

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on April 1, 2021:

Councilor Forgue stated that pursuant to current R.I. Executive Orders executed by Governor Gina Raimondo this meeting is being teleconferenced via Zoom.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Members present: Julian (Jay) Forgue, President; William E. Reichert Vice President; Walter M.O. Steere III; Stephen Arnold; and William Worthy , Jr.

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Matthew Floor, IT Director; Ken Johnson, Bldg/Zoning Official; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; Gary Treml, Director of Public Works, Karen Scott, Town Planner and Robert Shields, Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Councilor Worthy went on to explain the procedure for the zoom meeting, how participants can be recognized when requesting to speak, and further stated that participants expressing inappropriate behavior or being disruptive may be removed from the meeting by the Council.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Forgue stated that those wishing to speak on agenda items should raise their hand and Christine Mathieu will recognize those that wish to speak.

None

V. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of March 18, 2021

B. Pole Grant-Saw Mill Road

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of March 18, 2021; and to GRANT the Pole Grant for Saw Mill Road installation of new pole #110-50; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Parade Committee
 1. Alternate position #1

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to Table the appointment to Alternate position #1, Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Alternate position # 2

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Alternate position #2, Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Positions # 3,4,6,7,8,and 9

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Reichert to TABLE the appointments to Position #3; #4; #6; #7; #8; and #9, on the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Councilor Forgue asked the Finance Director is there were any recommendations. A. Muccino stated they were still working on this.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the appointment to Position #3 on the Tax Assessor's Board of Assessment Review; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- B. Consideration of the current procedure/requirements for residents to qualify for annual Elderly Tax Exemptions- Discussion and/or action

A. Muccino stated he met with Councilor S. Arnold ,the Tax Assessor's Clerk, and the Tax Collector. A. Muccino stated all concerns were acknowledged and they would like to continue to work on this issue. A. Muccino stated they will continue to work on a solution and report back to Council. Councilor Forgue questioned if how other cities and towns handle this was reviewed. Finance Director, Muccino stated that they did but the major driver here is that Gloucester's exemption is substantial and, therefore, we want our seniors to check in every year. A. Muccino stated perhaps there is another way to get that attestation other than in person and they will continue to work on that. Councilor W. Reichert stated we tried to resolve this last year. Councilor W. Reichert suggest someone could go to their home for notary if they can't get out. Councilor W. Reichert stated he feels we are putting a lot of stress on people and he would like to see a way to make it less intrusive for our seniors. Councilor S. Arnold stated they had a fantastic meeting and they all share the same concern as Councilor W. Reichert. Councilor S. Arnold stated there is a four and a half month process so there is a large window of opportunity to satisfy the requirements. Councilor S. Arnold stated there is also a home visit available if there is a hardship. Councilor S.

Arnold stated there is opportunity to apply as well as opportunity to take advantage. Councilor S. Arnold stated we need to continue to define this, as the concerns are real, remembering it is a two way street.

Councilor W. Reichert referred to the past when the Assessor, at that time, made this her job to seek out the small number of seniors that needed help. Councilor W. Reichert expressed his concerns that this process was just too difficult for some of our seniors. Councilor W. Reichert stated he would like to see this process fixed. Councilor Forgue stated hopefully we can correct some of those things.

C. Discussion and/or action on the authorization of funding porta johns in the Village Councilor Forgue stated he brought up this item to determine if the Town could find a way to pay for a porta john in the village. Councilor Forgue asked the Finance Director if he has received prices from Charlie Wilson for a porta john in the village. A. Muccino stated he spoke with Mr. Wilson, regarding the duration, which would be through December 2021. A. Muccino stated he has received two quotes so far. A. Muccino recommended funding for \$2,500 to cover monthly cost, cleaning, and other incidentals.

Discussion followed on the Covid-19 restrictions for porta johns. A. Muccino stated the restrictions in place state wide have been rolled back.

Councilor S. Arnold stated he is struggling with opening a “can of worms” for others to come forward with a request even though he believes there is a need in the village. Councilor S. Arnold questioned if the GBA or EDC could help fund this item or if there is any other creative funding ideas. Councilor W. Reichert agreed that other businesses are waiting to request the same consideration. Councilor Forgue stated he believes our business pay a lot in taxes and we should provide something for all the foot traffic. Councilor Forgue stated he believes, in this area, it can be justified as it is a problem. Councilor Forgue stated there have been people stating people are relieving themselves on their property. Councilor Forgue also stated it is too far for most people to walk from the village to the pavilion and he recommends Council vote. Councilor W. Steere stated Council should not be picking one entity over another. Councilor W. Steere stated we have been trying to help our businesses and questioned how many businesses are asking for this item. Charlie Wilson stated there are 14 businesses in the village that are “trying to do this”. C. Wilson referenced the congestion in town and how hard it is for some people to walk to the pavilion. Councilor Forgue questioned how many times he has received complaints of people relieving themselves outside. C. Wilson stated every month. Councilor W. Steere questioned how many times the police have been notified. C. Wilson stated he has not bothered the Chief with this issue as they have more important things to worry about. Councilor W. Steere questioned the businesses chipping in to which C. Wilson stated only 4 businesses were able to contribute. Councilor W. Steere stated he is sympathetic to the situation but agreed with Councilor W. Reichert and Councilor S. Arnold that others will want the same thing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the funding of porta johns in the village for the remainder of 2020-2021 budget period, from the Town Council Contingency Fund, not to exceed \$625 to be; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. New Business

A. RIDEM Recreation and Development Grant Update for Gloucester Memorial Park Presentation of Conceptual Master Plan. Discussion and/or action

Karen Scott, Town Planner, explained the presentation of the Conceptual Master Plan for Gloucester Memorial Park that has been in the works since 2018 - 2019. K. Scott explained the elements included haven't changed since approved by the Recreation Commission and the Town Council. K. Scott stated the elements include an all ages playground, basketball courts, a new bocci court, and a pedestrian only path connecting the Chepachet Village to GMP through the Sherman Lane easement. K. Scott stated she refers to this project as Phase 1 with the hope that in the future a Phase 2 can be considered. K. Scott thanked Gary Treml, DPW; Bob Shields, Recreation Dept.; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director for all their work getting to this point in the grant application. K. Scott stated she would especially like to thank all the neighbors, particularly, the residents of the easement on Sherman Lane, for helping make that portion of the grant application a reality. K. Scott also thanked Councilor Forgue for his help.

K. Scott introduced Randy Collins from Beta Group Inc. and stated Mr. Collins will walk us through the site plan. Mr. Collins showed slides of the Phase I Conceptual Plan and the portion of the plan delineating the easement proposed to be used to enter the park. Mr. Collins reviewed the slides and the concepts behind the plans. Mr. Collins explained and showed a version of the wayfinding signage proposed along the Sherman Lane path.

Councilor S. Arnold discussed the strong support for a possible skate park. Councilor S. Arnold asked if Mr. Collins could visualize space to include a skate park either now or during a Phase 2. K. Scott stated Beta's scope has been to work with Phase 1, as submitted. K. Scott stated we are working with a previously disturbed area and to go back for more wetlands permitting would be difficult. K. Scott we are maintaining the foot print of developed areas.

R. Shields stated he has recommended locations to Councilors and has worked with a ramp company obtaining designs of a skate park. R. Shields stated he has sent this information to his liaison.

Mark Rechter, Putnam Pike resident, stated (audio difficulty)

Lauren Niedel Gresh, resident, questioned if the walking path will allowable for bicycles. K. Scott stated she would have to discuss with neighbors but also stated this path is not meant to be a primary access point but a basic connection to the village.

Councilor Forgue thanked everyone who has taken part in this project.

K. Scott stated from here we go to preliminary engineering. K. Scott stated there are some drainage issues we need to engineer to ensure proper drainage. K. Scott stated from there we will go to bid specifications and back to Council.

Mark Rechter, 1218 Putnam Pike, stated his concern with his property line and the drainage. (audio difficulty) Councilor Forgue asked the Rechter's to get a copy of the plan and speak with K. Scott.

B. Covid-19 Updates/Discussions/Actions

1. EMA Update - Discussion and/or Action

G. Mosca, EMA Director, updated the Council on final clinics in the next few weeks. G. Mosca discussed some of the proposals for regional clinics, which are subject to change. G. Mosca will update when statewide decisions are made. G. Mosca discussed social gatherings and their effect. G. Mosca stated we will have to submit a plan to the state outlining our holiday celebrations for their approval.

G. Mosca recommended the continuation of the Emergency Declaration to May 6th, 2021
Councilor Forgue thanked G. Mosca for the hard work on the well run clinics. G. Mosca thanked all the volunteers that made it work.

2. Emergency Declaration Status, Extension, and/or Amendments

(Currently in place until **April 1, 2021**) - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to Extend the Emergency Declaration to May 6th, 2021;
seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Gloucester Code of Ordinance

1. 1st Reading - Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 350,
Attachment 2, Table of Dimensional Regulations- Discussion and/or action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has an ordinance amendment being considered and at this time Council is holding a first reading. Councilor W. Steere questioned if Council has received feedback from the Planning Board. The Clerk stated that typically we receive a Planning Board opinion at the Public Hearing. D. Iglizzi explained the process as it pertains to state law and the time lines we must use with these applications. D. Iglizzi also stated there has to be a first reading before it is sent to Planning Board.

D. Iglizzi explained the proposed amendment to conform with first reading requirement:

D. Iglizzi stated this amendment is to address the lot coverage of legal non conforming lots of record, many of which have been brought to the Zoning Board by residents for variances from the existing chart because they are constrained by the current lot coverage and set back requirements. Mr. Iglizzi explained the proposal would be as follows:

Conforming Lots of Record

R-2 -2 Acre

A-3 -3 Acre

A-4 -4 Acre

Set Back Regulations

75' Front, 50' sides & 100' Rear
lot coverage - unrestricted
must meet set back requirements

Non Conforming Lots

1 acre = 43,560 sq. ft

3/4 acre= 32,670 sq. ft

Set Backs no less than

30' Front, 10' Sides & 10' Rear
10% lot coverage= 4,356 sq. ft.
10% lot coverage= 3,267 sq. ft.
must meet set back requirements

Non Conforming Lots

1/2 acre= 21,780 sq. ft

1/4 acre = 10,890 sq. ft or less

Set backs no less than

30' Front, 10' Sides & 10' Rear
15% lot coverage= 3,267 sq. ft.
15% lot coverage= 1,633 sq. ft.
must meet set back requirements

The Solicitor stated, if approved, this would allow a reasonable sized home on these legal non conforming lots, (set backs still need to be met).

Councilor W. Reichert questioned when there ever was a problem as he doesn't feel this has ever happened in over twenty years on the Council. K. Johnson, Building Official, stated that the ordinance wasn't enforced in the past.

Discussion followed on Zoning Ordinance history. D. Igliazzi stated he didn't have that information but he stated there have been four or five recent variances to the Zoning Board from the existing chart. Councilor W. Reichert and Councilor Forgue asked why the ordinance is being enforced. K. Johnson stated residents were questioning large homes on small lots. Councilor W. Steere questioned if the uplands were factored in. K. Johnson stated that would still be a DEM determination and if, for example, if half of a quarter acre lot is wet you probably won't be able to build. Councilor S. Arnold questioned if that calculation was based on footprint to which K. Johnson stated in the affirmative.

Councilor Forgue stated the Public Hearing can be set for May 6th if Council & Solicitor agree.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to SET a Town Council Public Hearing for May 6th, 2021 for the consideration of the proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to Chapter 350, Attachment 2, Table of Dimensional Regulations; said amendment represents changes to sections relating to A4, A3, and R2 Zoning relating to lot coverage; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Iglizzi stated a statutory requirement is that this proposal will go to the Planning Board within 45 days and questioned if this proposal was automatically sent to Planning. The Clerk answered in the affirmative.

D. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointment- Discussion and/or Action

- a. Economic Development Commission- Ad Hoc Non voting member
Term to expire 1/1/2023

Councilor Forgue stated the Chair has recommended Bernadette MacArthur.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Bernadette MacArthur to the Economic Development Commission- Ad Hoc member; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Discussion and/or action- Relating to Council support of Resolution re: Gun Control Legislation

Councilor Forgue stated that Councilor Worthy asked for discussion on a resolution, forwarded to us from Burrillville, to determine if Council wants to adopt a similar resolution. Councilor Worthy stated he brought this up after receiving a request from Burrillville for support of a resolution. Councilor Worthy stated Gloucester had previously taken a similar action two years ago. Councilor Worthy stated he would like to have the Gloucester Council follow with the same resolution Burrillville recently adopted. Councilor Forgue stated this would be on the next agenda.

Lauren Niedel Gresh, resident, asked to confirm there would be no discussion this evening but there would be at the next meeting. Councilor Forgue stated that is correct.

Councilor W. Steere stated we have already gone through this and he does not agree with everything Burrillville stated. Councilor W. Steere stated he is concerned with possible unfunded mandates if all the legislation is passed.

L. Gresh questioned which section of the resolution Councilor W. Steere was concerned with because she would research that section.

L. Gresh stated she does not think Gloucester should just follow in the footsteps of Burrillville every time they want to do something.

Councilor Forgue stated this will be an agenda item for next meeting where discussion can occur.

F. Authorization for Town Council President signature:

1. Authorization allowing the Finance Director, on behalf of the Town of Gloucester, to collect unclaimed property in the custody of the State General Treasurer's Office- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated the Finance Director has submitted the following request;

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Memo: Town Unclaimed Property

The Finance Department has identified \$1,928.59 in unclaimed property held by the RI General Treasurer. This amount is the sum total of a number of credit balances, warrants, and/or miscellaneous outstanding checks, that, for one reason or another, were never received by the Town. Attached to this memo is the "business authorization", that, once signed by the Council President, would enable me, as the Finance Director, to collect this amount of behalf of the Town.

Respectfully submitted,
Adam R. Muccino
(end of memo)

Discussion:

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Business Authorization form to allow the Finance Director to file for unclaimed property held by the RI General Treasurer; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Gloucester Town Budget 2021-2022

1. Amendments to Budget: Town Council - Discussion and/or action

Councilor Forgue stated this is not a public hearing on the budget and that this item is for the Town Council to add items to the budget before public hearing. Councilor Forgue further stated if anyone wants to be heard they can do so at the public hearing on April 22th. Councilor Forgue stated a few of the items that were discussed were another DPW worker, increasing that line item to 2 new employees and the cost of a porta john for the village area.

Councilor S. Arnold stated he voted in favor the porta john to the end of this fiscal year but felt he may vote differently on a line item for 2021-2022.

Councilor W. Steere stated Council should look at funding the paving account to avoid another bond going forward. Councilor W. Steere stated he believes there is sufficient funding in the fund balance to fund road work. Councilor W. Steere suggested a five year plan similar to the funding we provided local schools over a set period. G. Treml stated the Budget Board suggested \$285,000 which isn't a lot of money for paving in this day and age. Councilor W. Reichert questioned the fund balance. A. Muccino stated it was at approximately 21%. Councilor W. Reichert stated we are way over what we should have in fund balance, which is 12%. Councilor Forgue stated he believed we should double the amount the Budget Board is suggesting and further that the key was to maintain what we have for roads. Councilor S. Arnold questioned if the road budget was increased and the additional employee (to two) wasn't added would that leave you short for road work. G. Treml stated two would be good but otherwise we would just have to bring in contractors. G. Treml explained those funds aren't just for the paving aspect, it also is used for the repairs prior to paving. A. Muccino stated we can take funds from the fund balance. Councilor W. Steere questioned if A. Muccino and G. Treml should sit down and go over funding. The consensus was to consider a change at Public Hearing after the Finance Director reviews. Councilor W. Steere again stated we need to develop a future plan.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AMEND the proposed budget with Town Council additions as follows: Include line item for 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$1,300 for a porta john for July - December 2021; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION FAILED

Councilor W. Steere referred back to the Fund Balance. Councilor W. Steere thought Council should consider putting money aside from the school pro-ration. Councilor W. Steere stated there is money there now but he felt more should be added so that when the swing comes back to us the taxpayers won't be hit too hard. Councilor W. Steere stated we could discuss at the Public Hearing.

2. Accept 2021-2022 Budget for Public Hearing- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council needs to accept the 2021-2022 budget to send to public hearing. Councilor Forgue stated the budget accepted tonight can not be changed until the public hearing. Councilor Forgue also stated that copies will be available in the Finance Office on Monday and the document will be placed on the Town's website.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT the 2021-2022 budget, as amended, for Public Hearing on April 22, 2021; seconded by

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Economic Development Commission- Discussion and/or action

1. Discussion, Consideration and/or Approval of a website development vendor

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a request from the Chair of the Economic Development Commission. A. Sarji, Chair of the Economic Development Commission volunteered to give an overview in lieu of her correspondence being read. A. Sarji explained the process and due diligence the Commission followed when considering and interviewing candidates. A. Sarji stated the Commission was down to two candidates, TownWeb and Midfield Technologies. A. Sarji stated Council has received the two “side by side” comparisons and they are now turning over their recommendation to Council.

Discussion: Councilor W. Reichert commented that he is 100% against the EDC using taxpayer dollars to pay a company in Wisconsin when there is a local vendor. Councilor Forgue asked about the difference in price. A. Sarji explained the price quotes from each vendor. After discussion it was noted there was a slight difference for the first year. Councilor Forgue agreed we should stay local. Councilor S. Arnold stated he does not know the local person but he is familiar with their work and stated he would recommend the local vendor. Councilor W. Steere thanked A. Sarji for the detailed scorecard. Councilor W. Steere stated it appears the websites were fairly similar as well as the capabilities. Councilor W. Steere stated he did not see the need for 24/7 availability. Councilor W. Steere agreed with the other Council members.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to utilize Midfield Technologies for the Economic Development website; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

I. Human Resources Director/Consultant - Consideration and/or Authorization of contract extension - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated the Council has received a request from the Finance Director:

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Memo: HR Consultant Agreement Extension
Date: 03/31/2021

The Finance Department has received an extension to Don Zimmerman's consulting agreement. The terms of the original agreement indicated that the agreement would end approximately November 2020. Clearly, we are well past this mark and the modification to the agreement changes the language to extend the terms of the agreement indefinitely. As was the case previously, either Party can terminate the agreement by providing at least 2 weeks written notice to the other Party

I have been impressed with Don's approach to this engagement and his attention to detail. His experience in both municipal government and private industry is of great benefit to the Town.

I recommend that the Council vote to authorize President Forgue to sign the attached contract agreement extension, to continue the Town's engagement with HR Consultant Don Zimmerman. Respectfully submitted,
Adam R. Muccino
(end of memo)

Discussion:

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the contract extension for the current HR Consultant, Don Zimmerman; said contract extension continues all terms of the original contract of October 6, 2020 and has been reviewed by the Town Solicitor; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

J. RFP 2018-02 Audit- Bid Extension - Discussion and/or Action
Council has rec'd a memo regarding this item:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Memo: RFP 2018-02 Audit Bid Extension
Date: 03/31/2021

The Finance Department has received information from the RI Office of the Auditor General that given the delays and extra challenges due to the response to the Corona Virus pandemic, the RIOAG

may allow a one-year extension of the current terms of an expiring agreement with the Town's auditing firm. The Finance Office was considering recommending this course of action to the Town Council which is why this item is on the agenda.

However, after review of this option with the Town Solicitor, the Town's Purchasing Policy and the current agreement with auditors Baxter, Dansereau and Associates, this is not the appropriate option for the Town. The Finance Office will conduct an RFP in accordance with Town Purchasing Policy and the obtaining necessary/approvals from the RI Office of the Auditor General.

I recommend that the Council remove this item from the table.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam R. Muccino

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to REMOVE RFP 2018-02 Audit Bid Extension from the TABLE; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

K. Personnel Appointment

1. Police Department - Animal Control

a. Assistant Animal Control Officer - Discussion and/or Action

Council has received a request from Chief DelPrete:

TO: Honorable Town Council

FROM: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police

DATE: March 25, 2021

RE: Personnel Appointment-Asst. ACO Officer

I would respectfully request to appoint Jennifer Furtado of Cranston to an Assistant Animal Control position. This part-time appointment will become effective Sunday April 4, 2021 at a training hourly rate of \$14.42 /hour. This hourly rate will change to \$16.30 per hour after successfully completing training and the National Animal Control Officers basic certification. The Assistant ACO will work up to eight hours a week and fill in for the Animal Control Officer on vacation, manager the shelter, and respond to calls as needed.

This position is needed to fill the recent Assistant ACO resignation of Andrea Smith effective on April 1st, 2021. Four candidates were interviewed for this position with Jennifer Furtado having previous experience and training with the Smithfield Animal Control Shelter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ACCEPT the resignation of Andrea Smith from the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer, effective April 1st, 2021 and APPOINT Jennifer Furtado to the position of Assistant Animal Control Officer; said position is a part-time appointment for up to eight hours a week at a training hourly rate of \$14.42 per hour. This hourly rate will change to \$16.30 per hour after successful completion of training and the National Animal Control Officers basic certification. effective Sunday April 4, 2021; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

L. Authorization of Expenditure from Town Council Contingency Fund

1. Earth Day - Clean Up advertisement - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated as in the past, the Clerk has received a request from the promoters of the Earth Day Celebration Clean Up to place their advertisement. Councilor Forgue stated that typically, the Town has also expended the funds to pay for a thank you ad following the event, therefore, the Clerk is asking for authorization to expend the funds from the Town Council Contingency Fund.

Discussion: none

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the expenditure, not to exceed \$500 from the Town Council Contingency, to run advertisements for the Earth Day Celebration Clean Up, organized by Town residents; seconded by Councilor W. Reichert

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

VIII. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Forgue stated that Council has rec'd the resignation of Michael Robinson from the Historic District Commission. The Clerk will add that to next agenda.
 2. Councilor W. Steere brought up a reminder sent out to Boards and Commissions by the Town Clerk asking all to remember adhering to open meetings laws. Councilor W. Steere stated he feels that everyone (including Council) also needs to be mindful of relationships when voting, particularly when funds are involved. Councilor W. Steere suggested obtaining rulings from the Ethics Commission when in doubt. Atty. Iglizzi gave a brief explanation of the Ethics Commission rule essence regarding votes that could also benefit family members, business entities, extended family members. Atty. Iglizzi stated we can always get advise and/or advisory opinions free of charge. Councilor Forgue asked our boards and commissions to take note of that advise.
- IX. Department Head Reports/Discussion
1. Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director, updated the Council on Phase II opening of the Center. M. Bouvier gave positive feedback.
- X. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion - None
- XI. Open Forum - None
1. Councilor W. Steere stated Council may want to consider a Resolution, at a future meeting, recognizing Ponaganset's Women State Basketball Champions. It was agreed to put on the agenda for May, 2021.
 2. Councilor Worthy discussed a fire lane from Edgewood Road to Saw Mill Road. W. Worthy stated it appears someone has blocked what is known as Lowes Lane. W. Worthy asked Gary Treml to check on that location. G. Treml stated he is not aware of the dirt pile but if that road is a private road there isn't anything he can do. Councilor Worthy asked K. Johnson, Bldg. Official to give his opinion on the status of that area. K. Johnson stated that portion connecting Edgewood Road to Saw Mill is an easement and not maintained by the Town as it is private property. K. Johnson stated the property owners would have to cooperate with each other. Councilor Worthy will notify the Harmony Fire Chief.
- XII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:
- A. R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5.(a)(5) Sessions pertaining to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public. Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
 - B. R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action
 1. Draft Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Gloucester and National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) re: Department of Public Works Employees

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to Convene to Executive pursuant to A. R.I.G.L. § 42-46-5.(a)(5) Sessions pertaining to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public. Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council, and B. R.I.G.L. § 42-

46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation; Discussion by Council, Vote or Other Action 1. Draft Collective Bargaining Agreement between Town of Glocester and National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) re: Department of Public Works Employees; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Councilor Forgue explained that all participants will now be placed in a waiting room until Executive Session is adjourned.

After Executive Session:

Councilor Forgue asked all participants be allowed back in meeting room.

XIII. Re-Convene Open Session

Disclosure of votes take in Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONVENE Open Session; **DISCLOSE** three (3) votes taken in Closed Session; and **SEAL** the minutes of Closed Session per R.I.G.L. 42-46-5; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

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

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Discussion: D. Igliozzi, Town Solicitor, stated for the record one vote taken in Executive Session was to appoint a negotiating team, Atty. Jeffrey Kasle; Finance Director, Adam Muccino; and Councilor J. Forgue; for the collective bargaining agreement between the Dept of Public Works Employees & NAGE.

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Forgue to ADJOURN at 11:03 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Forgue requested the Clerk poll the council:

Councilor Arnold - Aye

Councilor Worthy -Aye

Councilor Steere -Aye

Councilor Reichert -Aye

Councilor Forgue-Aye

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY