

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 2, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Delprete, Gloucester Police; Gary Trembl, Director Public Works; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Robert Shields, Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak on an agenda item, to please come up to the podium and state your name for the record.

1. K. Bonoyer, resident, stated her concerns regarding the proposed use of cannabis ordinance. Councilor W. Worthy stated that a public hearing on this proposed ordinance is scheduled for March 16, 2023 and invited Ms. Bonoyer back at that time to speak if she wished.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director has requested Item VIII. G. Review of Community Solar Program with Power Options- Discussion and/or Action be moved on the agenda to this point. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is to be a representative present, Rita Moran.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to MOVE Agenda Item VIII. G. to this point on agenda; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Review of Community Solar Program with Power Options- Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, explained that the Town Council at their last meeting, authorized the Town Council President to engage in the electric contract for next year. A. Muccino stated that the electricity is supplied through Constellations but the contract is procured and negotiated through Poweroptions. A. Muccino stated that the Council expressed an interest in the community solar or net metering program offered through Poweroptions, therefore, R. Moran, Business Development Manager, for Poweroptions is here tonight to speak on this topic.

R. Moran gave a brief overview of Poweroptions in that it consists of a 500 member consortium to help non profits and government entities with energy. R. Moran explained that since 2010 the company has helped their members procure solar contracts either by the purchase of net metering credits from a solar developer for future use or by installations behind the meter which means the electricity is created on site.

R. Moran explained that Poweroptions does quarterly research for the best prices and in RI they are able to offer a contract that includes a 35 % discount, an exit clause so long as two years notice is given, and several protective measures such as a parental guarantee , no penalties if a use change occurs during the contract and they monitor any changes in the law.

R. Moran stated that the company offers solar, decarbonization planning, energy efficiency and fleet planning. R. Moran stated that the initial contract is a long term one of 20 years in response to Councilor S. Arnold's question. R. Moran stated that the initial contract includes a projected 90% of anticipated energy use so that the town doesn't buy too many credits because a refund is not given. R. Moran stated that Poweroptions would work with the town to determine an appropriate amount of credits to purchase based on the town's use history and then work with the town to procure a provider for those solar credits. Councilor W. Worthy asked why the contract was so long. R. Moran stated that the longevity of the contract gives the solar provider financial security and in return the provider gives the town a 35% discount. R. Moran stated that the credits appear on the RI Energy bill. R. Moran stated that this particular solar provider with whom they have negotiated a 35% discount is scheduled to go on line in June . R. Moran stated that there is a set amount of kilowatts available and if the town does not go with this developer then other developers and procurement contracts would be researched. R. Moran stated that the credit from the solar provider would appear on the RI Energy bill and then the town would get a bill from the solar provider the following month. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, asked if the town would pay monthly or have to prepay for an entire year. R. Moran stated the town would pay monthly.

R. Moran confirmed that the credits would apply to the newly negotiated electric contract, which Poweroptions helped to negotiate, in response to Councilor S. Arnold's question. Councilor S. Arnold asked if a new solar farm would need to be built and if so what size would it be. R. Moran stated no, there is an existing solar farm being constructed that would be used.

Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that he would like A. Muccino to work with R. Moran on a proposal including a cost analysis for Council for the next agenda. R. Moran stated that it is a lengthy contract and it would be good to have a draft for the Council and the Solicitor to review as well as show good intentions to the solar provider. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the school had a similar situation and asked A. Muccino to check on it.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to authorize A. Muccino, Finance Director, to prepare a draft contract for the Council to review ; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

V. Resolutions- Discussion and/or Action

A. # 2023- 02 - Support of Legislation to Amend R.I.G.L. 44-7-28 Mobile or
Manufactured Homes

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council supported the Tax Collector’s letter of support regarding legislation proposed by neighboring communities and agreed to follow up with a Town Council resolution as follows which he read as follows:

**Resolution # 2023- 02 - Support of Legislation
to Amend R.I.G.L. 44-7-28 Mobile or Manufactured Homes**

WHEREAS; the current version of R.I.G.L. 44-7-28 Mobile or Manufactured Homes results in a tax on a mobile or manufactured home “following” the ownership. If an owner defaults on their taxes and sells the unit, the new owner becomes responsible for any taxes in arrears; and

WHEREAS; an amendment to the law would allow municipalities to treat Mobile or Manufactured Homes taxes as real estate taxes and allow for the Tax Sale process, for taxation in arrears, in accordance with Title 44, Chapter 9, Tax Sales; and

WHEREAS; the result could be the resolution of delinquent taxes owed to a municipality; and

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Honorable Town Council hereby requests its legislative delegation to propose an amendment to add section c. to Rhode Island General Law § 44-7-28 to read as follows:

§ 44-7-28. Gloucester, Coventry and Burrillville tax lien on mobile or manufactured home in the town.

(c) The taxes may be collected and the lien may be enforced in the same manner in which taxes are collected and the lien is enforced against real estate for the collection of real estate taxes by municipalities in accordance with Title 44, Chapter 9, TAX SALES, with no additional fees, charges, assessments or penalties other than those provided for in Chapter 9 of Title 44.

AND FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to Gloucester’s Senator and Representatives for their support;

William A. Worthy, Jr.
Town Council President

Attest:
Jean M. Fecteau, CMC
Town Clerk

Adopted this 2nd day of March, 2023

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. #2023-03 - Support of Housing Development & Land Use
Councilor W. Worthy stated that the League of Cities and Towns is requesting the support of their members with a resolution as follows which he read as follows:

The State of Rhode Island
Town of Glocester
Resolution # 2023-03
In Support of Housing Development & Land Use

WHEREAS, The Town of Glocester recognizes that housing is a priority at all levels of government in Rhode Island and that rural communities face particular challenges especially as to infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Glocester acknowledges the need for the development of responsible affordable housing opportunities for all by collaboration with other municipal leaders and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Glocester supports that zoning and land use should remain a local decision; and

WHEREAS, as members of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, Glocester supported the establishment of both the Land-Use and Low- and Moderate-Income Housing study commissions to identify ways to help cities and towns meet their obligations under the Low- and Moderate-Income Housing Act to ensure that at least 10% of their housing stock qualifies as affordable; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that there have been challenges in implementing the changes approved last legislative session regarding housing development and land use;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Glocester Town Council hereby strongly encourages the state to collaborate with cities and towns in promoting responsible housing construction and rehabilitation while being mindful of the particular issues faced by rural communities in meeting the minimum housing requirement and to work towards removing housing barriers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that to accomplish responsible housing goals, we request the following:

- A clear menu of innovative solutions and funding opportunities from the state that can be implemented during the winter season.
- Increased funding for infrastructure improvements and remediation, outside of federal aid opportunities.
- To preserve and promote quality of life, based on the different communities' needs and respect the local voice in land use decisions.
- Funding the implementation of programs and systems to support process improvements.
- Increased technical support and adequate funding to departments and agencies that facilitate housing growth, including the Division of Statewide Planning and Department of Housing.
- Workforce development to expand the pool of municipal planners and building and zoning officials.
- Adequate state and education aid to support the needs of residents.
- A commitment to expanding reliable transportation opportunities for residents, extending the urban service boundary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Commissions ensure that they will listen to municipal leaders regarding these meaningful policy changes so they can be implemented and enforced at the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gloucester Town Council of the Town of Gloucester supports the housing and land use needs identified by the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns referenced above; and

Passed as a resolution of the Gloucester Town Council this 2nd day of March, 2023.

Councilor William A. Worthy, Jr. President
Councilor Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President
Councilor Jonathan E. Burlingame
Councilor Cheryl A. Greathouse
Councilor Walter M. O. Steere

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of February 16, 2023

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of February 16, 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments - Terms to Run Concurrent with the Town Council- Discussion and/or Action

a. Recreation Commission- Discussion and/or Action

Position #4 - two year term to expire 12/2024

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair does not have a recommendation at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to Position #4, Recreation Commission for a Two year term to expire 1/2024; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Planning Board - Discussion and/or Action

Position #6, One unexpired 5-year term to expire 3/31/2023

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair is requesting Council appoint Michael Fournier, effective March 18th, 2023.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Michael Fournier to Position #6, Planning Board, for a term to expire 3/31/28; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

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

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has a rough draft of an ordinance regulating the land use for the retail sale of cannabis. Councilor W. Worthy asked if at this time are there any portions of

the draft Council would like to discuss; change; delete; or add. Councilor W. Worthy asked if Council would like to have more time to review and make suggestions.

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that a first time offense should be a warning and that vaping should not be included as he feels it would be difficult to identify and therefore enforce. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that this ordinance is for land use and that Councilor J. Burlingame's comments are directed towards public use which may be more appropriate at the public hearing to be held on March 16, 2023. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, suggested Council complete the public use hearing and proposed use ordinance before the land use proposed ordinance. J. Fecteau suggested that Councilors may want to schedule a special meeting of a workshop to discuss drafting a land use ordinance.

No Action Taken

VIII. New Business

A. Gloucester Land Trust Grant Agreement- Discussion and/or Action

1. Authorization for signature - Grant between R.I. D.E.M. and Gloucester Land Trust - FHWA Recreational Trails Grant Program Funds. For the period of 8/1/2022 to 8/1/2024
Hawkins Pond & Steere Hill Farm Pavilions
#23-90-21

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Land Trust has requested Council sign the R.I.D.E.M. Grant Agreement for Grant #23-90-21. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the original agreement was signed in October 2022 and this is an additional document that serves as restatement of agreement and this is the first amendment.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Grant Agreement between R.I. D.E.M. and Gloucester Land Trust - FHWA Recreational Trails Grant Program Funds #23-90-21, for the Hawkins Pond & Steere Hill Farm Pavilions. This document is for the period 8/1/2022 to 8/1/2024 and serves as a restatement of agreement and first amendment of agreement originally authorized by the Town Council on October 6, 2022; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Public Works
 1. Ratification of Public Works appointment - Driver/Laborer
1 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item was added to the last Town Council agenda for discussion only. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council discussed moving forward with the recommendation made by the DPW Director. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council now needs to ratify the recent hire and he read the recommendation as follows:

February 28, 2023

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director

RE: Driver/Laborer I Position Request

The Driver Laborer I position was advertised in the Bargain Buyer and on the Town website in December 2022. We received 4 applications and interviewed all 4 applicants. One of the applicants, Nicolas Pasquerillo of 83 Echo Rd, Chepachet was hired effective February 20, 2023 at the rate of \$26.43/hour per the NAGE Union Contract.

In July a current DPW employee is retiring. This will leave an opening for another Driver Laborer in the department. Lately positions are hard to fill with qualified people. I am requesting permission to consider one of the other 3 applications received for the Driver/Laborer I position that will become vacant in July.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Trembl
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to RATIFY the appointment of Nicolas Pasquerillo to the position of DPW Driver/Laborer 1 at the hourly rate of \$ \$26.43. Said appointment is subject to Nage union contract and is effective February 20, 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Authorization to consider appointments from eligible list as needed - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that as noted above in the DPW Director's memo, the Director is seeking authorization to use an applicant from this last round of interviews for a potential vacancy later this year.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the DPW Director to utilize qualified candidates from the latest round of interviews to fill potential vacancies should they occur

in 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Police Department
 - 1. Dispatch Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the following request from the Chief of Police which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Town Council Members
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: February, 24, 2023
Subject: Police Department Part-Time Dispatcher Appointment

Dear Council Members,

I would respectfully request to make the following employment appointment to the Gloucester Police Department.

Appoint Eric McLaughlin of North Smithfield, Rhode Island to a permanent part-time dispatcher position with the Gloucester Police Department at a training rate of \$16.00 per hour starting the week of Sunday February 26, 2023. Once Eric McLaughlin satisfactorily completes training, his salary will increase to \$19.00 per hour.

He must complete a criminal history and police background investigation as condition of his employment. This part-time position fills a 16 to 24 hour void in the full time dispatcher schedule. There will be no fringe benefits with this position.

Mr. McLaughlin is a Chepachet Fire Department volunteer first responder and has previous police and fire dispatch experience.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete
Chief of Police
(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Eric McLaughlin to the position of permanent part-time dispatcher with the Gloucester Police Department effective the week of Sunday February 26, 2023. Said position to be paid at a training rate of \$16.00 per hour to increase to \$19.00 per hour upon completion of training, and is to include no fringe benefits. Condition of employment would include criminal history and police background investigation; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Holiday Observations

1. Memorial Day Parade

a. Oversight & Planning - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: R. Shields, Recreation Director stated that he would plan the Memorial Day parade this year and he hopes that the Recreation Commission may choose to take this parade on as one of their activities. R. Shields explained that he has done some research into different groups to participate in the parade but he needs to know the time and the budget. R. Shields stated that the parade has usually started later than the stated start time due to having to wait for the Ponaganset Middle School and Ponaganset High School Bands to arrive from Foster after performing in Foster's parade. R. Shields stated he would reach out to the bus companies. Councilor W. Worthy asked if a motion was appropriate to make authorizing R. Shields to handle the parade before any decisions are made. D. Igliazzi Town Solicitor, stated a motion was appropriate.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to appoint R. Shields to oversee the Memorial Day parade for 2023; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere suggested the start time be 10:30 AM. Councilor Steere brought up the following points: that the previous organizer, Gloucester Light Infantry , received \$1000 from the Town towards the parade in past years; that paying for buses is new and that hiring outside entities has not been done for this parade in the past.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the Gloucester Light Infantry had their own budget for the parade to which they added the \$1000 received from the town. R. Shields stated that the Gloucester Light Infantry used about one third of the \$1000 for the parade.

J. Fecteau stated that she was told the other expenses for the Gloucester Light Infantry, relating to the parade, were for the advertising and the wreaths that are laid at various memorials along the parade route. J. Fecteau stated that the Gloucester Light Infantry would buy the materials and then make the wreaths. T. Sanzi, resident and Gloucester Light Infantry member, stated that due to decreasing numbers in members they could not continue to oversee the parade. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that we should keep the parade simple and local and that the Council pay for busing this year. R. Shields stated that this is a tradition that should continue. Councilor W. Steere stated this tradition needs to continue to honor the veterans.

Councilor W. Worthy asked A. Muccino about finances. A. Muccino stated that he was informed

that four buses are needed and that the buses are required to start and return to the high school. A. Muccino stated that the Region dropped this expense as a line item a few years ago . J. Fecteau suggested that a motion include a “not to exceed amount” as time is a concern. R. Shields stated that he feels \$2000 to \$2500 would be sufficient.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to allocate an amount not to exceed \$2500 from the Town Council Contingency Fund for use towards the Gloucester Memorial Day Parade ; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: R. Shields received confirmation from Council as to a 10:30 AM start time. Councilor W. Worthy thanked R. Shields.

2. 4th of July Celebrations

a. Approval of Dates- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has indicated the meeting dates are to be as follows: Fireworks are Scheduled for Saturday, July 1st with a rain date of Friday, July 7th for either of the nights the display will be a 9 PM Music will be from 6 – 9 PM.

The Parade to be scheduled for Tuesday, July 4th.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that the plans as proposed are standard to what has been done in the past.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPROVE the 4th of July 2023 celebration dates as follows:

Fireworks to be held at Gloucester Memorial Park on July 1st at 9:00 p.m. with a rain date of July 7th, live music to be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Parade to be scheduled for Tuesday, July 4th, at 4:00 p.m.

Event plans to be approved by police and fire; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

D. ARPA Funds

1. Review and/or changes to allocated funds – Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: A. Muccino, stated that he has five items he would like to recommend the Council de-obligate funds for items that were previously allocated to ARPA funds. A. Muccino stated that the five items he was recommending for de-obligation are :

Fiber optic cable: \$100,000;

Grant program for non profits: \$40,000;

Dam projects: \$50,000 only and to keep the other \$50,000 for a possible application;

Fire Department mobile repeaters, \$190,983;

Program Administration, \$50,000

A. Muccino stated that he would like the Council to formally allocate ARPA funds for the Sansoucy project.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to approve \$250,000.00 for the Sansoucy appraisal from ARPA funds; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Approval of additional allocations- Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated that he would recommend that the fire department request for mobile repeaters be de-obligated because of the set aside for the new cell tower in the amount of \$150,000.00 at the police station.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to de-obligate \$190,983.00, Project # 17, Fire Department mobile repeaters; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked A. Muccino if he had heard from fire departments regarding this item. A. Muccino stated that he has not heard from the fire departments about this item in quite some time and that there was to be a needs assessment done. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that before this money is de-obligated that the fire department should be contacted to get a status check as to whether or not they have done the needs assessment. Councilor Steere stated, if needed, we can take this action at a later meeting. Councilor S. Arnold stated he agrees that further discussion is needed.

Councilor S. Arnold rescinded his motion

Councilor W. Steere rescinded his second.

Discussion: G. Mosca, EMA Director, requested the Council not de-obligate the \$50,000 for the dams but to keep the \$100,000 of ARPA allocation in place. G. Mosca explained that there are two dams that this money was allocated to. G. Mosca stated that one is a private individual and the

other is an association. G. Mosca stated that based on recent conversations, only one of these dams may be fixed. G. Mosca is waiting for responses back from the property owners.

G. Mosca stated that the Hawkins Dam was not included in the original conversation regarding ARPA funds as it was not determined to be unsafe by DEM. G. Mosca stated that the Hawkins Dam has now been declared high hazard and unsafe in this past month so he is asking for the funds not to be de-obligated. Councilor Arnold stated he believed there was a “play book” on Hawkins Dam maintenance and questioned if that was followed. Councilor S. Arnold asked how the notice of violation could be removed which is on the Hawkins Dam. G. Mosca explained the process but stated that he does not know how quickly it could be removed.

Councilor S. Arnold asked about the money set aside for the fiberoptic cable. A. Muccino stated that this project would connect all town buildings with internet. A. Muccino stated that he has spoken with the Chief and that this project would be nice to do but there are other priorities.

Councilor W. Steere asked where the de-obligated funds would be allocated. A. Muccino stated that one item is for the Sansoucy contract and that others could be used for capital improvements and/ or one time items in the upcoming budget. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the Council should know where the money will be allocated and asked for a list at the next meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated it would be useful in making decisions to de-obligate funds if he knew where the money was going. Councilor Burlingame agreed and would also like to see what the other options are.

Councilor S. Arnold asked if funds are de-obligated from a project if the funds could be re allocated back to that project in the future. A. Muccino stated the funds could be reallocated to a de-obligated project.

A. Muccino asked if the Council would consider de-obligating the program administration ARPA funds as it is not needed. A. Muccino stated that he is able to manage the program administration of ARPA funds so the allocated money could be de-obligated.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to remove Program Administration in the amount of \$50,000 ; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Steere asked for confirmation that no requests had been made under the grant program. A, Muccino so confirmed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to de-obligate grant programs for non profit entities in the amount of \$40,000 of ARPA funds; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame .

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Town wide Litter Abatement

1. Recreation Dept. – Seasonal employees - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Arnold stated he requested this item because litter is an ongoing problem in town. Councilor S. Arnold suggested some sort of litter control by seasonal employees.

J. Fecteau stated that in the past there was a litter crew run by the Department of Public Works (DPW).

R. Shields stated that one problem in hiring seasonal employees is that most are under 16 years and are not licensed to drive. R. Shields suggested a proposal of having several seasonal employees rotate in their schedules to pick up trash this year. G. Treml, DPW Director stated his concern of having kids on the side of the busy roads and the hazards they would face.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that he wants to continue brainstorming ideas to help with the litter problem and asked Mr. Shields to come back in a few meetings with ideas for our Solicitor to review for liability. Chief Delprete stated some of his concerns with kids walking on the busy roads in town even with a driver in a van.

No action taken by Council

2. Additional solutions to eliminate trash- Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated that he put this item on the agenda because trash is an ongoing problem in town. Councilor S. Arnold stated that state law requires trash to be secured when being transported. Councilor S. Arnold asked Chief Delprete if he could have an officer be at the transfer station for two hours at a time on four weekend days spread out over a month to remind people to secure their trash in accord with state law. Chief Delprete stated that it would be difficult to post an officer at the transfer station but he could have officers do spot checks.

Councilor W. Worthy suggested that a robo call be made to alert residents that there may be a police presence at the transfer station to help address the litter issue. Councilor S. Arnold offered to work with J. Fecteau on preparing a statement.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to put out a robo call that there will be spot checks of police at the transfer stations for residents to properly secure their trash; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Speed Limit through Chepachet Village – Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold requested this item about the speed through Main Street despite the police doing a great job. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that the state should be asked about reducing the speed through town.

Chief Delprete stated that a request to the state had been made in the past and the state said no. Chief Delprete stated that the rotary is doing its job of slowing vehicles down and there have been very few minor accidents. Chief Delprete stated he would ask the state again to reduce the speed limit.

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that she has found a grant through RI Commerce related to Main Streets. K. Scott stated that grant applications are being accepted through the end of March. K. Scott stated that she invited a traffic safety person from RI Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to come and assess the situation on Main Street and see if there are any solutions. K. Scott stated that depending upon the findings and possible solutions that she could submit a grant application. Council members thanked K. Scott. Councilor S. Arnold stated that K. Scott could bring the information back to Council.

No Action taken

G. Review of Community Solar Program with Power Options- Discussion and/or Action
Already completed

H. Authorization for Signature:

1. RIDEM Recreation Development Grant, Final Reimbursement Request -
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy 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: February 27, 2023

Re: RIDEM Recreation Development Grant, Final Reimbursement Request

I have completed the necessary paperwork to request Final Reimbursement in the amount of **\$190,807.71** for the Town of Gloucester's Recreation Development Grant. This grant funded the construction of the playground, the basketball court and the walkway and signage to the Village. This amount will make the full reimbursement for this grant \$400,0000.

Signature from the Town Council President is required on this request.

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the R.I.D.E.M. Recreation Development Grant Final Reimbursement Request in the amount of \$190,807.71 for the Town of Gloucester's Recreation Development Grant for Gloucester Memorial Park; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated Council has received the following correspondence which he described as follows:

1. Notice from D.E.M. regarding freshwater wetlands disturbance for a solar project by application made by The Dioceses of Rhode Island, dba Episcopal Dioceses of Rhode Island, Dennis Burton, CFO, of 872 Reservoir Road, Gloucester, RI, requesting permission to alter freshwater wetlands in the Town of Gloucester.
The proposed project is located approximately 600 feet west of Reservoir Road, near Utility Pole No. 74, and approximately 1500 feet southwest of the intersection of Reservoir Road and Joslin Lane.
Plans are located in the Clerk's Office and public comments are welcome.
2. Correspondence from the Harmony Fire Chief regarding occupancy calculations for indoor/outdoor alcohol service areas.
3. Resolution from the Exeter/West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee in support of full funding categorical transportation aid.

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that Council should support the Exeter/West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee and stated that the Region does a resolution. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Council could also do a resolution. J. Fecteau asked if Council wanted a resolution on this matter and Council agreed.

4. FERC notice regarding a dam project on the Blackstone River.

5. Correspondence from the Director of Keep Blackstone Valley Beautiful regarding litter programs.

6. Request for a rededication of Leja Field.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere requested this item be placed on the next agenda.

7. Invitation to the Newport St. Patricks Day parade.

8. Correspondence from Bill Brown, Gloucester Historical Cemeteries Committee, discussing the committee's work and the future of the committee.

J. Fecteau stated that the Ponaganset High School wrestling team has won the state championship and her office would prepare Council citations. Council agreed, Councilor S. Arnold stated that the wrestling team is nationally ranked. Councilor W. Steere stated that the coaches have developed a fantastic wrestling program.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department Heads wished to speak and if so to please come to the podium and speak into the microphone.

1. Councilor W. Worthy asked G. Treml, DPW Director, if there were any plans for dugouts at Leja Field, as he has been approached by several people offering materials and time to help with dugouts. G. Treml stated he could put together a plan and a list of materials for the next meeting. Councilor W. Steere suggested G. Treml contact baseball people to get an idea of what they want. A. Wachter, GLL, stated that she can get what regulations apply to dugouts but a concern is that the middle school also plays at the field so she would want to make sure whatever dugouts are built also fit all the teams that play at Leja Field. A. Wachter suggested contacting the athletic director. G. Treml stated he would contact the athletic director.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any representatives from our Boards wished to speak and to please come to the microphone.

None

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the town received a check in the amount of \$85,000 from RI Infrastructure Bank towards the Village of Chepachet and the grant programs obtained by the efforts of K. Scott, Town Planner. Councilor W. Worthy thanked K. Scott.

XII. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak.

None

Councilor W. Worthy stated Council now needs a motion to convene into executive session:

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council and R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(5) Land Acquisition - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council pertaining to land acquisition for municipal purposes; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold.

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to poll the Council

VOTE:

Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye
Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye
Councilor W. Steere- Aye
Councilor S. Arnold - Aye
Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Worthy stated that all would be allowed back in the room after executive session and requested a five minute break.

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilor W. Worthy asked that anyone waiting to come back into the room.

XIV. Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of Minutes - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to RECONVENE Open Session; DISCLOSE zero votes were taken in Closed Executive Session; and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to poll the Council

VOTE:

Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye
Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye
Councilor W. Steere- Aye
Councilor S. Arnold - Aye
Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 10:35 p.m.; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED