

At a Special meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 7, 2024:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 2:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, President

II. Roll Call

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

Member absent: Cheryl A. Greathouse; Jonathan E. Burlingame

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Chief Joseph Delprete; Captain Matt Fague

III. Emergency meeting - Discussion and/or Action

A. Vote to Declare emergency meeting per RIGL 42-46-6(c)- Discussion and/or Action
MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold , pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-6 (c),” to address an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate actions to protect the public”, seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that this meeting was called with less than the forty eight hours notice, required by law, so that the Council may attempt to protect the public from a potential economic impact going forward.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the impact most likely will occur due to the repairs/renovations that will have to be funded by the town.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received an impact statement from the EMA Director, Gerry Mosca, regarding a potential adverse impact on emergency readiness of the town as follows:

Subject: FEMA Grant for Gloucester EOC - \$1,000,000.00
Rhode Island ARPA Grant for Gloucester Police Department addition, Rehab and EOC - \$3,850,000.00.

Dear Councilors,

I am writing to inform you of the impact of the apparent failed Police Department addition referendum vote of August 6, 2024.

First, the FEMA grant for a Gloucester Emergency Operations Center (EOC) of \$1,000,000.00 would be lost and the grant rescinded as part of the requirements are that the funds must be used to build an EOC in Gloucester as part of the police building. The grant also requires a match from the Town in the amount of \$333,333.00. Since it appears that the referendum for the police building addition did not pass, the prerequisites of building an EOC within an addition and the matching funds will not be met, thereby requiring FEMA to withdraw the grant approval.

Second, The RI ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund Municipal Public Safety Infrastructure Project

Grant of \$3,850,000.00 would also be lost to the town. The grant is specifically for the Town of Glocester Emergency Operations Center and Police Department Expansion at the current Police Department Site of 162 Chopmist Hill Road, Glocester, RI. In the event that the expansion / addition is not approved, and the town cannot match the grant amount the State of Rhode Island will rescind the grant approval and offer the funds to other cities and towns who also applied for these grant funds. There can be no change to the project objective or site.

In conclusion, unless another referendum can be scheduled and passed the town of Glocester will lose \$4,850,000.00 in grant funds which will not be available in the future and adversely impact the emergency readiness of the Town of Glocester.

Sincerely,
Gerald A. Mosca
Director
(End of memo)

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

B. Consideration of Ballot Question to “Finance the renovations and/or expansion at the existing police station \$10,700,00 bonds and notes” for the General Election to be held November 5, 2024-Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPROVE a ballot question for the November 5, 2024 election as follows:

1. FINANCE THE RENOVATION AND/OR EXPANSION AT THE EXISTING GLOCESTER POLICE STATION \$10,700,000 BONDS AND NOTES

Local Acts 022/023- Acts and Resolves of 2024

Shall an act passed at the 2024 session of the General Assembly entitled ‘ AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE TOWN OF GLOCESTER TO FINANCE THE RENOVATION AND/OR EXPANSION AT THE EXISTING GLOCESTER POLICE STATION AND INCIDENTAL FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT BY THE ISSUANCE OF NOT MORE THAN \$10,700,000 BONDS AND NOTES THEREFOR’ be approved?

Approve

Reject

Seconded Councilor W. Steere

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to Call the Roll

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

IV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to ADJOURN at 2:36 PM ; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED