

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on November 4, 2021:

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

III. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Forgue stated that anyone wishing to speak on any agenda items may speak during this open forum.

Councilor Forgue stated that as a procedural note when any members of the audience wish to speak, including department heads, we ask that when you are invited up to the podium you state your name for the record. Councilor Forgue stated that we do not need you to state your address, unless it is relevant to your discussion, but we ask for your name for those people that request an audio file of the meeting.

1. J. Ryan stated he was speaking in regards item 2 of Section A- Chapter 221. J. Ryan stated his thanks to the Council on behalf of himself and the neighbors for the Council's consideration of removing the exemption as to hunting on this property.

V. Resolution - # 2021-06 Legislative Support Regarding the Extension of Covid - 19 State of R.I. Emergency Orders- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Councilor S. Arnold has asked for Council's support of the following Resolution which Councilor Arnold read as follows:

State of Rhode Island
Town of Gloucester

**RESOLUTION # 2021-06
LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT REGARDING THE EXTENSION OF
COVID - 19 STATE OF R.I. EMERGENCY ORDERS**

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws, including but not limited to, Title 30, Chapter 15 allows the Governor to enact, extend and/or terminate executive orders relating to disaster emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the Governor issued Executive Order # 21-103 which extended existing Executive Orders #21-86 (as to the declaration of emergency for new COVID - 19 variants); and, #21-87 (as to requiring masks in school), to remain in full force and effect until November 13, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws Title 30, Chapter 15, Section 9(b) allows the General Assembly to terminate, by concurrent resolution, a state of disaster emergency order; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Island General Laws Title 30, Chapter 15, Section 19 states that “This chapter shall be construed liberally, but those charged with the exercise or enforcement of its great powers are directed to act with restraint and moderation and with strict regard to the rights of the people” ; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island General Assembly limited the Governor’s ability to further extend the original COVID -19 emergency executive order and any other emergency executive order as part of the State of Rhode Island Fiscal 2022 budget; and

WHEREAS, the people of Rhode Island have been provided with sufficient information from multiple channels and multiple levels of government since March of 2020 with respect to the COVID -19 virus and related variants; and

WHEREAS, the people of Rhode Island have overwhelmingly responded to the call of Federal and State officials to receive a COVID -19 vaccine;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Glocester calls on the Governor to indicate specific metrics at which point there will be no need to extend further the additional emergency declarations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Glocester calls on the General Assembly to reconvene before the end of November, 2021, to take responsibility for their constitutional and statutory authority, as is their duty, given their oath of office, to the people of the State of Rhode Island and to examine the need for such or any emergency extensions.

Julian P. Forgue,
Town Council President

Adopted this 4th day of November, 2021

seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

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

NAYS- 0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearings - Discussion and/or Action

A. Code of Ordinance Proposed Amendments

1. Chapter 350, Zoning Article I, Section 350-4 Compliance with use, dimension and density regulations required- New Section D. - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the first reading of this proposed amendment was held on September 16th, 2021. Councilor Forgue stated that this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on October 11th, 18th, & 25th and the proposed amendment was forwarded to the Planning Board for an advisory opinion per Chapter 350-7 of the Code of Ordinance.

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Councilor Forgue asked if anyone wished to speak.

None

Discussion: Councilor Forgue stated that the Clerk has informed the Council that she has not received the advisory opinion from the Planning Board at this time, therefore, Council could consider continuing the Public Hearing to the November 18th Council meeting after anyone present who wishes to speak has done so.

Councilor Forgue asked if anyone wished to speak.

None

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to CONTINUE the Public Hearing for the Code of Ordinance proposed amendment, Chapter 350, Zoning Article I, Section 350-4 Compliance with use, dimension and density regulations required - New Section D., to the Town Council meeting of November 18, 2021; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Chapter 221, Parks and Recreation Areas, Article I. Section 221-5. Firearms - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated the first reading of this proposed amendment was held on October 7, 2021. Councilor Forgue stated that this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on October 18, 2021.

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing Open.

Councilor Forgue stated that this amendment would eliminate the use of firearms or bows and arrows in the town recreational area, Assessors Plat 12, Lots 71A, 92 and 93, known as "Glocester Veterans Memorial Recreation Area."

Councilor Forgue asked if anyone wished to speak

Discussion:

Councilor Worthy asked if this amendment would prevent a group like the Boy Scouts from using the property with bows and arrows. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that it would . D. Iglizzi stated that if Council wanted to add any language as an exception that he would advise the Council continue the hearing .

Councilor Forgue DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADOPT the proposed amendment to the Glocester Code of Ordinance Chapter 221, Parks and Recreation Areas, Article I. Section 221-5. Firearms; said amendment eliminates the use of firearms or bows and arrows on the Town of Glocester's property, Assessors Plat 12, Lots 71A, 92, and 93 also known as Glocester Veterans Memorial Recreation Area; said amendment effective upon passage; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of October 21, 2021 & Special meeting of October 26, 2021

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADOPT the Town Council regular meeting minutes of October 21, 2021 and the Town Council Special meeting minutes of October 26, 2021; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Recreation Commission
 - 1. Position # 2 - one unexpired term

Councilor Forgue stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPOINT Jamie LaRose to the Recreation Commission, Position #2; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion:

Councilor Steere stated that he thought Council was holding off on making any recommendations to fill the vacancies of the Recreation Commission until after the charge of the Recreation Commission and the Recreation Director's role have been clarified. Councilor Steere added that he had no issue with the recommendation but that it was a procedural matter. Councilor Worthy stated that by making this recommendation that a quorum could then be reached in the Recreation Commission. Councilor Steere stated that the appointment was okay as long as the appointee understood that the roles were being clarified. R. Shields, Recreation Director, stated that by appointing this person a quorum could be reached and the Commission could continue to act as they have done. R. Shields suggested that the appointment could possibly be temporary until such time as the clarifications have been made. Councilor Worthy stated that the appointee is coming back to the commission knowing that the roles are being clarified and she has the ability to remain on afterwards or resign. J. Fecteau stated that D. Zimmerman, Human Resource, has been working on the clarification of the roles. J. Fecteau stated by appointing this individual the Commission would have a quorum to meet should the HR Director need their input.

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 1- one unexpired term

Councilor Forgue stated that there is no recommendation at this time and that unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #1; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Position # 5 - one unexpired term

Councilor Forgue stated that there is no recommendation at this time and that unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Recreation Commission, Position #5; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS- 0
MOTION PASSED

b. Economic Development Commission

1. Ad Hoc Non Voting Member- term to expire 12/31/2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Ad Hoc Non Voting Member position; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Steere, Reichert and Forgue
NAYS- 0
MOTION PASSED

c. Budget Board

1. Position # 7- 3 year term to expire 1/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and that unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #7; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Steere, Reichert and Forgue
NAYS- 0
MOTION PASSED

d. Historic District Commission

1. Alternate term to expire 11/2022

Councilor Forgue stated that there is no recommendation at this time and that unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to TABLE the appointment to the Alternate position of the HDC for a term to expire 11/2022; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Steere, Reichert and Forgue
NAYS- 0
MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Resignation - Discussion and/or Action

- a. Conservation Commission- Position #7 -unexpired term to end 1/30/2022

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received the resignation of Matt Varatta from the Conservation Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Matt Varatta from the Conservation Commission; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

- a. Conservation Commission- Position #7 - term to expire 1/30/22

Councilor Forgue stated that the Chair has recommended the Alternate member, Jonathan Smith, be moved up to fill position #7. Councilor Forgue stated that Council can consider that recommendation.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPOINT Jonathan Smith to the Conservation Commission Position #7; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Police Department: K-9 Pilot Program - Discussion and/or Action

1. Authorization: Create and pilot a three year K-9 Program

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a request from the Chief which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Town Council
FROM: Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
DATE: October 29, 2021
RE: Police K-9 Pilot Program

I am requesting consent from the Gloucester Town Council to create and pilot a three year K-9 Program within the Gloucester Police. I would like to apply \$20,000 in Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds to cover the majority of the expenses over this three year period.

The expenses would include the following:

*The purchase of a fully trained K-9 Labrador in narcotics and tracking \$7,000

- *Medical expenses to include regular veterinarian visits and supplies
- *Food
- *Initial Training overtime for the K-9 handler and K-9 for national certification
- *Overtime in-service training expenses for the K-9 handler to maintain certification

The Warwick Police will be donating a \$3,000 value K-9 police cruiser kennel to the Gloucester Police. The kennel is compatible with a current Gloucester Police front line vehicle and will be installed as soon as possible.

The police department training budget and special patrol line-item budget may be used for additional training and call outs when needed. I will discuss these issues with the Budget Board when planning for the FY-2022/2023 budget year.

The implementation of a K-9 program will enhance the already excellent police community relations with the public and citizens of Gloucester. The K-9 will further be readily available for tracking missing persons/juveniles and narcotics investigations as they arise.

I would like to thank the Town Council for their support and consideration in this program.

Respectfully,

Joseph DelPrete
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Forgue stated the K-9 would be a good addition to the force. Councilor Forgue spoke on how remarkable K-9 dogs are. Chief Delprete gave a brief history of the K-9 dog, Tate, and how the Town of Gloucester was offered this opportunity. Chief Delprete stated that Tate is fully trained and that now training with the Gloucester handler is needed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the creation of a three year K-9 Pilot Program within the Gloucester Police Department; the majority of funding for said program to be funded with Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Award Bid: IFB 2021-05 Land Evidence/Records Management System - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a recommendation from the Board of Contracts and Purchases which Councilor Arnold read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Re: IFB 2021-05 Land Evidence Management System
Date: 11/04/2021

On October 14th the Board of Contracts and Purchases met to open bids associated with IFB 2021- 05 Land Evidence Management System. Three bids were received from:

- Avenu Insights & Analytics
- Info Quick Solutions
- New Vision

At the 10/14/21 meeting the Board of Contracts voted to refer the bids to the Town Clerk's Office in concert with the Finance Office to review the bids and return at the later date with a recommendation to the Board of Contracts and Purchases. The Board of Contracts and Purchases met again on 11/04/2021 at 11:00 am in Town Council Chambers. At that meeting, the Board voted to recommend to the Town Council that the Council award a five-year contract to Avenu Insights and Analytics for a Base Price of \$60,000 (\$1,000 / month for (60) months) with additional "ala-carte" services available to be ordered at the Town's discretion, priced per the fee table on page 23 of Avenu's bid response.

The Council should note that among the (3) bids received, on the base pricing, Avenu was the low bidder. Additionally, the Town Clerk has confirmed that the services Avenu has outlined in their response to the invitation for bid meets the needs of the Town and the Clerk's Office specifically.

Lastly, The Clerk's Office is presently using Avenu Insights and Analytics for their Land Evidence recording.

Thank you,
Adam R. Muccino
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AWARD IFB 2021-05 to Avenu Insights and Analytics for a Base Price of \$60,000 (\$1,000 / month for (60) months) with additional “ala-carte” services available to be ordered at the Town’s discretion, priced per the fee table on page 23 of Avenu’s bid response; said contract is for a 5 year period to begin when a contract signed and approved by both parties is completed and on file in the office of the Town Clerk; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- D. Personnel: Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Appointment - Tax Assessor’s Office - Clerk I

Councilor Forgue stated that the Council has received the following recommendation from the acting HR Director which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Members of the Gloucester Town Council
FROM: Don Zimmerman
SUBJECT: Recommendation to fill vacant Tax Assessor’s Clerk Position
DATE: November 2, 2021

The recent promotion of Jessica Parker to the position of Tax Assessor created a vacancy for clerk in the Tax Assessor's Office. The position is budgeted, and it was posted internally in accordance with LIUNA collective bargaining agreement as well as posted on the website Indeed and on the Town of Gloucester website.

Approximately 150 applications were received and four candidates were selected for interviews based on how closely their backgrounds and experience matched those of the job. One of the four has accepted another position and withdrew her candidacy. Interviews were conducted with the remaining three candidates by Ms. Parker, Finance Director Adam Muccino and myself on October 29, 2020.

As a result of those interviews and favorable reference checks, we are recommending the appointment of Michelle Mariani of Woonsocket to the position of Clerk I in the Assessor's Office effective November 15, 2021, pending successful completion of a criminal background check and documentation of her eligibility to work in the United States. Ms. Mariani has prior experience in the Tax Assessor's Office in North Smithfield as well as in Woonsocket.

In this role, Ms. Mariani will earn \$22.59 per hour in the Clerk I classification and will be part of the LUINA clerical bargaining unit.
(End of memo)

Discussion: none

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to APPOINT Michelle Mariani to the position of Clerk I in the Tax Assessor's Office, effective November 15, 2021, pending successful completion of a criminal background check and documentation of appointees eligibility to work in the United States. Benefits for said appointment to include salary at a rate of \$22.59 per hour and inclusion in the LUINA clerical bargaining unit; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Authorization: Application for Grant: Rhode Island Commerce - Site Readiness Program - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Karen Scott, Town Planner, has submitted the following request which Councilor Arnold read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: October 28, 2021
Re: Rhode Island Commerce- Site Readiness Program

In December 2020, the Town completed the Chepachet Village Revitalization Plan.

This planning process built on all previous planning efforts and developed a targeted revitalization plan for the Village to create a five-year implementation and investment plan.

One of major obstacles identified to business expansion and development in general in the Plan is the lack of public water and sewer infrastructure. Engineering and installing individual private wells and wastewater treatment systems on an individual parcel basis is often cost prohibitive for small business expansion or for new businesses to locate in the Village. Reuse of underutilized spaces, such as second floors, can also be hindered by water and septic requirements, including for housing. The recommendations in the Plan include exploring opportunities for package and shared wastewater systems as well as shared public wells and to educate property owners of different possibilities available and opportunities to join with neighboring property owners who are also looking to upgrade existing water wells and wastewater systems.

Commerce Rhode Island has recently introduced a Site Readiness Program. The program is focused on providing financial assistance to support initiatives that will catalyze economic growth and development, including site specific planning and predevelopment activities. The proposals can include property surveys, master planning, engineering surveys and environmental studies.

I am seeking approval to apply for a site readiness grant for \$125,000 for engineering related to drinking water wells and wastewater systems. I would like to work with the Economic Development Commission to identify properties with these types of infrastructure challenges and work with interested property owners to look for and engineer package or shared systems that would enable existing business retention and expansion and new business development.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated that the grant focus is on business and inquired as to the benefit to the residents who live in town. K. Scott stated that the focus is business but that due to the nature of the area , where residents and businesses live in such close proximity on such small lots, that both businesses and residences would be improved . Councilor Steere wants to make sure that the town is making good use of the money and if there will be any money left to spread around and complete. K. Scott stated that the priority is on the engineering to determine what would need to be done but that any information received would not go stale. K. Scott stated that she would be asking for volunteers to participate.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Planner to apply for a Rhode Island Commerce, Site Readiness grant for \$125,000 for potential engineering related to drinking water wells and wastewater systems in Chepachet Village; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Steere, Reichert and Forgue
 NAYS- 0
MOTION PASSED

F. American Rescue Act Funds: Determine selection and prioritization process - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that Council has received a memo from the Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: October 28, 2021
Re: American Rescue Act Funds

Back in September, staff provided the Town Council with an overview of the American Rescue Act, the amount of funds the Town is expected to receive (\$2,545,368.48), the objectives for funding, allowable uses of the funds and a timeline for project completion. As part of the allocation of these funds to specific projects, local governments were urged to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments. To that end, we posted survey on the homepage of the Town's website as a way to gather public input and an ad was placed in the Bargain Buyer to publicize the survey. The survey went live on September 20, 2021 and was closed on October 15, 2021. Attached please find a summary of the survey results.

Additionally, staff has been collaborating on a list of potential projects with cost estimates that meet the funding objectives and eligibility criteria. I have attached that list for Town Council consideration.

I am requesting that the Town Council have a discussion on how they would like to select and prioritize projects so that staff may begin the planning and implementation of projects using the American Rescue Plan funds.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Arnold commented on the number of people who participated in the surveys and asked how the council might prioritize the suggestions. K. Scott stated that there were various ways to prioritize including the Council forming a subcommittee, or staff. Councilor Forgue asked K. Scott's opinion as to the usefulness of a subcommittee. K Scott stated that she would be happy to prescreen projects with a subcommittee and report back to the Council. J. Fecteau stated that the department heads have already acted as a so called "subcommittee" and had items that they would recommend because the departments haven't been able to budget for the expenses. Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that the requests from the department heads were practical and suggested starting with those requests. Councilor Forgue stated his preference for a subcommittee to prioritize the entire list and bring back to the Council. Councilor Steere stated that he has no problem with a subcommittee but that he feels the department heads know what is needed. Councilor Steere stated that the items requested by the department heads are practical and not frivolous. J. Fecteau suggested the Council could look at the department head list and determine a plan. Councilor Arnold suggested making each department head request a separate item on an upcoming agenda for the Council to discuss and decide on an action. J. Fecteau suggested that the department's Council liaison could reach out to the department head and discuss. J. Fecteau added that the Council liaison could then contact the clerk to request the item be placed on the agenda. K. Scott stated that she could separate the requests into the different departments and

send the list to the appropriate liaison. Councilor Reichert brought up the question/ possibility of the center of town in Glocester connecting to the Burrillville water system. There was discussion on the use of a RI Commerce grant being used to determine the feasibility of utilities in the village district.

No action taken by Council

G. Town Council Application: Exception to the Ordinance Regulating the Issuance of Building Permits

1. Acknowledge receipt of application & Refer to Planning Board for Advisory Opinion - Discussion and/or Action

- a. Applicant: Julian P. Forgue
- Owner: Paul & Anayte Vargas
- Property Location: Off Huntinghouse Road, a.k.a. AP. 15, Lot 24

Vice President Councilor Reichert took over this portion of the meeting as Councilor Forgue has chosen to recuse himself from discussion and a vote.

Councilor W. Reichert stated that Council has received an application pursuant to the Town's Building Permit Ordinance. Councilor Reichert stated that the owner seeks to build on an existing right of way. Councilor Reichert stated that the Planning Office has deemed the application complete and now it is being presented to Council. Councilor Reichert stated that at this point, it needs to be forwarded to the Planning Board for an advisory opinion to the Council.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to ACCEPT for consideration and FORWARD the application for the Exception to the Ordinance for the Issuance of Building Permits, Application # 2021-01, for Applicant: Julian P. Forgue; Owner: Paul & Anayte Vargas; for property located off Huntinghouse Road, known as AP 15, Lot 24, to the Planning Board for an advisory opinion; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Set Public Hearing date - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Council will hold a public hearing regarding the above application. Councilor Reichert stated that given the advertising time frame, notification of abutters, and Planning Board consideration the earliest we can hold the hearing would be December.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to set a Public Hearing date of December 2nd 2021 for consideration of the Application for the Exception to the Ordinance for the Issuance of Building Permits for Application # 2021-01 for Applicant: Julian P. Forgue; Owner: Paul & Anayte Vargas;

for property located off Huntinghouse Road, known as AP 15, Lot 24; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

H. Authorization: Bid Process to obtain quotes for assessment of Factory Mutual Property, located on Reynolds Road - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Forgue stated that the Finance Director has submitted a request to Council which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Gloucester Town Council, Jay Forgue, President
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Re: FM Global PILOT Agreement
Date: 11/03/2021

Given the pending expiration of the PILOT agreement with FM Global a critical piece of information that we have not obtained is an appraisal of the FM Global property on Reynolds Road. Obtaining an appraisal would require an RFP as I suspect that an appraisal of this nature, given the complexity and specific use of the FM Global facility, will exceed \$5,000.

With the Council's permission I will prepare the bid documents and post the RFP in accordance with State and Town purchasing policy.

An appraisal of the FM Global facility on Reynolds Road will serve the Town should a discussion commence with FM Global on a subsequent PILOT or Tax Stabilization agreement or if an agreement is not reached this information will be instrumental to the Tax Assessor in assigning a value to the FM Global property in order to generate a tax bill.

Thank you,
Adam R. Muccino
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor Reichert stated that FM Global has paid more than their fair share of taxes but that an appraisal may result in a substantial amount of money to the town. A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated the town needs to work the process in order not to be behind.

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to AUTHORIZE the Finance Director to begin the process to seek bids via RFP for the assessment of FM Global property; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

I. Candlelight Shopping 2021- Discussion and/or Action

Charlie Wilson stated that he and a committee are planning a full event for Candlelight Shopping. C. Wilson stated potential plans include a field map showing all business locations, the several parking locations he hopes to have available, signs to be used for parking and that 2 of the 3 police details have been sponsored already. C. Wilson is asking the Council to sponsor a police detail and to keep the Pavilion open for the bathroom facilities to be available to the public. Councilor Steere stated that the Council has sponsored a police detail for a night in the past. G. Treml, DPW director, stated that the water at the Pavilion is scheduled to be turned off soon so there won't be a way to clean the bathrooms in December. G. Treml asked if a porta john could be placed at the Pavilion.

Council reached a consensus to hear this matter at the next Council meeting on November 18, 2021.

No action taken by Council

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Councilor Forgue stated Council has received a memo from the Secretary of State regarding a cyber mapping program being instituted by her office, with grant funds, to increase security as it relates to voter records and elections.
2. Councilor Reichert brought up the subject of the proposed federal grant funding in Rhode Island for electric powered school buses. Councilor W. Reichert felt it would put local companies out of business.
3. Councilor Arnold stated that the School Committee, whom he feels has been doing a great job, have elected to leave the RI Association of School Committees, for what he feels are constitutional reasons, and he wanted to express his support for the School Committee's actions.
4. Councilor Arnold stated that Council has received a memo from the Gloucester Land Trust and read as follows:

Councilman,

On behalf of the GLT, I would like to express our appreciation for the cooperation, coordination, and focus on details that Finance Director Adam Muccino provided the GLT with while going through the IOB process for our most recent project at Steere Hill. Adam's guidance and attention to our needs made this somewhat complicated process, very easy for us. Working with Adam is a pleasure, and he has been a huge asset to the GLT.

The GLT intends to affirm the Town's recommendation on Tuesday evening, which will further improve land trust properties for the residents of Gloucester.

Respectfully,

Steven St. Pierre, Chair, Gloucester Land Trust

(End of memo)

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

1. A. Muccino stated that the grant money designated for the concrete pad for the Land Trust is currently tied up at the state level. A. Muccino stated that the bids received for sand will be opened at the Board of Contracts meeting on Nov. 12, 2021. Councilor W. Reichert advised A. Muccino to be sure to include Director Treml in the consideration to ensure the right sand is purchased.
2. G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that the town will hold several more COVID vaccination clinics for boosters and for 5-11 year olds. G. Mosca stated he will post the information onto the town's website and give the Clerk's office and Senior Center a phone number to give out to people who may not be able to register online.
3. J. Fecteau stated that the order for Christmas wreaths for the town hall and the street lamp posts will be submitted tomorrow.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

1. A. Sarje, EDC Chair, expressed her thanks to K. Scott for including the EDC in the RI Commerce grant. A. Sarje stated that this inclusion is a great example of what's possible when groups are partnered.
2. Councilor Worthy asked R. Shields about the ice rink for use this coming winter. R. Shields stated that he is hoping to address that topic in December.

XIII. Open Forum

None

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADJOURN at 9:05 P.M. seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED