

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Glocester on May 20, 2021:

Councilor Forgue stated that pursuant to current R.I. Executive Orders this meeting is being teleconferenced via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:34 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; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Ken Johnson, Bldg/Zoning Official; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Gary Trembl, Director of Public Works, Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Councilor Forge made a brief statement requesting that in order to keep the hearing orderly for the public raise your hands when you would like to speak.

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

Councilor Arnold 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 and the public hearing would be able to do so at such time as it is open to the public.

V. Public Hearings

A. **Public Hearing CONTINUED from May 6, 2021**

Comprehensive Plan Amendment - Discussion and/or Action

Proposed amendment: Amend Land Use Element to allow increased density in a Planned District of up to three (3) units per one (1) acre and to the Future Land Use Map designating Plat 10, Lot 116 as a Planned District.

Applicant: Overlook Ridge, LLC
23 Business Park, Smithfield, RI 02917

Owner: Bella Sand, LLC
23 Business Park, Smithfield, RI 02917

Councilor Forge stated that the Public Hearing was opened on May 6, 2021 and was continued to this meeting for the proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

Councilor Forgue stated that for discussion, anyone wishing to speak to raise your hand and you will be acknowledged, and when you speak state your name and address for the record.

Attorney Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, asked if it was the Council's intention to proceed right into the public hearing and not allow open forum for any other agenda items at this time. Councilor Forgue stated that was the intention.

Councilor Forgue stated that the Council would take the public's questions first and then Attorney Mancini's.

K. Sorensen, resident, asked whether the Town Planner drafted the proposed ordinance or if it was drafted by the applicant. K. Sorensen asked for clarification because the ad stated the proposal was happening at Bella Vista and yet the last line in the ad stated the proposal could be applied to the any other locations in the entire town. K. Sorensen stated that Map 3 encompasses the entire town of Glocester so if the Council passes this ordinance then the Council could apply it anywhere in town and not just restrict it to Bella Vista.

S. Angell, Attorney for the Town Planner, stated that there are two items before the Council: one, a request for a zone change, which includes Planning Board advisory opinions, a written Comprehensive Plan amendment and a proposed map amendment. Attorney Angell stated the last speaker was correct, if passed as written the text amendment would effect the whole town. Attorney Angell stated that the Comprehensive Plan Council can approve or disapprove either, as well as, include stipulations as to density for this planned district.

K. Sorensen stated that the ad seemed misleading because it appears to apply to Bella Vista and would not effect anyplace else in town when it could apply to other places in town. K. Sorensen stated that she doesn't agree that this should be passed with this language in it. K. Sorensen suggested the amendment should be worded to include only a certain area and not "map 3" which would be for the whole town. Councilor Steere suggested that it would be good to have the Town Planner walk us through this with Attorney Angell's aid as the Council heard the applicant's side at the last meeting so it would be good to hear the town's side.

K. Scott, Town Planner, gave a brief history and overview of the process as well as an explanation of what is before the Council tonight. K. Scott stated that the Town Council approved the development of the planned district in 2014 which included 2 parcels. K. Scott stated that parcel one containing 38 acres was to be residential and parcel two which contained 11 acres was to be for commercial uses. K. Scott stated that the applicant reached out to discuss the possibility to change the commercial parcel to residential. K. Scott outlined the steps for the applicant: the Planning Board requested and received a legal opinion as to process and the opinion given stated the process as outlined by the Town Planner was fine. K. Scott stated that the pre application review and the master plan review were submitted to the Planning Board for review. K. Scott stated that the Planning Board gave a conditional denial of the master plan so the applicant submitted an application to amend the comprehensive plan as well as a zone map amendment. K. Scott stated that the Planning Board stated in the pre application review that they wanted this development to be similar to Bella Vista which included density of 1.4 to 1.8 units per acre. K. Scott stated that at the March 2021 Planning Board public hearing the applicant submitted a plan for 36 units with a density of 3.1 units per acre. K. Scott stated that the application was tabled at the request of the applicant and all deadlines were tolled. K. Scott stated that the Chair of the Planning Board asked the applicant to

clarify what they were requesting and to work with the Planner and the Planner's attorney to make sure all procedures were followed. K. Scott stated that the applicant submitted a text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and later submitted a new text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan and a future land use map amendment.

K. Scott stated the new proposed plan lowered the number of units from 36 to 34; lowered the affordable housing units from 4 to 3; and, gave an overall density of 2.95 units per acre. K. Scott stated that the Planning Board denied the Comprehensive Plan amendment at their April 2021 meeting as it was too broad in that it set policy for the entire town and not just this one parcel. K. Scott stated that the master plan application was conditionally denied as the Planning Board found it was not consistent with the Comprehensive Plan specifically, the future land use map. K. Scott stated that the Map 3, that has been discussed, is the future land use map for the entire town. K. Scott stated that the current land use map designates this parcel as agricultural/residential with a density not to exceed 1 unit per 3 acres. K. Scott stated that the proposed density is 2.95 units per acre. K. Scott stated the Planning Board gave a negative advisory opinion on the re-zoning application from Planned District Commercial to Planned District residential as the density was too high.

K. Scott stated that the two items before the Council tonight are an amendment to the Comprehensive Plan which involves a text amendment and an amendment to the zoning map. K. Scott stated that the proposed text amendment is general as it would apply to any planned district in town and the proposed map amendment is specific as it would apply to only the 11.5 acre parcel in question. K. Scott stated that the Planning Board's denial was based on their finding that the proposed text amendment was too broad in scope and that the proposed map amendment was too dense. Attorney Angell stated that he is consistent with K. Scott's overview and explanation.

Councilor Arnold stated that he would like to focus on this parcel on hand rather than the entire town. Councilors Reichert and Forgue agreed. Councilor Arnold stated that he likes the idea of this parcel being residential but he would like to see more low income housing units to get closer to the 10% required by the State. Councilor Forgue stated that he agrees with limiting a decision to this particular parcel and asked Attorney Angell for options. Attorney Angell stated the several options available to the Council and stated that the Council could deal with each proposal separately.

Councilor Steere stated that Attorney Mancini spoke at the last meeting so he would like to hear from the public first.

B. Couch, resident, stated that he has reviewed the Comprehensive Plan, the application and visited the site. B. Couch stated he opposes the plan as proposed because the density is too high and the proposal should not apply town wide. B. Couch expressed that hopefully the Council agrees with the Planning Board.

Attorney Mancini, attorney for the applicant, stated that he does not disagree with the process that has been followed. Attorney Mancini stated that the applicant first petitioned for a zone change from Planned District commercial in a B-2 zone to Planned District residential in a B-2 zone. Attorney Mancini stated this project is separate from the Bella Vista project. Attorney Mancini stated that the applicant put forth the amendment to the Comprehensive Plan as the Planning Board had an issue with the density being too high. Attorney Mancini stated that the applicant is proposing a change to the Comprehensive Plan by a text amendment and by a map amendment. Attorney Mancini stated that the proposed text amendment is to change the density in a planned district and the proposed map

amendment is to identify the spot. Attorney Mancini stated that it was his opinion that the proposed text amendment and the proposed map amendment go hand in hand and can't be separated. Attorney Mancini stated that the text amendment creates the density and that the future land use map identifies the location of this text amendment as being Overlook Ridge property. Attorney Mancini stated that he has filed an appeal from the Planning Board on behalf of the applicant because a conditional denial is not within the Planning Board's authority.

Attorney Angell stated that what is before the Council is a new proposed planned district and not just a change to a planned district. Councilor Forgue asked how this all came about. Attorney Angell gave a summary in that there are two parcels which were approved as planned district residential and planned district commercial. Attorney Angell stated that the developer is choosing not to pursue the planned district commercial so is instead proposing a new planned district residential. Attorney Angell stated that a conditional denial is unique but not prohibited under RIGL 45-23-60.

K. Scott clarified that a text amendment was never requested as Attorney Mancini stated and that all correspondence was to the future land use map. K. Scott stated that the density as to this parcel could be added to the legend on the future land use map so a text amendment has never been requested by the town.

J. Powers, resident, 80 Bella Vista, asked why the applicant hasn't considered the same density as that in Bella Vista. Councilor Forgue asked K. Scott if the parking lot was included in calculating density. K. Scott stated that only living units are used in calculating the density. Councilor Steere asked why the applicant wants greater density in Overlook and less affordable housing. Attorney Mancini stated that this density is what makes the project work. Attorney Mancini asked K. Scott how the density would be known without a text amendment. K. Scott stated that the land use map already includes density in the legend so if the proposed parcel is re zoned then it would be identified on the map and the density included in the legend as it is with all others. Attorney Mancini disagrees with this process and stated that the process set forth by this proposed application is the proper one to use. K. Scott stated that it is common practice statewide to amend a map in the manner she stated and add language in the legend. K. Scott stated that this parcel is not zoned B-2 but is zoned Planned Unit district with allowed commercial uses as articulated by the Town Council in its original decision when the parcel was first approved as a planned district. Attorney Mancini stated that the Planning Board labeled this parcel as B-2 in the original approval as contained in Book 685 at page 254. K. Scott clarified that Attorney Mancini was reading from the preliminary decision of the Planning Board for Bella Vista. K. Scott stated that the Town Council is the only authorized entity that can approve a zone change and the Council approved of the zone change to a Planned District and not B-2 commercial. K. Scott stated that the Planning Board can't change zoning, only the Town Council can change zoning.

Councilor Arnold requested clarification from Attorney Angell as to the options available to the Council. Attorney Angell stated that the Town Planner is correct that a map amendment identifying Overlook and a notation in the legend as to the specific density of Overlook is consistent with Gloucester's Comprehensive Plan as well as being consistent with what is done in other communities. Attorney Angell stated that all correspondence going back in time supports that the Town Planner requested a map amendment. Attorney Angell concurs with the Town Planner that a text amendment is not needed. Attorney Mancini requested that if Council approves a map amendment he would like it to be very clear that the parcel is identified and the density specified. Attorney Angell agrees that if the Council approves the map amendment then they should clearly identify the parcel and the

specific density for that parcel. Attorney Angell deferred to K. Scott, Town Planner, for the specific language to be included in the legend if the Council approves the map amendment.

Councilor Reichert asked K. Johnson, Building and Zoning Official, about the size of the house that could be built on a one quarter acre or a one half acre house lot that was recently approved for comparison . K. Johnson stated that a one half acre house could have a footprint of 2200 square feet which is 10%.

J. Powers, resident at 80 Bella Vista, asked Attorney Mancini why the density at Bella Vista would not work at the proposed Overlook project. Attorney Mancini stated that the properties are different and the cost for building has increased significantly.

N. Piampiano, Advanced Civil Design, engineer for both Bella Vista and the proposed Overlook development stated that the two lots have different characteristics as to geography, water tables, leaching ability, shape and that the proposed lot can handle the septic systems as well as meet all setbacks.

K. Sorensen, resident, asked if it was more of a financial reason to not go forward if the density is not approved.. Attorney Mancini stated that it is a financial issue and the density makes the project viable.

G. (Buster) Steere, resident, stated that he understands this proposal is strictly for financial gain and that he disagrees with the text amendment proposal as it would open the door for similar town wide applications. G. Steere stated he questions the strain on the water supply as the source is by wells; and that he feels the strain on the wells due to the concentrated number of units would be negative. G. Steere stated that zoning is the way it is in Gloucester to keep our town rural. G. Steere stated this with due respect to the applicant, Mr. DiGregorio, as he does run a reputable business. G. Steere stated that he does not making a text amendment to make our town look like other towns.

J. Mancini stated the property will be developed and he does not feel the message is that Gloucester is up for sale.

Councilor Forgue asked Attorney Angell if it is time to close the public hearing. Attorney Angell stated that if there are no other public comments and all Councilors have spoken then the public hearing could be closed. Councilor Steere asked if he had additional questions if he could ask later. Attorney Angell stated that his questions could be asked after a motion was made.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked if Councilor Worthy's recusal of May 6th still stands. Councilor Worthy stated that his recusal of May 6, 2021 still stands and explained that Attorney Mancini

represents Councilor Worthy in his businesses. Councilor Worthy stated he would be recusing himself from all votes on this matter.

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

MOTION PASSED

Attorney Angell stated that Council is in the position to make motions on the Comprehensive Plan amendments.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to deny any changes to the text amendment and strike that language that would apply to any other parcel of land in the Town of Gloucester; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to approve the Comprehensive Plan map amendment for the parcel in question tonight at Overlook Ridge; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated that the Planning Board, the Town Planner and the legal team have worked hard and put a lot of time and effort into this project and he is taking all of that into consideration. Councilor Steere stated that Bella Vista is a good project but he is concerned about the density ; about meeting the affordable housing requirement; as well as the fact that the town would be losing valuable commercial space. Councilor Steere stated that one of the appealing aspects of the Bella Vista development was that it included both commercial and residential parts. Councilor Steere stated he understands the reason for the request to change from commercial to residential. Councilor Steere stated there was a reference made to the town being disingenuous but he does not feel that is the case and finds that it doesn't seem right that the applicant has already filed an appeal of the Planning Board decision before getting a decision from the Council tonight. Councilor Steere stated that the density for the proposed Overlook Ridge is too high and all of these

facts play into his decision.

Attorney Angell stated that the Council has a motion before them but he suggested that it needs to include the Assessor Plat and lot as well as the density and directed the Council President to obtain that information from the Town Planner. Attorney Angell recommended that the text amendment motion also needs to include the information of the assessors plat, lot and density.

Councilor Arnold RESCINDED his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to RECONSIDER the vote on the Comprehensive Plan text amendment; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion:

Councilor Arnold inquired as to the meaning of a map amendment. Attorney Angell stated that the map amendment is to insure consistency with the Comprehensive Plan for this parcel and planned development. Councilor Arnold asked if the low income housing is part of this amendment. Attorney Angell stated that it would need to be a part of this amendment. Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that he feels the number of affordable housing units should be increased to meet or exceed the required 10% minimum. Attorney Angell stated the applicant offered to increase the number of affordable units previously at the Planning Board. K. Scott stated that no specific number was stated from applicant as to the number they would be willing to increase. Attorney Mancini stated the Planner was correct; that no specific number was given; that the applicant could increase anywhere from 10% to 100% of affordable units on this property. Attorney Mancini stated the applicant would stipulate to increase the number of affordable housing units from 3 to 4. Councilor Arnold asked if the applicant would consider 5 affordable housing units. Attorney Mancini stated that the applicant would do what the Council decides. Councilor Steere stated again his opinion that the density is too high for this project. Attorney Mancini stated that his client was agreeable to increase the number of affordable units to 4 but not 5. Attorney Angell recommended that the Planner provide language to aid in the motion. Councilor W. Steere stated, again, that he is not in favor of the proposed density.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to change the Future Land Use Map, of the Comprehensive Plan, to a Planned District, Overlook Ridge, specifically known as Assessor Plat 10, Lot 116, to a density of no greater than three units per acre; seconded by Councilor Reichert.

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated that the density is too high and he feels the density should be similar to Bella Vista or even just 2 units per acre.

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION by Councilor Arnold to DENY a text amendment to address any other property in Gloucester with the exception of the Overlook Ridge property, Assessor Plat 10 Lot 116; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked Attorney Angell if the language of the motion was applicable just to Overlook Ridge or would apply to the entire town. Attorney Angell stated that the motion would apply only to Overlook Ridge. Councilor Steere asked if the wording was appropriate for what the Council was trying to do. Attorney Angell stated it was. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked if the motion is required to be a positive one. Attorney Angell agreed. Attorney Mancini explained the goal was to make a motion that would approve a text amendment specific to Overlook and deny a text amendment to any other properties in town.

Councilor Arnold RESCINDED his motion

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to approve a text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan, specifically for Overlook Ridge, LLC, AP 10 Lot 116 and said amendment shall not impact any other properties in town except Overlook Ridge, LLC, Planned District; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Recusal
Councilor Steere - Nay

Councilor Reichert -Aye
Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED

B. Public Hearing CONTINUED from May 6, 2021

Code of Ordinance, Chapter 350 Zoning Map Amendment- Discussion and/or Action Proposal to amend an existing Planned Unit District - Commercial uses

To: A New Planned District - Residential uses.

Applicant: Overlook Ridge, LLC
23 Business Park, Smithfield, RI 02917

Owner: Bella Sand, LLC
23 Business Park, Smithfield, RI 02917

Location of Proposal: Victory Highway/Bronco Highway (Route 102) AP 10, Lot 116

Councilor Forgue stated that this Public Hearing was opened on May 6th and continued to this evening.

Discussion:

Councilor Forgue asked that anyone wishing to speak must raise your hand and you will be acknowledged. Councilor Forgue stated to also please state your name and address. Councilor Arnold asked for clarification as to the procedure. Attorney Angell stated that this is a request to change a planned district commercial Bella Vista to an entirely new planned district residential, Councilor Forgue asked Attorney Angell if the public hearing could be closed. Attorney Angell stated that a motion to close needed to be made.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to approve the change of use from commercial to residential on Ap 10 lot 116; seconded by : none

Discussion: Attorney Angell stated that the motion needed to include the words planned district and to also that this was the time to include language about the affordable housing units if the Council wanted.

Councilor Arnold RESCINDED his motion

Councilor Arnold stated that there are more advantages than disadvantages to this project but in his opinion 4 affordable housing units is not enough as he would like a minimum of 5 units. Attorney Angell stated that he could make the number part of his motion.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to change Planned District Commercial zoning to Planned District Residential zoning, for AP 10 lot 116, to include no less than 5 affordable housing units; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the Council:

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. Entertainment - Special Event Application - Discussion and/or Action
Request for weekly car shows from May to November, 2021
Applicant: Laurel Grange #40 & Harmony Corner Store (parking lot)
Location: 347 & 365 Snake Hill Road

Councilor Forgue stated this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on May 6, 2021 and abutters were notified.

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN

Councilor Forgue stated that the Applicant has included this narrative with his application which Councilor Worthy read as follows:

To Whom it May Concern;

The Laurel Grange is attempting to hold a classic car show once per week through the summer starting May 24, 2021 and ending November 25 2021. The proposed event will be held every Monday from 5 pm-9pm and the first Sunday of each month from 12 noon- 5 pm. When an event is held on Sunday there is no event on the following Monday as displayed on the calendar attached

to this letter. There is only one event per week.

The Laurel Grange building will be open for rest room use and to use the food concession window in the main hall in the grange building. pizza, sandwiches, snacks, drinks, etc. will be available for purchase.

Laurel Grange parking lot is more than able to handle the parking but if for some reason we need more room the Harmony Corner store is available as an alternate parking area. No street parking will be permitted. The Laurel Grange has held hundreds of events over the years from weddings and birthday parties to bingo and auctions and we have never had a problem with over parking or visibility issues. fire and rescue access will be observed. In all the years that the Laurel Grange has been in operation we have never had a problem with our public safety personnel gaining access to the building or grounds of our venue.

There will not be a police detail at the event. This is a family friendly event as are all events held at the grange. We have held many events at this venue and have never had a police presence. This event will be well supervised and managed properly.

A raffle will be held once we have received our permit from the Rhode Island State Police. The DJ will only play family friendly music and make announcements such as results of the raffle, etc.

I have tried to answer all the questions put to me from the Town Clerks office. I hope this will give you a better perspective as to what we are trying to do. If you have any more questions or need more information please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation
John Luszc
(end of memo)

Councilor Forgue stated the applicant has also included the following memo to Council regarding the fee for the application filed which he read as follows:

Distinguished Members of the Gloucester Town Council

I am writing to you in response to my application to hold a weekly car show located at the Laurel Grange, 347 Snake Hill Road. We are holding this event to raise funds as the covid crisis has drained our resources. I have started to use my personal funds to keep the facility operating.

I respectfully request that the Town Council will consider waiving the initial \$50.00 fee tendered with my application. this gesture would go far to ensure the continued operation of the laurel grange.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation

John S. Luszc
Grange Master
(END OF MEMO)

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has also received a letter from neighboring property owners which he read as follows:

DATE: May 14,2021
TO: Gloucester Town Council
RE: Public Hearing, Special Event License, Laurel Grange #40
Request for Weekly Classic Car Show with DJ

On the surface, the idea of the Laurel Grange hosting a 11 Weekly Classic Car Show with “DJ” seems like an event that will renew community friendships after a long year of social restrictions due to the COVID 19 Pandemic. However, after reviewing the License Application submitted by John Luszc and the Gloucester Code of Ordinance Chapter 175, Entertainment-Special Events, we the undersigned have concerns about issuing a “Special Event License” to the Laurel Grange as the current application reads.

According to Article 175-2 of the Code of Ordinance, the definition of Special Events reads “Special events shall include any outdoor parade, concert, carnival, festival, fair, or other event as may be designated by the Town Council”. It is inferred that a “special event” is a ONE TIME event that takes place on a specific date(s), as in the cases of the Gloucester Fourth of July Parade and the Scituate Art Festival, which takes place over the Columbus Day weekend. The “Weekly Classic Car Show with DJ” is scheduled for twenty-seven (27) shows from May 31 through November 29 (refer to application calendar.) These shows do NOT appear to fall under the “Special Events” definition.

Locally, the popular “A and W” and Frederickson Farms Classic Car Shows are held at commercial venues, providing ample parking for car owners and visitors and causing little disruption to the daily lives of neighboring residents. We anticipate that the Laurel Grange Classic Car Shows will be popular with the public too. However, the daily routines of the neighboring residents will be disrupted because the Laurel Grange and Corner Store, situated at the intersection of Snake Hill and Saw Mill Roads, are the “Center” of our close knit neighborhood. We applaud the effort that John Luszc has made as Grange Master of the Laurel Grange and owner of the Corner Store promoting civic organizations and small businesses to the Harmony community. Our concern is that the location and frequency of the “Weekly Classic Car Show with DJ” is NOT appropriate for the safety and well being of our neighborhood. Because of the anticipated increase in traffic at an already congested and dangerous intersection, limited parking for car owners and visitors in the Laurel Grange parking lot, and a potential parking problem of visitors parking on residents lawns along Saw Mill and Snake Hill Roads, Gloucester Police supervision is needed. These roads must be kept open for use as fire lanes.

We cherish our “country life” and believe that the calendar for the “Weekly Classic Car Show with DJ” needs to be scaled down. Our recommendation to the Town Council is that the Laurel Grange be granted a license to hold a “Classic Car Show with DJ” with the following changes:

- * “The Classic Car Show with DJ11 is held on one (1) Monday during each of the summer months of June, July and August from 5pm to dusk.
- * The months of September, October, and November are dropped from the calendar since (1) dusk arrives earlier in the fall and (2) the activity and noise from the Grange could be distracting to parents and children preparing for school the next day. Referring to the website time and date. com, the 2021 sunsets for the months of Sept., Oct., and Nov., range between 7:18pm on Sept. 1 and 4:15pm on Nov. 30, 2021.
- * Sunday shows are dropped from the calendar since We, the neighboring residents, value our “family time” on the weekend.
- * A Gloucester Police Officer be assigned detail duty for each event.

In addition-

- * We have no problem with the Comer Store providing the Laurel Grange with food, snacks, and drinks to sell as long as the appropriate licenses/permits are in order.
- * Advertisement should include that the Classic Car Shows are smoke and alcohol free events and that current CDC Guidelines on Covid 19 Mask Wearing will be observed and enforced at the Laurel Grange and the Comer Store (inside and outside the buildings).

We welcome the Classic Car Shows with DJ as “Special Summer Events” to be held by the Laurel Grange provided Article 175-1 of the Ordinance Code-Purpose and Intent is respected. It states “This article is also intended to protect and promote peaceful enjoyment of property by neighboring residents.”

Respectfully,
 Stephen and Joan Hackett 212 Saw Mill Rd.
 Viviane Valentine 225 Saw Mill Rd.
 Anne Magliarditi 211 Saw Mill Rd.
 Janice Magliarditi 211 Saw Mill Rd.
 Irene Gravel 231 Saw Mill Rd.
 (END OF CORRESPONDENCE)

Councilor Forgue stated that he received the following memo from the Clerk which he read as follows:

The Fire Chief and the EMA Director have asked questions as follows:

1. Vehicle parking on both sides of the street is going to be a safety issue not only with visibility with people walking back and forth. Are they going to have a police detail?
2. I will need a site plan of vehicle parking, tent locations, and any vendors in case we need to get a rescue and/or fire apparatus into the event.

3. Nothing here states if the building will be used and for what purpose.
4. The form asks for all dates not a generic list.
5. If there is an overflow what is their contingency plan for parking and who will be running the event.
6. Who will be the state licensed "Crowd Manager" at all of these events.

Can he advise if the building will be used and if so what for? Restrooms, food, etc? What type of food sales, Grange only, food trucks, other vendors? Could we get more specifics on the DJ- are they just playing music for the people as they look at the cars or is there a listening area where people will congregate?

(End of memo)

Discussion:

Councilors Worthy stated that some of the questions were answered in the correspondence from applicant as to items of restroom, using the window for food service, parking, and music.

Councilor S. Arnold read again from the letter provided by Applicant to answer questions. "The Laurel Grange parking lot is more than able to handle the parking but if for some reason we need more room the Harmony Corner store is available as an alternate parking area. No street parking will be permitted. The Laurel Grange has held hundreds of events over the years from weddings and birthday parties to bingo and auctions and we have never had a problem with over parking or visibility issues. Fire and rescue access will be observed. In all the years that the Laurel Grange has been in operation we have never had a problem with our public safety personnel gaining access to the building or grounds of our venue."

Councilor Forgue stated that he lives around the corner, goes to the store daily and is friends with the applicant. Councilor Forgue questioned if he needed to recuse himself because of his relationship. Councilor Forgue commended the Applicant on the work he has done for the Laurel Grange. Councilor Forgue made reference to the funds required to maintain the grange. Councilor Forgue made a suggestion that in October and November the Applicant revisit the end time. Councilor Forgue also stated as a brand new event perhaps applicant would be open to a trial period of maybe 2 shows per month for 3 months. Councilor Forgue discussed the financial hardship of a police detail if the show is not well attended at first.

J. Luszczyk, Applicant, stated that this was a very urgent financial situation for the Grange and that he has put his heart and soul into the building as well as his own money. Mr. Luszczyk stated that there have been numerous events held at the Grange without any problems and he wants to be a good neighbor. J. Luszczyk discussed other events held at the grange and contributions they have made in the past. J. Luszczyk stated there is a tree buffer around the grange. J. Luszczyk stated the music would be family music. Mr. Luszczyk stated their foot print is twice the size of the A & W footprint with additional parking at Corner Store.

Councilor Forgue asked if the applicant would be willing to do a trial run of 2 per week for a couple

of months. The applicant stated that it won't be cost effective unless he can do the shows weekly but he would be willing to do 1 per week for 1 month.

Councilor Reichert stated that building was the town food pantry years ago and we were kicked out of the building by Grange owner. Councilor W. Reichert stated the area is congested in terms of people and there is no way to control the number of cars that may come. Councilor Reichert stated he would be willing to try for a few shows.

J. Hackett, resident of Saw Mill Road, stated many of the concerns were contained in the correspondence to the Council dated May 14, 2021. J. Hackett stated that she applauds the applicant for trying to save the Grange and stated that 27 shows was a shock when they first saw the proposed number. J. Hackett stated they would suggest to Council that a trial run be given to applicant for 5 weeks in a row.

I. Gravel, resident Saw Mill Road, stated that she has nothing against the applicant but stated the same concerns as in the correspondence dated May 14, 2021 regarding the number requested, the noise and the control. I. Gravel stated that a trial run of once a week for a month might be good.

Chief Delprete stated that he respects what the applicant is doing and he will have patrols check on the Monday night events and report back to the Council.

J. DiRaimo, resident, stated she lives across the street from the location and does not feel the event will be too loud; that she has a history of fund raising and offered assistance to the applicant.

L. Gaddis-Barrett, resident Snake Hill Road, stated her opinion that this is a positive event for the town ; that she, as a parent, does not feel there is any issue; and, suggested more than one month for applicant to have shows.

Attorney Iglizzi stated that there is a town ordinance requiring applicants to file an application with 45 days notice of the event so the Council needs to be aware of this requirement in order for applicant to be able to do so if he chooses for a second round of events. Attorney Iglizzi stated that by ordinance, the Council can provide stipulations which can include suspending the license if there are problems.

I. Gravel stated that a weekly event is not a special event but a continuation of an event and as such the peaceful well being of the neighbors must be considered.

Councilor Steere asked the applicant about the number of parking spots and applicant answered 150. Councilor Steere asked the number of exhibitors that would fit in the area and applicant answered 30-40. Councilor Steere appreciates what the applicant is trying to do and understands what the neighbors are saying. Councilor Steere stated that other commercial places in town have held charitable events and suggested the applicant may want to contact them. Councilor Steere stated that the neighbors are trying to work with the applicant. Councilor Forgue stated that the neighbors

seem open to having the car show in June and July.

J. Hackett, stated that the neighbors are open to a five week trial period, the applicant can decide June to July or July to August. Ms. Hackett suggested having the police agree to monitor the shows. Ms. Hackett stated they are not saying no but just wanted it toned down.

J. Fecteau stated that the Harmony Fire Chief wanted to know who the crowd manager would be as a crowd manager is required by state law . Fecteau suggested the applicant contact the Fire Chief The Clerk stated the applicant has given the clerk a different answer each time he has been asked about food preparation. The Clerk stated she has to ask because the grange is not licensed for food preparation to sale to the general public. The applicant stated the grange will only be open for the use of bathrooms. Councilor Arnold stated that he thinks it will be a great event and the compromise seems good.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to Close the Public Hearing; 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

Discussion: J. Luszc, Applicant, asked if the Council would waive the fee for the license and the Council stated the fee could be waived. Attorney Igliazzi stated that the Council could elect to waive the fee per the ordinance.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ALLOW a five week consecutive trial run of John's choice in the months of June and July to have a classic car show featuring a dj with the stipulations of:

1. No \$50.00 license fee charge
2. No food preparation will take place in the Laurel Grange
3. Town Council has the ability to shut down events should there be problems.

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked about the time frame for the months and actual time. Councilor Worthy stated it would be consecutive weeks starting in June - the last week in June and through

July. Councilor Steere asked Attorney Iglizzi if the applicant would need to come back to the Council and reapply if he wished to continue. Attorney Iglizzi stated that Council may grant the license for 60 to 70 days because the applicant will need to file a new application at the end of this license. Attorney Iglizzi stated, that by ordinance, the applicant needs to file 45 days in advance and, therefore, there needs to be another public hearing. Attorney Iglizzi stated that the Council does not want to be in a position where the applicant can't re file because of a time deadline.

No second

Councilor Worthy RESCINDED his motion

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to allow the Special Events, Classic Car shows with DJ, to be held at 347 & 365 Snake Hill Road from June 7, 2021 to July 6, 2021 with the following stipulations:

1. No food preparation at the Laurel Grange
2. Applicant will speak to the Chief of the Harmony Fire Department about crowd safety
3. The Council will waive the \$50 license fee
4. Time of events will be from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm (Mondays only)
5. Events will be non smoking and non alcoholic events

Seconded by Councilor 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

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of May 6, 2021
Councilor Forgue stated that Clerk is asking for the minutes to be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the approval of the Town Council minutes of May 6, 2021; 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

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Parade Committee
 1. Alternate position # 1
 2. Alternate position # 2
 3. Positions #7,8,and 9

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair is still seeking out volunteers

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointments to the Parade Committee; 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

- b. Tax Assessor's Board of Assessment Review
 1. Position # 3 term to expire 12/31/2024

Councilor Forgue asked the Finance Director if he had any recommendations. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that he is still waiting to hear from some call backs and requests the item be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to Position #3 on the Tax Assessor's Board of Assessment 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-
 - 1. Position # 1 - Term to expire 11/1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair has requested this item be tabled until July.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the Appointment to the Historic District Commission , Position #1 to July 1, 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

- B. Dispatchers Union
 - 1. Temporary Agreement - Allow carry over of vacation, compensatory time, & personal days for current fiscal year - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a request from the Dispatchers Union which was read by Councilor Arnold :

To: Town of Gloucester
From: John D Falco, Local 1322 Union Steward
Date: April 29, 2021
RE: Request for a Temporary amendment between the Town of Gloucester and the Gloucester Police Dispatchers Local 1322

The members of the Gloucester Police Dispatchers Local 1322 would like to propose an extension to the temporary amendment to the following sections of the current contract, (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022) between the Town of Gloucester and Local Union 1322 of the Laborers International Union of North America, AFL - CIO:

ARTICLE VII: Salary Schedule, Payroll and working Hours: Section 4, C : Employees covered by this Agreement may also elect to take overtime worked as compensatory time instead of monetary payment up to a maximum of forty-eight (48) hours at any time.

Compensatory time shall be earned at the rate of time and one-half the hours worked.

Compensatory time must be used or paid out in the fiscal year earned.

Article X, Vacation Leave: Section 4. Employees covered by this Agreement shall be allowed to accumulate vacation leave up to thirty (30) days. Any vacation days earned in excess of the thirty (30) day accumulation limit must be used in the fiscal year in which earned.

ARTICLE XIII, Miscellaneous: Section 6. Personal Days. All employees covered by this Agreement shall receive three (3) personal days per year.

With the current Coronavirus pandemic that the nation is experiencing, the several months the part time position was vacant, and the prolonged sick leaves the police dispatcher's five (5) positions have experienced, we are looking for an extension to this amendment. At several times throughout the year, if any member had attempted to take any personal compensatory, or vacation time, the entire work load of five (5) dispatchers would be placed on two (2) dispatchers. Also considering that most of the nation is having travel restrictions, the want or need to take time off is greatly reduced from normal due to most people staying at home due to the stay at home orders by most Governors.

We are looking to have the current time constraint removed from the current, above mentioned vacation, compensatory time and personal day agreements, current fiscal year 2020 - 2021 and allowing the unused time be carried over into the next fiscal year 2021 - 2022 with the agreement that this amendment would expire and the original time constraint be back in effect by the end of the next fiscal year, June 30, 2022

Respectfully:

John D Falco

Union Steward

(End of memo)

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has also received a memo from the Chief and read as follows:

TO: Honorable Town Council

FROM: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police

DATE: May 12, 2021

RE: Dispatcher Local 1322 Union Request

The Gloucester Police Dispatcher Local Union 1322 has requested an extension on carrying over unused vacation, personal, and compensatory time into the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Local 1322 consist of four full time dispatchers and the police department Executive Assistant.

This past year put strain on the dispatch staff with two long-term covid illnesses preventing time off

and creating order back overtime. Also with travel restrictions this past year dispatch personnel and the executive assistant vacation/leave time was not scheduled.

Therefore, I request that the Town Council consider this request to allow members of Dispatch Local Union 1322 carry over accrued unused vacation, compensatory, and personal time into next fiscal year. Presently, this would be a minimal carry over, and an effort will be made to efficiently manage employee leave time going forward.

Respectfully,
Chief Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the temporary suspension of Articles VII, X, & XIII of the Dispatcher Contract between the Town of Gloucester and Local Union 1322 of the Laborers International Union of North America, AFL - CIO (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2022); said suspension would allow the carry over of accrued unused vacation, compensatory and personal time into the fiscal year 2021/2022: 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

VIII. New Business

- A. Covid-19 Updates/Discussions/Actions
 - 1. EMA Update - Discussion and/or Action
 - 2. Emergency Declaration Status, Extension, and/or Amendments
(Currently in place until **June 3, 2021**) - Discussion and/or Action

G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the clinic on May 15, 2021 went very well and over 270 people received their vaccines. G. Mosca stated that the Governor and the Lt. Governor visited the clinic and stated how well the clinic was run. G. Mosca stated the next clinic will be held on June 5th for mainly second doses. Councilor Steere asked if G. Mosca had any idea when the emergency order might be lifted. G. Mosca stated that he is waiting to see what the Governor does but hopes the emergency order will expire on June 3,2021.

No action taken by Council

B. Gloucester Memorial Park Improvement Project

1. Award Contract: Beta Group, Inc. For Preliminary Design and Bid Document Preparation - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue asked K. Scott, Town Planner, to explain this request. K. Scott stated that this is the next step and it is for the preliminary engineering and preparation of the bid specifications.

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has also received a memo from the Finance Director and Councilor Forgue read as follows:

To: The Honorable Gloucester Town Council
From: Adam R. Muccino, Finance Director
Date: 05/19/2021
Regarding: Award of Contract: Beta Group, Inc for Preliminary Design and Bid Document Preparation for Gloucester Memorial Park

I am in receipt of a request from Town Planner Karen Scott to award the contract for preliminary design and bid document preparation to Beta Group, Inc. You may recall that the Town awarded the contract to Beta in Fall of 2020 for mater plan design for Gloucester Memorial Park after engaging Beta through the negotiation process under the State of Rhode Island purchasing policies. Additionally, Beta Group, Inc. is a firm that is listed on the State of Rhode Island Master Price Agreement list.

Given that Beta Group, Inc. is an approved vendor on the State of RI MPA, that they have previously assisted the Town in preparing the Master Plan for this particular project and the recommendation from Town Planner, Karen Scott, it is my recommendation that the Council award the contract for preliminary design and bid document preparation to Beta Group, Inc.

Respectfully,
Adam R. Muccino
Finance Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AWARD a contract to Beta Group, Inc. for “Preliminary Design and Bid Document preparation for Gloucester Memorial Park” for the contracted amount of \$49,540; 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

2. Approval of Contract for Preliminary Design and Bid Document Preparation- Town of Gloucester and Beta Group, Inc.- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the previous award to Beta Group, Inc. is pending the approval of the signed contract. Councilor Forgue stated that once the contract is received the Clerk will have it reviewed by our Solicitor and when approved, signed by the Town Council President.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a contract for Preliminary Design and Bid Document Preparation, between the Town of Gloucester and Beta Group, Inc. in the amount of \$49,540 after review by the Town Solicitor; 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. Extension of IFB 2016-Senior Center Cleaning - Simply Clean-Discussion and/or action
Councilor Forgue stated that the Council has received a request from the Finance Director which Councilor Arnold read as follows:

To: The Honorable Gloucester Town Council
From: Adam R. Muccino, Finance Director
Date: 05/19/2021
Regarding: IFB 2016-02 Simply Clean Contract Renewal

I received a memo from Senior Center Director Melissa Bouvier regarding extending the current contract with Simply Clean, the vendor who provides cleaning services for the Gloucester Senior Center. Director Bouvier recommends extending the terms of the current agreement for another 12-month period after the current agreement expires.

I have reviewed the terms of the current contract and the terms of the proposed renewal. The current contract allows for a 12-month extension at the end of the agreement should both parties agree. Additionally, the proposed extension features no change in fee schedule or terms of the agreement with the exception of the addition of the language "Either party can cancel this contract at any time provided 30-day written notice."

The Council should note that this would be the fifth extension for this particular agreement. While there is nothing in the purchasing policy or the contract language that prohibits such an extension, the Council might consider testing the market at some point in the near future.

Nevertheless, given the recommendation from Director Bouvier and that the current agreement allows for such an extension and that there is no change to the terms or fee structure, I recommend that the Council authorize the bed extension of IFB 2016-02.

Respectfully,
Adam R. Muccino
Finance Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a one year extension to IFB 2016-02 , to expire June 11, 2022, to Simply Clean for cleaning services at the Gloucester Senior Center; 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 - Discussion and/or Action

1. State of RI Division of Municipal Finance Budget to Actual Report for Q3 2021.

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a memo from the Finance Director which he read as follows:

To: The Honorable Gloucester Town Council
From: Adam R. Muccino, Finance Director
Date: 05/20/2021
Regarding: State of RI DMF Budget to Actual Report

Attached is the Budget to Actual report for the third quarter for the Town of Gloucester. This report is required and filed quarterly with the Rhode Island Division of Municipal Finance. The report must be signed by the Town Council President, the Superintendent of Gloucester Schools and myself. This report ties to our general ledger as of March 30, 2021.

Respectfully,
Adam R. Muccino
Finance Director
(end of memo)

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that this is a required report for the Division of Municipal Finance which is prepared by the Finance Office.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Budget to Actual Report for the Town of Gloucester Third Quarter 2021 to be filed with the R.I. Div. of Municipal Finance; 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. Agreement for Information Technology Products & Services (Land Evidence)
Avenu Enterprise Solutions, LLC & Town of Gloucester

Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk is requesting Council table this item until June 3, 2021 for further contract review.

MOTION was made Councilor Worthy to TABLE the Contract Agreement between the Town of Gloucester and Avenu Enterprise Solutions, LLC; 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

- E. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Planning Board Clerk

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received the resignation of the Planning Board Clerk, Shelley Marteka, effective June 14, 2021.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to ACCEPT the resignation of Shelley Marteka from the position of Planning Board Clerk; resignation effective June 14, 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

- F. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Planning Board Clerk

Councilor Forgue stated that if the Planner or Council has no recommendation the Planner needs approval to move forward with the process to replace the Clerk. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated she has no recommendations at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Planner and the Human Resource Director to begin the process to fill the position of Planning Board Clerk and when completed make a recommendation to the Town Council for appointment; 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

- G. Bds. and Commissions- Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Conservation Commission
 - a. Resignation

- 1. Position #1 Three year term to expire 1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk has received the resignation of Steven Clifford from the Conservation Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Steven Clifford from Position #1 on the Conservation Commission; 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

- b. Appointment
 - 1. Position #1 Three year term to expire 1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated that there is no recommendation from the Chair at this time

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Conservation Commission, Position #1; 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

5 minute break taken.

H. Financial Update of Skate Park Funds - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Worthy stated that the Finance Director has submitted the following memo which Councilor Forgue read as follows::

To: The Honorable Gloucester Town Council
From: Adam R. Muccino, Finance Director
Date: 05/20/2021
Regarding: Financial Update of Skate Park funds

During the Public Hearing on the FY2022 budget there was discussion regarding funding a new skate park.

The consensus seemed to wait until the Treasury released guidance on the recently announced American Rescue Plan (ARP), Corona Virus response stimulus. Since that meeting, the U.S Treasury has posted its interim final rule regarding the allowable expenses/programs under the ARP. I have spent some time reviewing numerous presentations and participating in conference calls intended to explain the guidance which is, as you can imagine, voluminous and detailed. Attached is brief summary of this guidance on how the Town of Gloucester can utilize this funding. It is not crystal clear whether or not a skate park would be allowable under the guidance. There is no specific prohibition either, therefore, there is still a possibility that this sort of project would be allowable.

I will continue to work on clarifying whether or not a skate park is an allowable expense under the ARP.

Nevertheless, we learned from the conversation on the skate park during the public hearing on the budget that the cost of a skate park would be around \$60-70k. Early estimates indicate that the Town of Gloucester stands to receive \$1.02 million in ARP funding.

If a skate park is an allowable expense, that project represents only 7% of that \$1.02 million. The Town should consider the guidance from the Treasury and how this funding will be utilized in accordance with that guidance.

In addition to a skate park, cybersecurity and police wages may be allowable expenses.

Additionally, it might be a practical to establish a committee with citizen input to review the Treasury guidance and develop recommendations for the Council to consider as to this funding

should be allocated in such a way that will not bring pressure on the budget in future years. I would happily participate in such a committee.

Respectfully,
Adam R. Muccino
Finance Director
(End of memo)

Councilor Forgue stated the summary report is in Council's packet for review.

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated he requested this item to be on the agenda to keep the Council updated. Councilor Worthy stated he spoke to R. Shields, Recreation Director, to confirm numbers with the original skate park and he is hoping to have more solid numbers as to the installation with a set amount of features for the next meeting to make a motion. Councilor Worthy stated he is also hoping that the Finance Director might have more information for the next meeting. Councilor Steere wanted to know what the hurry was. Councilor Steere stated that he understands that this is something they may want to do and it is good to get information but Council hasn't voted on anything at this point. Councilor Worthy stated he wants to keep our constituents up to speed and if a vote comes we will be educated.

No action taken by Council

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Steere referred to a recent article in the Observer where Councilor Forgue was quoted " He and the endorsed Republicans on the Council, the majority, will support bringing the logo to a vote in the town". Councilor Steere asked when was that meeting. Councilor Forgue stated repeatedly there was never a meeting. Councilor Steere asked then how Councilor Forgue could say they support a vote on the logo. Councilor Forgue stated he talks to Councilor Worthy once or twice a week and he also talks to Councilor Arnold once or twice a week and when he asked them what they thought, they said same thing, "let it come to Council and then we will put it on the ballot". Councilor Steere stated maybe we should have had a Council meeting to discuss. Councilor Forgue asked repeatedly why. Councilor Steere stated because there are five Council members. Councilor Steere stated this shows a lack of respect to himself and Councilor Reichert. Councilor W. Steere stated this is not the first time. Councilor Forgue asked when the first time was. Councilor W. Steere stated the first time was on March 10, 2021 when Councilor Worthy stated in the newspaper that he and Councilors Arnold and Forgue would take the lead in getting a new skate park rebuilt. Councilor Worthy stated that has already been brought up and explained that the reporter took things out of context. Councilor W. Steere stated he would expect an apology from Councilor Forgue for the disrespect shown by Councilor Forgue.

Councilor Steere stated people have questioned this potential open meetings violation. (No response) Councilor W. Steere stated this is a problem. Councilor Steere stated we shouldn't be doing town business in the paper.

Councilor W. Steere stated he did not appreciate the comment made by Councilor Forgue about a Councilor having to "sit in line" like everyone else and raise their hand.

Councilor Forgue stated the public deserves the same respect that Councilor W. Steere is demanding.

(Raised voices)

Councilor W. Steere stated there is a problem with the way our meetings are run and that Councilor Forgue was disrespectful.

Councilor Forgue stated to Councilor W. Steere that he "was having a problem because you don't like where I am sitting."

(More arguing)

Councilor Forgue stated that he said what he said to the newspaper. Councilor Forgue stated he said the following "I know for a fact the three endorsed republicans will vote to put it on the ballot". Councilor Forgue stated he spoke to them individually at different locations.

Councilor W. Reichert stated he would not put this issue on the ballot or on a Council meeting. Councilor W. Reichert stated it was "punted" to Council and even presenting it to the public was insinuating agreement.

More discussion followed with more than one Councilor speaking at once.

Councilor W. Steere stated it may not have been intentional and stated perhaps Council members shouldn't speak to the press.

Councilor Forgue stated he apologized if he upset everyone as there was no intention to do that.

More discussion followed on raising hands and several Councilors gave their opinion on this practice suggested by Councilor Forgue.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

None

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None

XII. Open Forum

1. K. Sorensen, resident , read a letter into the record:

May 5, 2021

To the Honorable Gloucester Town Council,

I am asking the Council for consideration of a “Employee’s Freedom of Choice Policy”.

I ask that a policy be put in place prohibiting the Town of Gloucester from mandating any employee to receive any medical vaccinations prior to or during employment with the Town of Gloucester, and that employees be protected from any discrimination, harassment or dismissal for refusal of such vaccinations. regardless if such requirement is mandated by the State of RI or the U.S. Federal Government.

With the only exception being the existing requirements in place for employee’s working within the Animal Control Department.

Thank you for your consideration of the adoption of this policy.

Sincerely

Kathy Sorensen
(end of memo)

Councilor Forgue thanked K. Sorensen

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.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action
 1. Draft Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Gloucester and National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) re: Department of Public Works Employees

Motion was made by Councilor Reichert to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation for 1. Draft Collective Bargaining Agreement

between Town of Gloucester and National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) re: Department of Public Works Employees; 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.

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to RECONVENE Open Session, SEAL the minutes pursuant to RIGL 42-46-7.c and DISCLOSE that zero votes were taken in Closed Session; 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

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 11:48 PM; 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