

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on February 16, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

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

Member absent: Cheryl A. Greathouse

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; William Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor (Until 7:05 PM); David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, (arrived at 7:05 PM); Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Delprete, Gloucester Police; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Jane Steere, Tax Collector; Jessica Parker, Tax Assessor; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Ken Johnson, Building Official; Robert Shields , Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to move agenda item VIII -C to the next agenda item ; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

C. Pickle ball participants: Requests for striping, equipment, and or storage at GMP - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Paula Bissell is here to address the Council regarding pickle ball accommodations in the Town of Gloucester. P. Bissell gave a PowerPoint overview of pickle ball as to items such as participants, requirements for courts and supplies, costs for supplies, use in other towns, history, and potential growth.

W. Bernstein, Assistant Town Solicitor, stated that before any discussion occurred he wanted to inform Council that he is part of this pickle ball group so if there were any legal questions he would recuse himself.

Councilor W. Steere asked for an explanation as to what a backboard is for. P. Bissell explained it is a board a player uses to practice or play alone similar to a ping pong table with one side up.

Councilor S. Arnold asked if they had access to the nets. P. Bissell stated that is up to the Rec.

Director when they have access. Councilor S. Arnold asked about storage of the nets. (Unknown) made a comment that the nets were not being stored at GMP. P. Bissell said it would be great to have storage for the nets in order for the participants to have access.

The group was thanked for their input. No action taken by Council

RETURN TO REGULAR AGENDA

IV. Workshop with Budget Board - Budget FY 2023/24 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council typically meets with the Budget Board prior to the Budget Board's final work on their budget proposal. Councilor W. Worthy stated that it is a time for Council to express any areas of budget concern or goals so that the Budget Board is aware before hand what the Council would like the Board to consider when preparing the proposed budget.

Councilor W. Worthy asked A. Muccino, Finance Director, to please introduce the Budget Board members present for the record. A. Muccino introduced the members present as: K. Bonoyer, Chair; C. Barone, J. Desilets, M. McNamara, M. Morgan and H. Haczynski. A. Muccino thanked the Budget Board for their time and effort as it is a lot of work. A. Muccino stated that there quests have been consistent with what was approved in FY 23. Councilor W. Steere thanked the Budget Board for their time. Councilor W. Steere stated that his focus is on what the town really needs. Councilor Steere state we looking toward the future as to the nice to haves and pointed out that the budget was level funded last year so the town is trying to make up a year. Councilor S. Arnold also thanked the Budget Board and stated his appreciation for their efforts. Councilor S. Arnold stated similar focus as Councilor W. Steere in that the balance is on the need to have items like electricity and oil with expenses that could put off but may actually cost more if the town does, like paving. Councilor S. Arnold stated there are needs, wants, and nice to haves to consider in making the budget so prioritizing is necessary. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that paving needs to be kept up as otherwise the town may have to go out to bond which would be more expensive. A. Muccino stated that there was some paving done but not much as the budget was passed when it got too cold to pave. Councilor S. Arnold asked the Budget Board members for their input as to items that may have been taken off the first budget that was not passed. M. McNamara, member, stated that the police budget is a priority and that the Department Heads that have come before the Board have made the Board's lives easy. C. Barone, member, stated that all who have come before the Board have been well prepared. C. Barone stated her opinion that DPW trucks need to be replaced as they are rusty. Member M. Morgan asked for an explanation as to the two police cars that were part of the failed budget. A. Muccino stated that two police cars were purchased using ARPA funds. A. Muccino stated that there is time to consider the ARPA funds and perhaps re allocate money to other items. A. Muccino stated that the deadline to obligate ARPA money is December 31, 2024. Councilor J. Burlingame stated the budget looks like a flat one. A. Muccino stated that the budget is challenging as there are many concerns to balance such as inflation, payroll increases, contracts and the elementary school. A. Muccino stated that the elementary school has been level funded for the last three years using fund balance. A. Muccino stated that town is anticipating an increase in cost for the Region due to enrollment. Councilor W. Steere stated that

the town has money set aside that has been used so he hopes that the Council looks at a way to replenish that account. K. Bonoyer stated that there may be a way to level the up and down of cost to the town due to enrollment. J. Burlingame stated that state law dictates and in order to do this the state law would have to be changed. M. McNamara recommends that the Budget Board and the Council collaborate on communication regarding the Financial Town Referendum. Councilor S. Arnold and W. Steere both agreed. Councilor W. Worthy asked about snow removal. A. Muccino stated that the salt and sand in FY 23 budget was paid for by ARPA funds.

No action taken by Council

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there will be a five minute break before the start of regular business.

V. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of February 2, 2023

B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements- January 2023

C. Finance Director Report- January 2023

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of February 2, 2023; APPROVE the ABATEMENT to the 2022 Tax Roll in the amount of \$4,486.86; the ABATEMENT to the 2019 Tax Roll in the amount of \$224.84; NO ADDITIONS to the 2022 Tax Roll; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for January 2023; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

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

Police Department Civilian Employees - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to MOVE Item VII. A. Ratification of Agreement, Police Department Civilian Employees to after Item XV on agenda; seconded by Councilor S.

Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Boards and Commissions

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

a. Economic Development Commission

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has recommended two candidates that recently filled out talent bank applications.

1. Position # 3- two year term to expire 1/2025

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Anthony Angelone to Position #3, Economic Development Commission for a Two year term to expire 1/2025; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Melissa Wright to Position #6, Economic Development Commission, for a Two year term to expire 1/2025; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Recreation Commission

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

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

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

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

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

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has a draft ordinance regulating retail sales of cannabis. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has outlined that draft which he read as follows:

The basic language used by No. Smithfield was used to formulate the draft for Gloucester’s zoning chapter. There are only two zoning districts recommended in Gloucester: Industrial and B2 (Highway Commercial). Also, at first pass the ability to allow testing facilities was left out of land uses. I am obtaining information about these facilities and researching to find the financial benefit to the town. It appears these facilities are labs, similar to blood draw labs. No sales occur at these sites. I will forward pros and cons for Council’s consideration.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can review and send the clerk recommendations to incorporate into draft. Councilor W. Worthy stated that when all Councilors are comfortable with the document going forward we can set up a 1st reading and the process will continue going forward.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE to Item C. Code of Ordinance – Forming Cannabis Land Use Regulations and amendments to Code; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if a date certain was required in the motion. D. Iglizzi, Town solicitor stated that tabling was sufficient.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Worthy stated that because Council wanted to expedite an ordinance regulating public use, Under New Business is a first reading document for Public Use of Cannabis and penalties for violations of the proposed public use ordinance.

Discussion: None

D. Electric Rate Renewal- Discussion and/or Action

A. Muccino stated that the current PowerOptions contract for electricity expires at the end of the calendar year. A. Muccino stated that it is his recommendation that the Town lock into a two year contract as he is of the opinion that rates are at their lowest. A. Muccino stated that the current contract is lower than the proposed contract. A. Muccino stated the proposed contract is 5 cents

higher per kilowatt hour at 12 cents. A. Muccino stated that he feels the rates may increase , therefore, he recommends a lock in now. A. Muccino stated that the town could buy credits to offset the price but that it would be a 20 year plan in response to Councilor question. Councilor W. Worthy asked if the company had solar options available to municipalities or schools. A. Muccino stated that the company does have such a plan. Councilor S. Arnold asked the difference between a one year rate and locking in at two year lock rate. A. Muccino stated it is 0.002 cents. A. Muccino explained his reasons for the cost increase and feels now is a good time to lock in.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to authorize the Finance Director to lock in at a rate of no more than 12 cents per kilowatt hour.

Discussion: J. Fecteau asked if A. Muccino was comfortable with that rate. A. Muccino asked if Council would approve no more than 12.5 cents.

Councilor S. Arnold WITHDREW his MOTON.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to authorize the Finance Director to lock in for two years with PowerOptions at a rate of no more than 12.5 cents per kilowatt hour and to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign an agreement to that affect; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

- A. Gloucester Code of Ordinance - Proposed Amendments
 - 1. First Readings - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has two proposed ordinances: first for the regulation of use of cannabis in public places and, second, penalties for violation of the use ordinance. Councilor W. Worthy stated that these documents have been forwarded to Council and reviewed by the Solicitor. Councilor W. Worthy stated that if Council is ready, these documents can be read or described, in detail, by the Solicitor and then classified a first reading.

- a. Part 3. General Legislation
 - Addition of Chapter 154 Cannabis - Use in Public Places

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, explained that this ordinance is strictly an ordinance prohibiting public use by vaping, and smoking in public places . D. Iglizzi stated that state law allows town's to regulate the public use. D. Iglizzi stated that the description of public places was made intentionally broad and gave a few examples. D. Iglizzi stated that the penalties would be \$100 for a first offense and \$150 for a second offense. D. Iglizzi stated that the police were involved in the discussion as to penalties because they would be enforcing the ordinance. J.

Fecteau explained that there would be a public hearing on this proposed ordinance at which anyone can speak. D. Iglizzi stated that this proposal is very similar to what other cities and towns have adopted. D. Iglizzi explained that the process would involve a public hearing at which the public would be allowed to speak. D. Iglizzi explained that changes can be made at the public hearing and then the Council will consider the proposed ordinance. D. Iglizzi stated that a second public hearing could be held, if needed. J. Fecteau clarified that Gloucester's Code of Ordinances requires only one public hearing. D. Iglizzi stated that he included the possibility of a second public hearing in case many changes were proposed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to DECLARE 1st Reading complete for the proposed Code of Ordinance, Addition of Chapter 154 Cannabis - Use in Public Places; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Part 1. Administrative Legislation
Chapter 1. General Provisions, 1-15 Specific Penalties, Addition of:
Cannabis Use in Public Places

Discussion: D. Iglizzi stated that the town has a separate ordinance for violations and this ordinance would have specific penalties of \$100 for the first offense and \$ 150 for the second offense.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to DECLARE the 1st Reading complete for the proposed amendment to the Code of Ordinance, Addition to Chapter 1. General Provisions, 1-15 Specific Penalties; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Set Public Hearing Date - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Part 3. General Legislation
Addition of Chapter 154 Cannabis - Use in Public Places

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to SET a Public Hearing for March 16, 2023 for consideration of an amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Part 3. General Legislation, Addition of Chapter 154 - Cannabis - Use in Public Places; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Part 1. Administrative Legislation
Chapter 1. General Provisions, 1-15 Specific Penalties, Addition of:
Cannabis Use in Public Places

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to SET a Public Hearing for March 16, 2023 for consideration of an amendment to the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Part 1. Administrative Legislation, Addition to 1-15 Specific Penalties relative to Cannabis Use in Public Places; seconded by; Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments

- a. Planning Board - Discussion and/or Action

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

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk's Office received a recommendation from the Chair which was made from a recently filed talent bank application. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk's Office received a voter registration today which could qualify that candidate in 30 days before they can be considered to hold a position. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair indicates she has reached out to the candidate and that person is interested in being appointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the appointment to Position #6, Planning Board; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- 2. Position #7, One expired 5-year term to expire 2/28/2028

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is for the term of Stephen Clifford, said term is due to expire the end of February. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has indicated that Mr. Clifford wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to REAPPOINT Stephen Clifford to the Planning Board, Position #7 for a five-year term to expire 2/28/2028; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion:

- C. Pickle ball participants: Requests for striping, equipment, and or storage at GMP - Discussion and/or Action

Moved, by motion, and heard earlier on this agenda.

- D. Board of Contracts and Purchases

- 1. Award Bid IFB #2022-07 Picnic Pavilion - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Board of Contracts and Purchases has submitted the following recommendation to Council which he read as follows:

To: Gloucester Town Council, William Worthy, President

From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director

Re: IFB2022-07 Picnic Pavilion

Date: 02/15/2023

The Town Council previously authorized the Town Planner, Karen Scott, to go out to bid for delivery of a pavilion to be installed at Gloucester Memorial Park. The Town Planner prepared the bid specifications and the opportunity was advertised via the Town website as well as via Bid Net Direct.com. The Board of Contracts and Purchases met on January 10th, 2023 to publicly open the bids received; please refer to Attachment 1 for a tabulation of the bids received in response to this opportunity. At the bid opening, the Board of Contracts and Purchases voted to refer the bids to the Town Planner for review.

The Board of Contracts and Purchases met again on Monday January 30th and reviewed the purchase of the pavilion with the Town Planner. Town Planner, Karen Scott, indicated that she and DPW Director Treml had reviewed each of the responses to IFB 2022-07 and recommended to the Board that the bid be awarded to Coverworx with alternate number two (two all steel cupolas [koo-pa-lahs] and alternate number three (lower and upper tier lattice). While preparing for the February 16, 2023 Town Council meeting Town Planner Karen Scott realized that there was a simple error in her recommendation to the Board of Contracts and Purchases at the January 30th, 2023 meeting in that she intended to recommend to the Board to accept the bid from Coverworx with alternates one and three, as opposed to alternates two and three. Given that, another Board of Contracts and Purchases meeting was set for February 15, 2023 to consider amending the original motion from the January 30th, 2023 meeting.

At the February 15th, 2023 Board of Contracts and Purchases meeting the Board voted to amend the motion from the January 30th meeting to now recommend to the Town Council that the Council

award IFB2022-07 to Coverworx, 11800 East 9 Mile Road, Warren, Michigan. The total award is for \$113,075 which breaks down as follows; \$97,450 for delivery of the specified pavilion, as well as \$5,250 for alternate number 1 (three all steel cupolas) and \$10,375 for alternate number 3 (lower and upper tier lattice).

This purchase will be funded through a Hospitality, Tourism and Events Placemaking (Outdoor and Public Space Capital Improvements) grant from Commerce RI which has already been awarded to the Town. The total grant amount is \$150,000 with no cash or in-kind matching requirement whatsoever. After purchase of the pavilion, the remaining grant funds will be used to set the concrete floor for the pavilion and purchase picnic tables.

Respectfully,
Adam R. Muccino

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AWARD IFB 2022-07 Picnic Pavilion to Coverworx for the bid price of \$113,075 for specified pavilion with extras alternate #1 and alternate #3; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Approval to proceed with Request For Qualifications – Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet Village - Discussion and/or Action

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

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: February 13, 2023

RE: Request to Initiate Bidding Process

The Town received a Site Readiness Grant from RI Commerce Corporation for \$40,000 and a Municipal Infrastructure Grant from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank for \$85,000 to conduct a Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet Village. The Study will comprehensively analyze several alternatives for providing potable water to the Village including:

1. Extending the Pascoag Utility District Service area into Chepachet.
2. Installing a stand-alone community groundwater supply, treatment, storage and distribution system capable of providing potable water service to Chepachet Village.
3. Installing and developing several, smaller new water supply wells to serve businesses in the Village.

4. Installing point-of-entry treatment systems on existing private wells currently used to provide water to individual structures within the Village.

This grant requires no cash contribution from the Town. I am requesting permission to release the attached Request for Qualifications.

(End of memo)

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, confirmed that this was only a feasibility study in response to Councilor W. Steere's question.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Planner to release a Request for Qualifications for a Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet Village; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- F. Authorization – RI Decentralized Wastewater Improvement Grant - Discussion and/or Action

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

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: February 13, 2023

RE: Authorization – RI Decentralized Wastewater Improvement Grant

The Town received a Watershed Implementation Grant from the Southern New England Partnership for \$250,000 for an Implementation Plan for Chepachet Village Wastewater Improvements.

Using RIDEM wastewater permit data, the Town has identified the locations of known and suspected cesspool locations and the locations and sizes of holding tanks. These types of wastewater management systems are likely to be pollution discharge points, impacting the drinking water in the Village and the surface water quality in the Chepachet River. In cooperation with local and state partners, the Town will conduct a vigorous outreach and communication program to target the parcels noted above to establish reliable wastewater management systems within the Village area.

This project will establish a financial incentive for participation, monitoring parameters, covenants and a third party monitoring entity to ensure long term success.

That grant required a 33% match which is being satisfied by \$200,000 in ARPA funds and limited staff time. There was no cash contribution to this grant from the Town.

The EPA has just released a complimentary grant program the specifically targets improving decentralized wastewater in RI.

I am requesting authorization for the Town Council President to sign the grant application for \$465,000. This funding will be used to supplement the original grant, provided better financial incentives for participation and establish and fund the first several years of third party monitoring to ensure the long term success of the program. This grant does not have a cash match requirement. (End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that this would be amazing for the town.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign a grant application for a EPA RI Decentralized Wastewater Improvement Grant in the amount of \$465,000; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: K. Scott, Town Planner, explained a clarification regarding the use of matching funds in order to get extra points towards the grant application that are beneficial . K. Scott explained that the totals remain the same.

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Resident Request - Consideration of denied property damage claim - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a packet of information regarding a property damage claim that was denied by the R.I. Interlocal Risk Management, the Town's insurance provider.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the resident has requested being heard by the Council, and asked if is Mr. Leach present.

Discussion: B. Leach, resident, gave a summary of his claim for tree damage to a camper and asked for Council's consideration. Councilor S. Arnold stated that this was an act of God and not covered under the town's insurance. Councilor S. Arnold also stated that DPW was not aware of this tree ahead of time. Councilor Arnold stated the town can not cover the unknown incidents, a s issues would never stop. Councilor W. Steere stated that he feels badly that this happened but agrees with Councilor Arnold in that there was no way to tell that this would happen. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that if the Council opened up the door to incidents like this that it would not end . Councilor J. Burlingame stated that it is not the town's responsibility and it would have been different if the town knew ahead of time. B. Leach thanked the Council.

No action taken by Council

H. Authorization - Tax Collector to participate in support of proposed amendments to R.I.G.L. 44-7-28 Mobile or Manufactured Home Law - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Tax Collector which he read as follows:

DATE: 2/14/23
TO: Gloucester Town Council
FROM: Jane A. Steere, Tax Collector
RE: RIGL 44-7-28 Mobile or Manufactured Home law

The town of Coventry is going to submit legislation to amend RIGL 44-7-28-Glocester, Coventry and Burrillville tax lien on mobile or manufactured homes.

The current version of the law is the tax follows mobile home ownership. If the owner does not pay and sells, the new owner becomes responsible for the tax.

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

Most people do clear their tax, but we do have many that owe a few years. I think this amendment to the law would give the push needed to clear delinquent taxes. (just so you are clear-if the Town ends up with a lien on a mobile home-WE DO NOT OWN. There is a thinking that a property the town takes at tax sale-we own it. The town has never foreclosed on a property taken at tax sale-the deed owner can redeem at any time).

I do hope you will support this amendment.
(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated that he was glad the Tax Collector caught this matter .

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Tax Collector to participate in a request to state legislators for a proposed amendment to Rhode Island General Law “44-7-28-Glocester, Coventry and Burrillville tax lien on mobile or manufactured homes in the town” to help clear delinquent taxes; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold asked to add a Resolution in support of this matter to the next agenda.

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the following correspondence:

1. Council has received a sample resolution from the League of Cities and Towns in support of Housing Development & Land Use.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold stated that he attended the League's recent meeting where affordable housing was the topic. Councilor S. Arnold stated that affordable housing impacts different communities in different ways and a goal is to try and get the point across that one size does not fit all. Councilor W. Steere requested a Resolution on the next agenda.

2. An offer to assist with the Memorial Day Parade.

Discussion: J. Fecteau stated that E. Kent, Town Historian, has offered to help with the Memorial Day Parade. Councilor W. Steere stated that information is being gathered. J. Fecteau stated she received a packet of information from the Gloucester Light Infantry who, for many years, organized the parade. Councilor W. Steere emphasized the need for a point person and suggested that maybe next year this could be considered in the budget.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department Heads wished to speak.

1. J. Parker, Tax Assessor, presented Council with a packet of information regarding her research into the method solar farms are taxed and requested a moratorium of solar farms be put in place. Councilor S. Arnold asked for the catalyst to this research. J. Parker stated that the land the solar farms are built on keep their original classification for tax purposes and the only way to tax them is as tangibles. J. Parker stated there is minimal benefit to the Town. Councilor W. Worthy asked if this effected any other towns. J. Parker stated that this is a statewide issue due to new legislation. Councilor W. Worthy asked if any groups were getting together to push back. J. Parker stated that many tax assessors protested before the bill was passed. D. Iglizzi recommended that executive session be amended to include a discussion on this point.

2. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received a memo from J. Fecteau, Town Clerk which he read as follows:

Memo to Council:

After receiving a request last week from DPW, I inadvertently left an appointment off the agenda for this evening. I am asking Council to add this item to the agenda for discussion only.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold TO ADD, FOR DISCUSSION ONLY, at the end of regular agenda: Appointment, DPW, Driver/Laborer 1; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Chief Delprete stated that the surveillance equipment is up and thanked the DPW. The Chief stated that the recruitment process is on going. Chief Delprete stated that he will be asking for a new recruit at the academy in his budget. Chief Delprete stated that he is also advertising for a part time dispatcher. Chief Delprete stated that the surveillance equipment came in hand at GMP when four juveniles were caught damaging property at the park. Chief Delprete stated that the four juveniles were arrested and will be going before the Juvenile Hearing Board. Chief Delprete also stated that a third grader at one of the elementary schools brought a knife into school and was stopped before any damage was done ,

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Council members have questions for any for Department Heads.

Councilor W. Steere asked K. Johnson, Building Official , about the illegal dumping in West Gloucester. K. Johnson stated that the illegal dumping has stopped. K. Johnson stated he is in negotiations with the company, in question, to bring in a plan before they can do what they intend. K. Johnson stated he will keep the Council informed.

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any representatives from Boards or Commissions wished to speak.

1. B. MacArthur, EDC Chair, thanked the Council for the appointments made tonight. B. MacArthur stated that the EDC has an advertisement in the Bargain Buyer in an attempt to promote business. B. MacArthur would like to request that the marketing campaign of branding be heard by the Council as an agenda item. A. Muccino stated that this item is marked as in process on the ARPA spreadsheet. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the ARPA requests are to be reviewed in the future. J. Fecteau stated that the brochure of information used by EDC was provided to them by E. Kent, Town Historian.

XII. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak to please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

1. Councilor W. Worthy asked about the lights at GMP being on all night. G. Treml stated that it is one LED light which we need in order for the security cameras to be effective. Chief Delprete stated the light is similar to that at the police station.
2. E. Kent, resident and Town Historian, stated that the town needs all the help it can get to be able to have a Memorial Day Parade. E. Kent stated it is amazing that the Gloucester Light Infantry has done the parade for so many years. E. Kent stated that she feels two coordinators are needed.

3. S. Swift, resident, stated his opinion that the communities that recycle get financial benefits and that he feels more compartments are needed to sort the different categories of trash. Mr. Swift asked if recycling was taught in schools. Mr. Swift also asked if a recycling contractor could be hired by the town to pick up recycling; and in additions, stated that a bottle bill would help.
4. C. Wilson, resident, stated his great concern as to the speed on Main Street. Mr. Wilson stated that he feels the posted speed of 35 mph on the state road should be reduced to 25 mph. C. Wilson stated the police are vigilant but that it is a problem. Chief Delprete stated that previously the police were not successful in attempting to get the speed reduced in this location but that he could try again. Chief Delprete explained the reason for the rotary as a mechanism to slow traffic and to prevent accidents.

XIII Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN to Closed Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining and to add potential litigation ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame.

Discussion: none

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

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

MOTION PASSED

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose zero (0) votes were taken; and Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold.

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

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

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the Ratification of Agreement between the Town of Gloucester & Local Union 1322, Town of Gloucester Clerks; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

MOVED to this position:

VII. Unfinished Business

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

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to RATIFY the Agreement Between the Town of Gloucester & RI Laborers' District Council on behalf of Local Union 1322, of the Laborers' International Union of North America, AFL-CIO, Effective: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025, Police Department Civilian Employees; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

ADDITION TO AGENDA:

Appointment - Discussion
DPW - Driver/Laborer 1

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received the following memos from the Clerk which he read as follows:

Council

After receiving a request last week from DPW, I inadvertently left an appointment off the agenda for this evening.

Therefore, I am asking Council if they have any issues with the DPW Director hiring a Driver/Laborer I with an effective date of February 20th. That action could be a ratification item on the next meeting agenda item.

I checked with the acting HR Director and received the following information for Council:

Jean,

As Gary notes in his memo, this job was advertised in the Bargain Buyer and on the Town's website. There were four applicants, and a panel consisting of Mr. Trembl, Gary Gras and Beth Decorte conducted interviews with all applicants.

They concluded that Mr. Pasquerillo best matched their needs. He holds a Commercial Driver's License, a requirement for the position, has experience driving dump trucks and tractor trailers, and is familiar with mowers and small engine operations. The additional Driver Laborer I position was approved in the 2023-24 budget.

Don Zimmerman

Acting Director of Human Resources

(end of memo)

I also received the following from the DPW Director:

February 6, 2023

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director
RE: Driver/Laborer I Position Recommendation

The Driver/Laborer I position was advertised in the Bargain Buyer and on the Town website. We received 4 applications. After reviewing them I chose to interview all 4 applicants. Out of the 4 applicants interviewed 2 of them would be great assets to the department. I am requesting that Nicolas Pasquerillo of 83 Echo Rd, Chepachet be appointed to the position of Driver/Laborer I effective February 20, 2023 at the rate of \$26.43 an hour per the NAGE Union Contract.

A current DPW employee is retiring in July. This will leave another vacancy. Lately positions are hard to fill with qualified people. I am requesting permission to consider the second applicant to the Driver/Laborer I position that will become vacant in July.

Gary Trembl

(end of memo)

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.
Jean Fecteau, Clerk
(end of memo)

Discussion: D.Igliozi stated that the position was budgeted and advertised. D. Igliozi stated a qualified individual was interviewed. D. Igliozi recommends recognizing that the Town Council can ratify this recommendation, if they chose, on the next agenda as it is for discussion only tonight.

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 10:51 p.m.; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold.

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED