

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on October 20, 2022

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr.; Stephen W. Arnold ; David Laplante

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; K. Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; G. Mosca, EMA Director; Chief Delprete; J. Steere , Tax Collector

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Delprete asked if everyone would please remain standing for a Moment of Silence to honor the two Bristol ,Connecticut police officers who were killed in the line of duty. Chief Delprete stated that several members of the Gloucester Police Department would be attending the funeral for the two officers tomorrow in Connecticut.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item to please step to the podium and state your name for the record.

None

V. Citation

A. Police Department Recognition - Officer Robert Glaude

Councilor Reichert stated that on behalf of the Town Council it is with great pleasure we honor, with a citation, Officer Robert Glaude.

Councilor Reichert invited Chief Delprete to speak. Chief Delprete explained the incident that occurred last spring at Ponaganset High School. M. Barnes, former Superintendent of Ponaganset, stated Governor McKee sent a certificate of recognition which he presented to Officer Glaude. Chief Delprete stated that he had a Department Commendation for Officer Glaude which he presented to him. Councilor Reichert stated that the Town Council had a Citation to present to Officer Glaude which he read as follows:

**Citation
of COMMENDATION to
Police Officer Robert Glaude**

Badge # 7

Given in Honor of your extraordinary efforts to rescue a Ponaganset student in physical distress. With no regard for yourself, you quickly jumped into action and administered the Heimlich maneuver.

Your bravery and heroism saved a life.

The Town Council wholeheartedly represents all Gloucester residents when we sincerely thank you for your diligence, your quick actions, and your dedication to your profession and, especially, for safe guarding our children.

Councilor William E. Reichert, President
Councilor Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice-Pres
Councilor Stephen W. Arnold
Councilor William A. Worthy, Jr.
Councilor David R. Laplante

Jean M Fecteau, CMC , Town Clerk

Adopted this 19th day of October, 2022

Seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Laplante , a retired Gloucester Police Officer, asked if everyone would remain standing as he wished to thank Officer Glaude and also to remind everyone in attendance that police officers always stand between the people and the rest of the world when something happens. Officer Glaude stated that Ponaganset is a great school system; that he'd be honored for his kids to go there; gave his thanks and added that it is not just him getting this award, all police staff stepped up in a team effort.

seconded by Councilor Laplante

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of October 6, 2022; Special Meeting of October 4, 2022: Discussion and/or Action
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - September 2022

C. Finance Director's Report - September 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of October 6, 2022; to TABLE the minutes of October 4, 2022; to APPROVE the Tax Assessors Additions and Abatements: No additions to the 2021 Tax Roll, Abatements to the 2021 Tax Roll in the amount of \$12.19, the 2020 Tax Roll in the amount of \$18.35, the 2019 Tax Roll in the amount of \$43.21, the 2015 Tax Roll in the amount of \$176.92, 2014 Tax Roll in the amount of \$368.64, 2013 Tax Roll in the amount of \$ 352.44, 2012 Tax Roll in the amount of \$95.41; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report of September 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

- a. Tax Assessor Board of Review - Position #1, One unexpired 6 year term to expire 12/31/26

Councilor Reichert asked if there were any recommendations.

None

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Tax Assessor Board of Review; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Request for Licensing stipulation relief - Village on Chopmist Hill, Mobile Home Park - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received the following request which Councilor Reichert read as follows:

9/8/2022

To the Honorable Town Council

RLM II, LLC is formally requesting temporary forbearance on the maximum number of units at the Village on Chopmist Hill during the purchase by the Town of the land adjacent to the Police Station. We have 87 licensed units. One of these units at 15 Park View will be torn down as part of the purchase agreement.

The tenant is actively looking for alternative accommodations. The tentative date for his vacating 15 Park View is Nov 1 at which time we will demo it. This will bring the total homes in place to 86 units. We are requesting the Council's permission to pull a building permit for a compensatory lot within the Manufactured Home Community which would be the 87th unit. If there are unforeseen delays in the departure of 15 Park View, we would be temporarily at 88 homes.

With the coming of winter, we would like to pour a foundation, put in the utilities (water, sewer and electric) and set a New Manufactured Home. Once 15 Park View vacates, this would be our 87 unit.

We have worked closely with the Town over the last 19 years in changing the Olivo Park to a Community.

We would appreciate a favorable response to this request for a temporary accommodation.

Regards

RLM II LLC

By its Managing Members

Robert N Laughlin

Richard A Meffert

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, for advice. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the Gloucester Code, Section 208 is very specific as to the requirements for any expansion. D. Igliazzi stated that even substituting one home for another requires following the proper procedure through the Building Code. D. Igliazzi stated that the owner would be assuming the risk and liability for the substitution until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued if it satisfies the requirements.

R. Meffert, Managing member of RLM, stated that he had no problem assuming the risk . K. Johnson , Building Official, stated that he has looked at the site and it is not a problem . K. Johnson stated that a Certificate of Occupancy could not be issued until the home is question has been removed. Councilor Arnold stated that substituting one home for another does not seem to be a problem and as long as the park assumes the responsibility then the issue is if there is anything else the park needs to do. K. Johnson stated that he has handled such situations before and that a foundation permit needs to be applied for and that no one may occupy the new home until the other home is gone. Councilor Laplante asked for the address of the home . R. Meffert stated the address would be 57 Diamond Hill Road.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to allow R. Meffert, and RLM to proceed with the preliminary construction and site work at 57 Diamond Hill Road with no Certificate of Occupancy issued until such a time as the unit at 15 Park View is removed; seconded Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Budget - FY 2022/23

1. Budget Narrative - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has advertised information regarding the budget ahead of next weeks vote and Councilor Arnold read the narrative into the record.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated he feels the narrative is very clear. Councilor Worthy stated he also feels the explanation is very clear.

2. Code Red notifications - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that Council's packet includes a proposed CodeRed for Council's review. Councilor Arnold read the proposed draft of the Code Red message. Councilor Arnold stated a suggestion to add that a taxpayer could contact a Councilor or the Finance Director if they had a question. Councilor Laplante gave the suggestion of adding that the increase is 26 cents per thousand or 1.4% to the residential tax rate. Councilor Steere stated that the CodeRed should be short and sweet. J. Fecteau asked the number of calls for the CodeRed and what days. J. Fecteau

stated a suggestion of two calls with one being Friday and the next one being Sunday or Monday before the Financial Town Referendum. J. Fecteau added that someone should be decided upon to read the CodeRed. Councilor Arnold stated he likes the two calls. D. Iglizzi stated his recommendation for a vote as to the narrative and the details of the CodeRed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to approve two CodeRed messages; to have the CodeRed by read by Councilor Arnold; and to approve the narrative to be published; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Tax Bills FY 2022/23

- a. Authorization to set Tax Bill payment dates for FY 2022/23 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Tax Collector regarding setting the new tax bill payment dates for FY 2022/23 which he read as follows:

Steve (Councilor Arnold),

RI General Law 44-5-5 states that “electors of a financial town meeting of any town qualified to vote on any proposition to impose a tax or for the expenditure of money, OR the city council of a city, shall determine the date on which taxes are due and payable and the date on which they are subject to a penalty”.

When we had a Financial Town meeting we would vote on the dates for the quarters to be paid. We have not changed those quarters since going to the FTR. Since we have to change the payments now, I think the council needs to vote on the dates for collection of taxes for the 2022 Tax Bill -Fiscal 2023 only.

Here is my suggestion: the first date is the due date and the second is the date interest will be applied.

11/1/22- 12/2/22, 1/3/23-2/2/23, 3/1/23-4/4/23, 5/1/23-6/2/23

These dates will make it so two quarters are not due at once and it will spread the payments out some and still all be collected within the Fiscal Year. I would like this to be placed on the agenda for second meeting in October-which I think is the 20th-before the FTR vote or whenever you see fit.

If you have any thoughts regarding this, please let me know.

Thank you,

Jane A Steere, Tax Collector, RICTC

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated the proposal makes sense. Councilor Arnold thanked J. Steere , Tax Collector .

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to SET the FY 2022-23 tax payment/interest dates for:

First Quarter - Date Due: 11/1/22 Interest Applied: 12/2/22

Second Quarter - Date Due: 01/3/23 Interest Applied: 2/2/23

Third Quarter - Date Due: 03/1/23 Interest Applied: 4/4/23

Fourth Quarter - Date Due: 05/1/23 Interest Applied: 6/2/23

these dates shall revert back to the dates previously approved and applied starting in the next fiscal year; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Interest/late fees FY 2022/23 - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor Arnold requested this item for discussion. Councilor Arnold stated he researched the amount of interest collected in the past and it has been approximately \$ 90,000 . Councilor Arnold stated he hopes there is discretion and common sense when residents are making payments. J. Steere, Tax Collector, stated that she works with anyone who comes into her office. J. Steere stated that there is an interest ordinance that details specific criteria to meet but that she always works with a resident and their situation when they come in to pay. Councilor Arnold stated again that he just wanted to have a conversation about the interest issue.

Council thanked the Tax Collector. No action taken

C. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

a. Historic District Commission

1. One 1-year Alternate Term to expire 11/1/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that this appointment is for the soon to expire term of LeeAnn Lyons. Councilor Reichert stated that the Chair has asked for Council to reappoint.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to RE APPOINT LeeAnn Lyons to the Historic District Commission to the Alternate position for a one year term to expire 11/1/2023; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received correspondence from RI DOT regarding the Rhode Island Local Technical Assistance Program. Councilor Reichert stated this is a program that offers assistance to cities and towns with transportation programs.
2. Councilor Arnold stated that Council has received correspondence from the Bella Vista Executive Board asking for continued assistance with their repair plan.

Councilor Arnold stated that he would like Bella Vista correspondence to be placed on the next agenda in order for D. Igliazzi, to have time to review. Councilor Steere agreed.

Councilor Arnold stated he received calls about the old playground equipment and spoke to G. Trembl, Director DPW and K. Scott, Town Planner about the disposition of the old equipment. Councilor Arnold stated that he was told that the old playground equipment could be put on the bid list to be re-purposed by another entity.

Councilor Arnold also thanked Chief Delprete for the handling of the situation at the High School last Friday morning. Councilor Arnold stated that the communications

from the police and the school were good but suggested that a text program could be developed and used as more people use texting than email. Chief Delprete stated that he will bring that suggestion to the next school safety meeting on Tuesday. Chief Delprete stated that it was not an active shooter incident that caused the lock-down but rather an investigation. Chief Delprete stated there was a great response by all and the situation was under control within one and a half hours. Chief Delprete also stated that Facebook is frequently used as that has been shown to get picked up by people right away.

Councilor Steere brought up the subject of signs and suggested that it may be time to work on drafting a sign ordinance based on where he is seeing signs. Councilor Steere stated that in his opinion Burrillville has a nice and clean sign ordinance.

Councilor Worthy stated that he received two phone calls about the music at Mulberry Vineyard over the weekend. Chief Delprete stated his department received one call. Councilor Laplante stated that he received three calls about Mulberry Vineyard. Councilor Laplante stated he drove over to Mulberry Vineyards and that he could hear music at the surrounding houses from about 4-5 houses away but that he could not hear it at the condominiums.

Councilor Reichert stated that RIDOT is paving Rte 94 with a full depth reclamation over the course of the road except in front of FM Global. Councilor Reichert suggested the Council send a letter to RIDOT as to this paving. Councilor Steere suggested the letter be sent to the representative for that area as well as RIDOT. J. Fecteau stated that she could compose a letter.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone of the Department Heads wished to speak.

1. Chief Delprete thanked the Council for their support and stated that there were no issues at the Scarecrow Festival.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor Reichert asked if any from Boards or Commissions wished to speak.

None

XII. Open Forum

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone wished to speak and if so to please come to the microphone and state your name.

1. P. Henry, resident of Chestnut Hill Road, stated her opinion that a sign ordinance is needed in town especially after seeing all the current signs and where they have been placed. P. Henry stated dates and sizes could be addressed. W. Steere mentioned that some of the new candidates may not know any different. Councilor Steere also stated that Burrillville has a good ordinance in place.
2. J. Colaluca, resident, stated her concerns about the trash near the transfer station and especially along the Smith & Sayles Reservoir. J. Colaluca explained how she organized a group of residents to take turns collecting trash between Wood Road and Sand Dam every two weeks. J. Colaluca would like the Council to come up with a way to hold people accountable for trash that escapes from open vehicles as the law requires those open areas be covered. Councilor Reichert thanked J. Colaluca for her efforts.

XIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADJOURN at 8:24 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED