

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on October 4, 2018:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: George O. (Buster) Steere, Jr., President; Edward C. Burlingame, Vice-President; Walter M. O. Steere, III and Patricia Henry.

Member Absent: William E. Reichert

Also present: Jean M. Fecteau, Town Clerk; Susan Harris, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Kane, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Diane Brennan, Finance Director; Ken Johnson, Building/Zoning Official; Karen Scott, Town Planner; and Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

None.

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or action

A. Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 6, 2018; and September 20th, 2018 MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to APPROVE the Town Council meeting minutes of September 6th and September 20th, 2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Route 44 Access from Douglas Hook Road & Post Office access and egress - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has discussed this at previous meetings and the Police Chief has stated that he is willing to talk to DOT. Councilor G. Steere stated the Council members were to think about what they would ask the Chief to convey.

Discussion: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that he will advocate on behalf of the Council if they wish to have some of the parking spaces removed. Chief DelPrete further stated that he can speak to the engineer regarding restriping so people don't park in that section. Councilor G. Steere

asked if we could get them to restripe without coming out to do an evaluation and putting up signs. Councilor Henry asked if parking spaces would be taken by restriping. Chief DelPrete replied that it would discourage people from parking on the corners, however there are no signs so he cannot enforce it. Councilor G. Steere commented that we must be careful what we ask for because if they come out, we may get more than we bargained for.

Councilor Henry stated that she wants to go on record that she is not in favor of any of this, stating that we worked long and hard to get parking for the businesses in the Village. Councilor W. Steere stated that he feels that at Douglas Hook there is a view, and the only issue is further down at DePetrillo's, where the view is obstructed. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Chief has stated that there have not been many documented crashes there, which means something. Councilor G. Steere commented that it goes with having a driver's license; you have to deal with situations and take extra time while pulling out. Councilor G. Steere stated that he is concerned that if DOT comes out, we would have a dozen more signs on the sidewalk and lose some spaces. Councilor Burlingame stated that there has been no indication of any crashes, so he would let it go. Councilor W. Steere stated that if one spot was removed at the outlet near DePetrillo's, it would give more room on that end, but that would have to be the Traffic Commission's decision.

Councilor Burlingame stated that this was brought up to him by some residents and the Council has discussed it, but the Chief does not see a big problem so he would let it go. There was Council consensus to take this matter off the table.

NO ACTION

B. Boards & Commissions

1. Historic District Commission

a. Appointment- Discussion and/or action

1. One alternate - one year term to expire 11/2018

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received a recommendation from the Chair of the Historic District Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor to APPOINT Anthony DePetrillo to the Historic District Commission for a one year alternate position to expire 11/2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor Henry noted that Mr. DePetrillo has a history in building and will be a good addition to the Historic District Commission.

VII. New Business

A. Personnel

1. Police Department

a. Approval of Promotion Gloucester Police Department: Captain -
Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following a request from the Chief of Police:

To: The Honorable Town Council
From: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
Date: September 28, 2018
Ref: Captain Promotion

I respectfully request to promote Lieutenant Matthew Fague to the position of Captain on the Gloucester Department. Lieutenant Fague was appointed to the Gloucester Police on 2/13/1994 and over the past 24½ years he has worked in all functions and various supervisory capacity on the department. He further has the necessary operational experience, and knowledge needed for this position.

Lt. Fague was selected from three candidates after a promotional opportunity announcement for this non-union position and subsequent interviews by the Chief of Police and Personnel Director.

This Captain position will be outside the collective bargaining unit, but will continue to receive salary increases and fringe benefits in accordance with the IBPO 628 Collective Bargaining Agreement.

I request that this promotion become effective starting Sunday October 7th, 2018.
Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
(end of memo)

Discussion: None.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPROVE the promotion of Lieutenant Matthew Fague to the position of Captain on the Gloucester Police Department effective October 7, 2018. Said Captain position will be outside the collective bargaining unit but will continue to receive salary increases and fringe benefits in accordance with the IBPO 628 Collective Bargaining Agreement; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Finance Department

- a. Request for Leave (no salary): Senior Acct./Financial Analyst - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Finance Director:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Finance, H/R Director
Memo: Leave no pay status
Date: September 27, 2018

I am writing to inform you of a town employee in the finance office that will be out on sick leave for six weeks. The employee will exhaust all comp time, sick time, and vacation time.

This employee does not have enough time to cover the six week time period. I am asking for approval to allow a leave no pay status until the employee returns to work on a full time basis.

During a leave no pay status, it is the employee's responsibility to cover all co payment for benefits as if deductions were taken out of their paycheck.
(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that this is appropriate as it is consistent with the handbook. Councilor W. Steere clarified that this is after the employee has exhausted all other time.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to GRANT Leave No Pay status to Finance Department employee, Gloria Ayotte, effective date to be determined. Said status in effect until employee returns to work on a full time basis; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Appointment: Temp. Part time Employee - Discussion and/or action

Councilor G. Steere read the following request from the Finance Director:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Diane L. Brennan, Finance, H/R Director
Memo: Temporary Employee
Date: September 28, 2018

As a result of an absence of an employee in the finance office for a six week period, I am asking approval to hire Matt Bowker on a temporary basis to assist with the duties in the office.

Matt is a senior at Bryant University and has worked as a non paying intern for the finance office over the summer. He is available 2 days a week and would be a great help during this time period. I am recommending his hourly wage to be \$17 which is in line with the temporary job he is leaving at the region to come here. His skill set makes for an ease in training for the accounting activities in the office.

Please consider this request to recommend Matt for the interim period while I am down an employee.
(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Burlingame stated that this is very important because we are into the audit period and this individual has some experience and is working toward his degree at Bryant University.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to APPOINT Matt Bowker to the Finance Department to fill a temporary part time position at a wage of \$17 per hour, effective immediately until such time that the full-time employee returns; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor G. Steere stated that this is appropriate and noted that M. Bowker worked for nothing this summer as an intern and he did very well. Councilor Henry commented that it opens the door to the whole internship notion which could help us in future positions.

- B. Boards & Commissions
 - 1. Zoning Board - Discussion and/or action
 - a. Resignation - One unexpired 5-year term to expire 11/2021

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Council has received the resignation of Dan Morin from the Zoning Board, effective September 23, 2018.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ACCEPT the resignation of Dan Morin, with thanks for his service, from the Zoning Board of Review effective September 23, 2018; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Appointment - One unexpired 5-year term to expire 11/2021

Councilor G. Steere stated that the Chair has indicated that he has an interested candidate but would like more time for that candidate to respond due to personal issues. Councilor G. Steere noted that this person would be appointed to the Alternate #2 position and the Chair asked if the Council would move the Alternate #1, Joseph Trunzo, up to the regular member position. Councilor G. Steere stated that at the next meeting, the Alternate #2 could be moved up to Alternate #1, and the Council could appoint the new member as Alternate #2. Councilor W. Steere asked if the Council can do that based on the agenda we have here tonight. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Zoning Board typically moves their alternate members up to regular member, then a new member is appointed as alternate. Tim Kane, Town Solicitor, stated that the agenda gives sufficient notice.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to move Joe Trunzo from Zoning Board Alternate #1 to Member #3 for the unexpired 5-year term to expire 11/2021; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. DPW Salary Classification & Compensation Plan
Adoption and/or Discussion

Councilor G. Steere stated that at the last meeting there was Council consensus to hold this until we have a full Council.

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to TABLE DPW Salary Classification & Compensation Plan to October 18th, 2018; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Town Council Correspondence /Discussion

A. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from Cox Communications sharing a report by a professor from URI about Cox's positive economic impact on lives and businesses in the State of Rhode Island.

B. Councilor G. Steere stated that a letter was received from the city of East Providence regarding a Resolution supporting legislation to amend Title 44 Chapter 5 of the RI General Laws regarding municipal taxation of real estate. P. Henry asked if we could

get more information, possibly from the Assessor, and decide at the next meeting whether we want to support this.

- C. Councilor G. Steere stated that an invitation was received from Chris Stanley, representing the Vietnam Moving Wall, which will be on display day and night from November 1st through November 5th. Councilor Henry stated that she received a letter asking if the Council wanted to be in the ceremonial walk on the morning of November 1st. Councilor W. Steere noted he was a volunteer to assist during the event and that volunteers are still needed throughout the weekend for different things. Councilor W. Steere commented that this will be a historic event.
- D. Councilor W. Steere stated that over the past month, several people who contributed to the community have passed away, including Carl Buckley, who was a longtime proponent of Ponaganset athletics, and Ray Fogarty, former Town Moderator and State Representative.

Councilor Burlingame spoke about the accomplishments of Ray Fogarty.

Councilor W. Steere stated Carl was also involved with our Recreation Department and will be sorely missed.

Discussion: T. Kane stated he has read the resolution request of support from East Providence and stated he thinks Council should consider their support. T. Kane stated it was in regards to the appeal of tax values. There was discussion regarding the Resolution sent by the city of East Providence.

MOTION was made by Councilor Henry to put the Resolution entitled “City of East Providence Resolution No. 52, Resolution Requesting and Supporting Legislation to Amend Title 44, Chapter 5 of the Rhode Island General Laws Regarding Municipal Taxation of Real Estate, on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting for discussion; seconded by Councilor Burlingame.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion

- A. Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police, stated that the Department will be getting delivery of a new Animal Control truck this coming week. J. DelPrete spoke regarding plans for the Vietnam Moving Wall event. The Chief stated it is a major operation that has been in the planning stages for several months and will be a 24/7 event. Councilor G. Steere questioned if there will be a police detail around the clock. Chief DelPrete answered in the affirmative.

X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/Discussion
None.

XI. Open Forum

A. Al Cataldi, of Cooper Road, stated that he travels Cooper Road daily and expressed concern regarding the difficulty pulling out onto Route 44. A. Cataldi stated his opinion that we need a traffic light at that intersection and recommended that the Town Council request that DOT conduct a study. Councilor G. Steere agreed that location is a bad spot but disagreed about the light, and stated that perhaps we could have DOT look at the sight distance because it is a bad spot to pull out of. Chief DelPrete noted that there will be redesigning of the road with turning lanes, which will minimize the problem. Councilor Henry stated that the rotary was put in to eliminate the light because of the backup of the traffic, so if we put a light in there, we would have the backup issue again. A. Cataldi noted that some of the newer lights are motion activated and only work when there is a vehicle coming in. The Council thanked A. Cataldi for his comments.

B. Councilor G. Steere stated that the Gloucester Galleria went off without a hitch. Councilor G. Steere stated he has received feedback regarding what was and wasn't approved for the Gloucester Galleria. Councilor G. Steere stated that he was not present at the special meeting, but spoke to Councilor Henry and Councilor Burlingame afterward and also listened to the tape of the meeting. Councilor G. Steere stated that he thinks the minutes, which were approved, are lacking one thing that was allowed, which was discussed at the meeting (per the tape). Councilor G. Steere stated that there was a motion read by Tim Kane, followed by discussion that farm products would be fine, and that the Grange, which is an agricultural organization, would have a table promoting their Scarecrow Festival. Councilor G. Steere stated there was also discussion on a comedian. Councilor G. Steere stated that the part about farm products was not in the minutes. Councilor G. Steere stated that he did not dream that up and his daughter was allowed to sell her farm products there, stating that meat is a farm product governed by the United States Department of Agriculture. Councilor G. Steere stressed the word Agriculture. Councilor G. Steere asked the Councilors who were at that meeting to review the minutes that were approved because it is lacking that part and he does not want people pointing a finger at him saying that his daughter was allowed to do something that was not included in the motion.

Councilor W. Steere commented that this is a case of "no good deed goes unpunished", and the Council should have said no and saved everyone a lot of problems. Councilor W. Steere stated that he does not remember the Grange discussion, but recalls that after the motion was taken, the Council stated that they wanted to be sure that farm products were involved. Councilor Henry concurred,

stating that she amended the motion to add produce, jams, jellies, etc., using the broad category of farm products, but it did not make the minutes.

Councilor G. Steere reiterated it is not in the minutes but it is on the tape. Councilor G. Steere stated he wanted to “get it off his chest”.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the whole thing is over now and it won't happen again as we are not zoned for that use. Councilor W. Steere noted that the Clerk's office and Public Safety went through a lot and the Council went out of their way to find a way for the event to happen. Councilor W. Steere stated that he has heard feedback that the Council was part of the problem. Councilor W. Steere stated that in his ten (10) years on the Council, he has never seen a Council go to that extent to help somebody. Councilor Henry agreed with Councilor W. Steere's comments, noting the workload it put the Clerk's office and the Police Department through, as well as a 2½ hour special meeting. Councilor Henry stated Council bent over backwards to give them an exception to the zoning for that use. Councilor Henry stated that she wished to go on record to say that a business owner told her that somebody came into their business stating that if the business owner supports Pat Henry, they would no longer shop at the business because she gave them a hard time. Councilor Henry stated that the Council bent over backwards to make that event happen. Councilor Henry stated we did a lot and wished them well event though we could have shut them down right off the bat. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Clerk's office went through a lot of grief due to people who did not keep their promises to get things done. Councilor W. Steere thanked the Clerk's office for everything they did.

Councilor Burlingame stated that he went to the event and did not get a warm reception when he walked in front of the sponsors, some outright nasty. Councilor Burlingame stated that there is an element of unfairness, but that's what you get when you're on the Council. Councilor Burlingame stated we bent over backwards to help them out. Councilor Burlingame commented that “you live and learn” and maybe the next Council will deal with it. Councilor Henry stated she was questioned why Council didn't allow the use of pavilion, when in fact Council had told the promoters they could use that venue if they would scale down the event. Councilor G. Steere thanked the Clerks office for all their work. Councilor W. Steere stated that when the Council does something, it is important that they be crystal clear in their motions, all agreed.

- XII. MOTION was made by Councilor W . Steere to seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to: R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5) Litigation: Atherton vs. Gloucester Tax Assessor, PC 2016-5471; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XIII. Convene Open Session

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere ADJOURN Closed Executive Session and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Henry.

Discussion: None.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Burlingame disclosed that one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session.

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Burlingame to ADJOURN at 8:27 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Henry.

VOTE: AYES- G. Steere, Burlingame, W. Steere and Henry
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED