will submit a current Arborist License to the Clerk's Office.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to REAPPOINT Sandra Shepard to the position of Tree Warden for 2021 contingent upon submitting of a current Arborist License; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked K. Johnson, Building Official, if the communications issue has been resolved. K. Johnson, Building Official, stated that the communication issue has been resolved.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -? Technical difficulties
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED

G. Town Council Liaisons for Boards, Comm. & Depts.- Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Forgue stated at the start of each term Council members choose which Council member will be liaison to different departments or boards.

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked as to how the liaisons were to be chosen. Councilor Forgue stated that he would like to move some of the liaisons positions around in order to learn about the different departments so members could see all the functioning parts. Councilor Steere stated that if the current liaisons are working then they should remain for consistency especially as the departments and employees having had a difficult year. Councilor Forgue and Councilor Steere discussed and appeared to disagree as to the changing of liaisons. The Council then selected by

volunteering for each liaison as it was read in the motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT the following liaisons for the 2021-2022 term

1. Affordable Housing Advisory Board -**Councilor Steere**
2. Building/Zoning Office (to include Zon Board)- **Councilor Forgue**
3. Conservation Commission - **Councilor Steere**
4. Finance (to include Budget Board)- **Councilor Arnold**
5. Historic District Commission - **Councilor Forgue**
6. Honorary Town Historian - **Councilor Steere**
7. Housing Authority - **Councilor Reichert**
8. Human Resources - **Councilor Forgue**
9. Human Services Dept. - **Councilor Forgue**
10. Land Trust Trustees - **Councilor Worthy**
11. Parade Committee - **Councilor Reichert**
12. Planning Office & Planning Board - **Councilor Forgue**
13. Public Safety: to include Police, Safety Commission, Animal Control, Emergency Management & Harmony Hill School - **Councilor Steere**
14. Public Works- **Councilor Forgue**
15. Recreation Director & Recreation Commission - **Councilor Worthy**
16. School Department - **Councilor Arnold**
17. Senior Center - **Councilor Forgue**
18. Town Clerk - **Councilor Reichert**
19. Economic Development Commission- **Councilor Worthy**

seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated that all have done a great job and he hopes to call on Councilor Steere for information if he needs it. Councilor Steere stated Land Trust is made up of all good people. Councilor Forgue stated good luck with these new positions. Councilor Steere stated that every board and commission works hard and Councilor Forgue agreed.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- H. Board & Commission Appointments - Terms concurrent with Town Council, to expire 1/2023 - Discussion and/or Action
 1. Board of Contracts & Purchases
Two (2) regular members
(Board also consists one 1 Ad-hoc member - no action)

Councilor Forgue stated this Board is made up of the Town Clerk, the Finance Director and the ad-hoc member who shall be a department head not pursuing the procurement.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPOINT Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk and Adam Muccino, Finance Director, to the Board of Contracts & Purchases for a term to expire 1/2023; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Recreation Commission
Five (5) regular members

Councilor Forgue stated this appointment is for the expired terms for the current five members. Councilor Forgue stated two of the members do not wish to be reappointed, Steve Arnold (due to his Council seat) and Christy Long. Councilor Forgue stated Council can appoint two new candidates or table those appointments to the next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE Position #1 and Position #5 to the Recreation Commission for two year terms; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to REAPPOINT Jamie LaRose to Position #2, Thomas Lemos to Position #3 and Crystal Charbonneau to Position #4; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Safety Commission
Seven (7) regular members
Three (3) At Large Members

Councilor Forgue stated the membership of this committee is outlined in the charge of committee:

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Joseph DelPrete, Police Chief; Gerry Mosca, Emergency Management Director; Gary Trembl, Public Works Director; Chief Richard Waterman, Harmony Fire Chief; Chief Dennis Huestis, Chepachet Fire Chief; Chief Christopher Labutti, West Gloucester Fire Chief; Lisa Santamaria, School Bus Coordinator & Members at Large: Earl Newman, & Darlene Shields for terms to expire 1/2023; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Scituate Watershed
Two (2) regular members

Councilor Forgue stated this Board was created to include the Town Planner & a representative from the Conservation Commission as members.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to REAPPOINT Karen Scott and Roy Najecki to the Scituate Watershed Commission for a term to expire 1/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Affordable Housing Advisory Board
Five (5) regular members

Councilor Forgue stated this Board was created pursuant to the Town's Affordable Housing Plan but the Board hasn't met in some time. Councilor Forgue asked the Planner to advise as to membership.

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that since she has been with the town, this commission has not convened although there was talk of re convening. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that she would like to come back to the Council with a clear picture as to the commission before she recruits members.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointments to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board to January 21, 2021; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Economic Development Board
Seven (7) regular members
Two (2) ad-hoc non voting members

Councilor Forgue stated one member does not wish to be reappointed and the Chair has made recommendations for the appointments.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Christopher Harkness to Position #1; Laurie Gaddis-Barrett to Position #2; Melissa Czerwein to Position #3; Douglas Lovett to Position #4; Kevin Lavoie to Position #5; Diane Seaver to Position #6; Ashley Sarje to Position #7; William Morin to Ad Hoc Position #1; and Daniel Lawton to Ad Hoc Position #2 on the Economic Development Commission for two year terms to expire 1/2023; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. Correspondence from Land Trust Members - Refer to Human Resources - Discussion and/or Action

Atty. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that he has received several letters and would like to refer them to Human Resources Director for a review and then report back to Council. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, questioned if Director was a correct term to use as the town has a part time human resources consultant only. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, agreed that the correct term is part time consultant for Human Resources.

Councilor W. Steere asked Atty. Igliazzi if he understood the scope here. Atty. Igliazzi stated a review and report should be the first step.

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue for a review of Land Trust correspondence, to interview anyone if necessary and report back to Council; seconded by ?.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked for clarification as to the town council president making or seconding motions. Councilor Forgue rescinded his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to call on the HR Consultant for a review of Land Trust correspondence, to interview anyone, if necessary, and report back to Council; seconded by Councilor Worthy.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert - technical difficulties
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor Forgue read the instructions to the Council into the record. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the directions were to help the council as to their choices when receiving correspondence. The Clerk stated Council can read, reference receipt of correspondence by the subject or refer the correspondence to the appropriate person/department as they can take no action. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the correspondence received is for discussion only and cannot be acted upon except to refer it to a department head, etc., for review.

1. Councilor Forgue read correspondence from the RI Auditor General:

December 21, 2020

Mr. Adam R. Muccino, Director
Finance Department, Town of Gloucester

Dear Mr. Muccino:

In accordance with your request, I am granting an extension to January 29, 2021 for submission of the Town of Gloucester audited financial report and management letter, if applicable, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020.

Please refer to our email on November 6, 2020 to all finance directors and school business managers for guidance on the timing and coordination of the final fiscal year UCOA files and the UCOA Agreed-Upon Procedures. Auditors should have performed the test work necessary to complete the UCOA Agreed-Upon Procedures before issuing the audit report. Communication of the results of the UCOA Agreed-Upon Procedures engagement can follow, but not later than 30 days after completion of the financial statement audit.

Dennis E. Hoyle, CPA
Auditor General
(end of memo)

2. Councilor Arnold read a letter into the record from the the RI Department of Administration:

December 28, 2020

Town Council President
Subject: State Review of Comprehensive Plan Amendment

Dear Mr. Steere:

This correspondence presents the results of my review of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Amendment #20-0 1. The Comprehensive Planning and Land Use Regulation Act (the Act) requires that I review municipal comprehensive plans to ensure that comprehensive plans and subsequent amendments comply with the requirements listed in §45-22.2-9(d). Therefore, pursuant to these requirements, I hereby find:

- 1) the intent and goals of the Act, as stated in § 45-22.2-3(b)(1) and (c)(1) through (10), have been met;
- 2) the Plan as amended is internally consistent and complete as required by § 45-22.2-6;
- 3) the Amendment is consistent with, and embodies, the goals and policies of the State and its departments and agencies as contained in the State Guide Plan and the laws of the State;
- 4) municipal planning activities have been coordinated according to the provisions of § 45-22.2-7;
- 5) the Amendment has been officially adopted and submitted for review in accordance with § 45-22.2-8 and other applicable procedures;
- 6) the Amendment complies with the rules and regulations adopted by the State Planning Council; and, that

- 7) adequate, uniform, and valid data have been used in preparing the plan or amendment.

Decision

Based on these findings, I certify that the Town of Gloucester's Comprehensive Plan Amendment #20-01 is consistent with the goals, findings, and intent as established by the Act.

(Councilor Arnold stopped reading)

3. Councilor Forgue stated he had a Land Trust letter but will not read into the record, as these letters have been referred to Atty. Iglizzi.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. Chief Delprete, Police, stated that K. Bertholic has been an excellent employee and ambassador to the town who he wants to recognize her at some point in the future. Chief Delprete thanked the Council for recognizing K. Bertholic tonight.
Chief Delprete also stated that the new recruit will be going to the Academy next week and that recruit will be vaccinated prior to academy.
The Chief stated there will be many new initiatives coming statewide in 2021 and asked for Council's continued support.

Councilor Steere asked if Chief Delprete or G. Mosca, EMA Director have received any communications from Dr. Barnes, Superintendent of Foster-Glocester Regional Schools, in regards to a special regional financial meeting scheduled for January 19, 2021. Both Chief Delprete and G. Mosca, EMA Director stated they have not received any communication. Councilor Steere stated that apparently a meeting is scheduled and asked the town clerk if she has heard anything. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Dr. Barnes contacted her two days ago stating that the school committee voted to hold a special referendum on January 19, 2021. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Dr. Barnes wanted her to have her office and the Board of Canvassers make the arrangements for the referendum meeting. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, informed Dr. Barnes that her department and the Board of Canvassers could not do so primarily because the canvass needs to be current which means voters need notice of thirty days to register and there is not enough time. J. Fecteau stated for that reason her department and the Board of Canvassers would not attend the meeting; and, further that she does not know what voter list Dr. Barnes will be using. Councilor Steere asked if D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, could become involved. Councilor Steere questioned if a vote would be valid if there was not a certified current list of voters. Attorney Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated he will look into this.

2. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that Budget Board meetings have begun and the board would like the Council to begin thinking about anything they might want to provide to the board in the way of parameters, guidelines, etc.
A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that he received the appraisal from Newport Appraisal Group. A. Muccino stated the quoted price to do the appraisal was \$2200.00 but their actual price was \$1200.00. Chief Delprete suggested the Town Council could now reach out to the mobile home park owners. Councilor Forgue asked D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, if a "commission" should be created to work on this project to which Attorney Iglizzi responded that the Council should schedule an executive session to discuss.

Councilor Forgue requested this executive session be added to the next meeting's agenda.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

1. J. Giarusso, Land Trust member, stated that a lot of work has been done at Hawkins Dam and the project is moving along. J. Giarusso stated that Steve St. Pierre, Land Trust member, has done a lot of work clearing trees at Steere Hill. J. Giarusso stated he hopes to make the Hawkins Dam property better by next year. Councilor Steere stated that he uses the trails at Hawkins Dam and commented on how beautiful the trails are due to all the work that has been done for people to enjoy the property.

XI. Open Forum

Ashley Sarji, Economic Development member, thanked the council for her re-appointment tonight and she thanked the Council and K. Scott, Town Planner for the town's work on the Revitalization Plan.

Councilor Forgue stated that the Council will now seek to convene to Executive Session. Councilor Forgue stated everyone will be placed in the waiting room and following the closed session anyone still waiting will be allowed back in.

XII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to 42-46-5(A)(2) (Closed Session) - **Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action**

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

1. RE: Case No. EE-3753 Town of Glocester -and- National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) **REPRESENTATION CASE** – Petition by or on behalf of employees seeking certification of any Employee Organization - Discussion and/or Action
2. EE 3753 PETITION CORRESPONDENCE from RI State Labor Relations Board - Discussion and/or Action
3. Pending litigation - Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action on **Gary Rogala** - Workers Compensation Court Case Number #202007147 (Workers Compensation Claim)
4. Potential litigation – Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action on Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Claim # 116997 – WC-01 (Workers Compensation Claim)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to 42-46-5(A)(2) (Closed Session) - Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action, A. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to Collective Bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

After Executive Session:

Councilor Forgue asked the Clerk to let those in waiting room back in.

XIII. Reconvene Open Session- Disclosure of votes taken or # of votes taken in Executive Session - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to RECONVENE Open Session, Disclose **zero** votes taken in Closed Session and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor President J. Forgue request the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 10:05 P.M.; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor President J. Forgue request the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY