

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on January 19, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by S. Arnold, Town Council Vice President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President; Jonathan E. Burlingame; Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M. O. Steere, III.

Member absent: William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Gary Trembl, Director Public Works; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; and Robert Shields, Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor S. Arnold asked if there was anyone who wished to speak on agenda items, only, at this time, and, if so, when called on please step to the podium and state your name for the record.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Special meeting of January 3, 2023 and Regular meeting of January 5, 2023
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - December 2022
- C. Finance Director's Report- December 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of January 3, 2023 and January 5th, 2023; to **APPROVE the ADDITION** to the 2022 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,281.70; **the ABATEMENT** to the 2022 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1993.29; and to **ACCEPT** the Finance Directors Monthly Report for December 2022; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere questioned the original motion electing the vice president of the Council at the meeting on January 3, 2023. Councilor W. Steere stated that the motion states it is to elect the vice president for the Gloucester Town Republican Council. Councilor W. Steere asked how the motion could be corrected in the minutes. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the motion could be resolved by a motion to correct as to the wording only. D. Igliazzi stated that the intent was to elect a vice president of the Town Council so the motion could be corrected by making a motion

to remove the word Republican.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to correct the record to elect S. Arnold as the Vice President of the Gloucester Town Council

no second

Discussion: D. Igliazzi stated the correction was to remove the word “Republican” and verified that was Councilor C. Greathouse’s initial intent. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that was her intent.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to correct the minutes of January 3rd, by removing the word “Republican” in the motion to elect the Town Council Vice President; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: D. Igliazzi asked Councilor C. Greathouse if the removal of the word Republican was consistent with her intent and Councilor C. Greathouse stated it was consistent with her intent.

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VOTE ON MAIN MOTION: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

- A. Ratification of Agreement: Between the Town of Gloucester & RI Laborers' District Council on behalf of Local Union 1322, of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, Effective: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025
Police Department Civilian Employees - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the Ratification of Agreement between the Town of Gloucester and the Local Union 1322, Police Department Civilian Employees; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- B. Boards and Commissions

- 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Planning Board
Position #6 - One unexpired term to expire 3/31/2023

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Chair does not have a recommendation at this time and has requested an advertisement, seeking volunteers, in the hope of adding candidates to the talent bank listing.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Planning Board, Position #6, to the February 16, 2023 meeting to provide advertising time for volunteers; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Board of Canvassers - Position One unexpired six year term to expire 2/28/2026

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Board of Canvassers's Chair has made a recommendation to Council to fill an unexpired term. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Board Chair has met with the candidate and explained the responsibilities and duties involved. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Board recommends Henry Gold and read the following recommendation from the Board:

To: Gloucester Town Council
From: David Calderara, Chairman, Board of Canvassers
Subject: Vacancy on BOC

I would like to recommend that the Town Council appoint Henry Gold to fill the vacancy on the Board of Canvassers. Henry is a long-time poll worker, serving as both moderator and clerk. He is fully versed in the mechanics of the election process and will be a valuable addition.
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Henry Gold to the Gloucester Board of Canvassers to fill an unexpired six year term to expire 2/28/2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointments - Terms to Run Concurrent with the Town Council
 - a. Economic Development Commission
 1. Position # 3- two year term to expire 1/2025

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Chair does not have a recommendation at this time and unless Council has a recommendation this item can be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #3; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 6- two year term to expire 1/2025

Councilor S. Arnold stated that there is again, no recommendation at this time,

MOTION was made by Councilor w. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #6; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Affordable Housing Advisory Board- five (5) regular members -two year term to expire 1/2025

Councilor S. Arnold stated that currently there are no current members listed. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Planner has asked that this item be tabled until April 2023. Councilor S. Arnold stated that past members need to be notified to see if they are still interested in serving.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointments to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board to the first regular Town Council meeting of April 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Department Appointments: Terms concurrent with Town Council- Discussion and /or Action

1. Mechanical Inspector

Councilor S. Arnold stated that this appointment was tabled inadvertently last meeting. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the current Mechanical Inspector Roland Belanger wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Roland Belanger to the position of Mechanical Inspector for a term to run concurrent with the Town Council to expire 12/31/2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Deputy Tree Warden

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the previous Tree Warden resigned from the position due to full time town employment. Councilor S. Arnold stated that another person, Michael Dahlquist, has volunteered to serve in this position and that . Mr. Dahlquist is a licensed arborist.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPOINT Michael Dalhquist to the position of Deputy Tree Warden for a term to expire 12/31/24; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. Personnel

1. Senior Center - Request to increase wages of Part Time Kitchen help and Interim Director positions - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council has received a request from the Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

1/11/2023

To The Honorable Town Council,

I am requesting to increase the wage of the part time kitchen help to \$16.00 per hour. Patricia Tondreau and Stephanie Kane have both been employed here for many years and have only received the minimum wage increases when applicable. With the recent hiring of our part-time Meal site Coordinator, we realized that we needed to offer a more competitive wage to attract qualified candidates in the current job market. We raised the hourly rate for the part time Mealsite Coordinator to \$18.00 per hour, this left a large gap between the two positions.

If you approve this increase, it will not affect the current budget because we are already budgeted for the \$18.00 per hour, so when someone fills in at the \$16.00 per hour rate it is a savings.

I am also requesting to increase the hourly rate for the Interim Director position to \$18.00 per hour. Finance Director, Adam Muccino, has confirmed that this is within the budgeted amount.

I am requesting that we make these increases retroactive starting January 9th, 2023.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Melissa Bouvier

(end of memo)

Discussion: A. Muccino stated that this was the first time hearing about the pay being retroactive and he does not think this will be an issue . A. Muccino then stated that he did recall a conversation with M. Bouvier, Senior Center Director, as to the retroactive pay. A. Muccino stated he would need to do an analysis of who worked and when. A. Muccino stated that moving these personnel up to the highest paid level should not be a problem as they will be filling in when others need coverage . Councilor S. Arnold asked if the pay was retroactive for 10 days. A. Muccino stated it was. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that minimum wage is \$13.00 per hour so it is good to be competitive. Councilor w. Steere stated his concern if the request was within the budget. A. Muccino stated the request was within the budget.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE Salary Increases for Part-Time Kitchen Help to \$16 per hour and Interim Director position to \$18.00 per hour; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Resignation

a. Part Time Meal Site Coordinator - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that the acting HR Director has forwarded an email explaining the resignation of Holly Castro-Marcione from the position of Meal Site Coordinator.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT the resignation of Holly Castro-Marcione from the position of Part Time Meal Site Coordinator on January 9, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Appointment

a. Part Time Meal Site Coordinator - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that interviews have been on going. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the

Clerk has not received a recommendation for Council at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment of a Part Time Meal Site Coordinator; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, W. Steere, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Appointment - On-Call Back up Director (a.k.a.: On Call Interim Director)- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council has received a request from the Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

12/12/2022

To The Honorable Town Council,

I am requesting that you consider appointing Joyce Di Giulio as an on-call back-up director to fill the senior center temporarily during my absences (roughly 20 days per year, vacation and sick time). Joyce has been volunteering here for months. She greets people, helps them as needed and also helps me with some clerical work such as printing the newsletter and some light filing. She has been a great asset to the center and plans to continue her volunteerism. Recently I realized that with her extensive administrative work history she would be great as an Interim Director. She is retired, therefore she is not looking for anything more than an "on call basis". I am attaching her application and resume for your review. If you agree to appoint, I would like to make it effective immediately at a rate of \$18.00 per hour.

Respectfully,
Melissa Bouvier
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Joyce Di Giulio to the position of On-Call Back up Director (a.k.a.: On Call Interim Director) at the hourly rate of \$18; effective immediately; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated he needs to recuse. Councilor J. Burlingame asked if this matter would effect the budget. A. Muccino stated that it would not effect the budget as they budget for this type of activity and that this individual would be filling in during vacation and/or illness.

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold
NAYS-0

RECUSAL: W. Steere

MOTION PASSED

B. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments - Terms concurrent with Town Council, to expire 12/2024 - Discussion and/or Action
a. Recreation Commission
Position #4 - two year term to expire 12/2024

Councilor S. Arnold stated as there is no recommendation from the Chair at this time, Council can appoint from Talent Bank list or table the appointment.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #4; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

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- b. Correction to Safety Commission Appointment, Position #7, School Bus Coordinator

Councilor S. Arnold stated that at the last Council meeting Jacqueline Young-Dussault, was appointed the School Bus Coordinator. Councilor S. Arnold stated that apparently, during the last year a different School Bus Coordinator was appointed, Heather Busald.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Heather Busald, in place of Jacqueline Young-Dussault, to Position #7 School Bus Coordinator on the Safety Commission for a term to expire 12/31/2024; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

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2. Appointments

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- a. Budget Board
Five (5) three year terms to expire 12/31/2025

Councilor S. Arnold stated that this item is for the expired terms of five Budget Board members. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Chair has indicated all wish to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to REAPPOINT Michael Robinson, Position #6; Michael Morgan, Position #2; Kristy Bonoyer, Position #7; Henry Haczynski, Position #4; and Jake Desilets, Position #3 to the Budget Board for 3 years terms to expire 12/31/2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Conservation Commission

Two (3) three year terms to expire 12/31/2025

Councilor S. Arnold stated that this item is for two retired terms. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Chair has indicated the members wish to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to REAPPOINT Gayle King to Position #2 and Katherine Bucci to Position # 1 on the Conservation Commission for 3 year terms to expire 12/31/25; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Email Addresses - Town Council - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council discussed obtaining email addresses at their previous meeting. Councilor S. Arnold stated that in order to move forward, Council now needs to vote to expend the funds and obtain the email addresses. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the cost is estimated at approximately \$960 per year.

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold asked the source for the funding. Councilor W. Steere asked if there was money available in the IT account. A. Muccino stated that he has confirmed with the IT Director that there are funds available in the IT Department account.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the IT Director to set up five email addresses for Town Council at a cost not to exceed \$1,000, said funds to be appropriated from the IT Account ; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Capital Improvement Program FY 23-24 - Advisory opinion from Planning Board to Town Council & Town Council Action - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor S. Arnold stated that each year Department Heads submit their capital plan to the Planning Board for review. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the Planning Board checks the requests for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilor s. Arnold stated that the Planning Board has submitted their opinion which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council Members
From: Gloucester Planning Board
Date: January 9, 2023
Subject: Capital Improvement Program 2023-2024

At their January 9, 2023 meeting, the Planning Board motioned to advise the Town Council that the Capitol Improvement Project requests for 2023-2024 as described in the proposals from the Gloucester Senior Center, School Department and Police Department are not inconsistent with the Gloucester Comprehensive Community Plan.

We respectfully request that these requests are forwarded to the Budget Board for consideration during the FY 2023- 2024 budget process.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if K. Scott, Town Planner, had anything to add. K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that this is a statutory requirement found in state law. K. Scott stated that the Planning Board reviews the proposal to see if it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and does not review the merits of each request.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to FORWARD the Capital Projects requests received by the Planning Board and, deemed not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan, to the Budget Board for their consideration on whether to incorporate in their FY 2023-24 budget proposal to Council; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Authorization for Signature

1. Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Municipal storm sewer systems – 2022

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council has received a request from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: January 13, 2023
Re: RIPDES Annual Report – 2022

In accordance with the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) program general permit for Storm Water discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and from industrial activities at eligible facilities operated by regulated small MS4s, I have drafted the required Phase II Storm Water Annual Report for submission to RIDEM. This Annual Report is available on the Town’s website and in the Planning Department for public comment through February 2, 2022.

I am requesting authorization for the Town Council President to sign the report prior to submission to RIDEM after the close of the public comment period. Thank you.

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Phase II Storm Water Annual Report 2023 for submission to RIDEM; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, stated she mixed up the dates; the date the comment period ends is Feb. 2, 2023 and the date for the report is 2022. K. Scott gave a brief explanation as to the basis of this report. Councilor W. Steere withdrew his second. Councilor c. Greathouse asked if that meant a need for a new motion and Councilor S. Arnold stated yes.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Phase II Storm Water Annual Report 2022 for submission to RIDEM; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Town Facilities Electricity Pricing Options - Power Options - Discussion and/or Action

A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that he wanted to make the Council aware that in his opinion, energy pricing is trending down and he feels it will still go lower so he does not want to have the Town lock into a price yet. A. Muccino stated the rates will apply to 17 places in town including the schools and involves about 800, 000+ kilowatt usage per year.

No action taken by Council

G. Code of Ordinance – Forming Cannabis Land Use Regulations - Discussion and/or Action

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that many cities and towns are in the process of drafting zoning legislation as to cannabis. D. Igliazzi stated that Gloucester should work on legislation as a result of

the approval from voters at the 2022 Referendum. D. Iglizzi stated that the two main concerns of the town in drafting the legislation are the location of the retailers and the regulation of the usage of cannabis. D. Iglizzi suggested that the town begin with the sample regulations drafted in other cities and towns . D. Iglizzi suggested that Gloucester start by reviewing the North Smithfield proposal for the Council to review and give their comments on as well as get input from zoning and planning. D. Iglizzi suggested the Council then put this matter on the next agenda for discussion purposes only . D. Iglizzi explained that the first reading and a public hearing would be held at a later time. D. Iglizzi stated that many towns by ordinance are prohibiting the use of cannabis in public locations. J. Fecteau asked if state law prohibited the use of cannabis in public locations. D. Iglizzi stated that the law allows for medical use and that the referendum focused on retail sales. D. Iglizzi stated that sooner is better and that in his opinion it would be better for the Council to review, discuss , analyze and edit with input from zoning, planning and the police in order to determine what the Council wants as to this matter .

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to present a draft to Council based on the North Smithfield ordinance for discussion; said draft to be drawn up with input from the Solicitor, Chief, Zoning Official, Town Planner, and Town Clerk for February 2, 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council received correspondence from the Gloucester Light Infantry, notifying the Town that they will no longer organize a Memorial Day Parade. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that this parade needs to continue as it is important to the Town and there is a budget. Next agenda.
2. Councilor S. Arnold stated that Council received correspondence from the Medical Emergency Distribution System (MEDS) Program at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) recognizing Gloucesters' contributions to the State's COVID-19 Response and Vaccine Campaign.
Councilor S. Arnold stated what a great job that G. Mosca, EMA director and his team did in their response to the COVID -19 response. G. Mosca stated that he had a great team of volunteers.
3. Councilor S. Arnold stated that RI's first lady will be organizing a litter initiative to pick up one million pieces of litter. Councilor S. Arnold stated there may be more forthcoming on this matter.

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor S. Arnold asked if anyone wished to speak and if so , when called upon to come to the podium and speak into the microphone.

G. Mosca, EMA Director, wanted to let the Council know that the current Hazardous Mitigation Plan expires at the end of the year. G. Mosca stated that this plan is required by the state and FEMA. G. Mosca stated that the original Hazardous Mitigation Plan was done 5 years ago at a cost of about

\$10,000 and this is an update to that plan. G. Mosca anticipates the cost being less than \$10,000. G. Mosca stated that the grant is to hire a consultant to help with the revising and updating of the Hazardous Mitigation Plan as it involves many state and federal complexities. G. Mosca stated that the grant is offered by the state for this purpose and that it is a 75% state and 25% town funding grant. G. Mosca stated that he will submit the grant application. G. Mosca stated that if the grant is approved then he will bring it back to Council as an agenda item for discussion. Councilor W. Steere asked if G. Mosca had funds in the EMA account that could cover the 25%. G. Mosca stated that there were sufficient funds. J. Fecteau asked A. Muccino if the town had funds in the Matching Grant Fund Account. A. Muccino stated that the town does have a matching fund account. A. Muccino stated that this item was in the FY 2023 budget as a one time expense and that if need be it could be an item reallocated from ARP money that the council has previously set aside.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor S. Arnold asked if anyone from Boards and Commissions wished to speak and if so to please come to the podium and speak into the microphone.

R. Najecki, Conservation Commission explained the water testing process performed by volunteers with the Commission on several bodies of water in the town. R. Najecki explained that the samples are analyzed by URI and a report gets issued. R. Najecki stated that the 2021 report was recently received and contained a concerning issue as to Spring Grove Pond. R. Najecki explained that there are very high phosphorus and nitrogen levels in the samples from Spring Grove and that the primary source of these two elements is from the use of lawn fertilizers and dog waste. R. Najecki stated that there has been an increase in the building of residential homes surrounding Spring Grove. R. Najecki explained how the toxic blue green algae can form and become invasive in ponds where there is a high phosphorus and nitrogen levels. R. Najecki stated that the blue green algae can be treated but cannot be eliminated once it sets in.

R. Najecki stated that Conservation Commission will be taking on Earth Day in the spring and gave a summary of the potential plans.

Councilor S. Arnold asked R. Najecki which bodies of water were tested. R. Najecki stated that Spring Grove, Keach Pond and Smith and Sayles Reservoir. R. Najecki explained that volunteers test weekly and then drive the samples to URI.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked if it was R. Najecki's opinion that the blue green algae could occur at Marion Irons. R. Najecki stated that it could but that Marion Irons is tested by the RI Department of Health.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked if the blue green algae was preventable. R. Najecki stated his opinion that the runoff of the phosphorus and nitrogen is due to the increasing number of homes being built around the watershed of the pond that are use lawn fertilizers. R. Najecki explained how these elements can produce the blue green algae in spring fed ponds and that once it appears it is treatable but not preventable.

J. Colaluca stated that there are organizations that are trying to educate people who live around ponds as to the problem using lawn fertilizers and that several surrounding towns have closed their ponds due to the issue.

XI. Open Forum

Councilor S. Arnold asked if anyone wished to speak and if so to please state your name for the record when you are called to the podium.

None

XII. MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Councilor Arnold requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor C. Greathouse -Aye

Councilor J. Burlingame -Aye

Councilor W. Steere -Aye

Councilor S. Arnold -Aye

MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session, Councilor S. Arnold asked for those waiting to be let back into the room.

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Note: Due to technical difficulties with the live streaming when Council returned from Executive Session, the live streaming was not available for the public. However, the meeting continued in person.

XIII. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session - Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

Councilor Arnold requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor C. Greathouse -Aye

Councilor J. Burlingame -Aye

Councilor W. Steere -Aye

Councilor S. Arnold -Aye

MOTION PASSED

XIV. MOTION was made by Councilor w. Steere to Adjourn at 9:59 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse, S. Arnold; W. Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED