

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on January 16, 2025

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by William A. Worthy, Jr., President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Jonathan E. Burlingame; Stephanie A. Calise; Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Trembl, DPW Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Chief Joseph Delprete; R. Shields, Recreation Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance to be led by Edrik Lombardi, Gloucester Boy Scout. Edrik is currently working on the requirements for a troop badge.

Joshua Barrows, Boy Scout, was also present.

Councilor W. Worthy also stated a welcome to the new Council.

Councilor W. Steere asked all to stand to observe a moment of silence to honor George Charette, a long time resident who passed away recently. Councilor Steere stated Mr. Charette was very involved in the town for decades and really loved the town .

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

V. Public Hearing - Discussion and/or Action

A. Transfer of Class BT-Tavern Liquor License

FROM: DLUM, LLC, David Lumnah, d/b/a Tavern on Main, 1157 Putnam Pike

TO: PZ LLC, Phillip Zahlany, d/b/a Tavern on Main, 1157 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on December 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the PUBLIC HEARING OPEN

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received an objection from Paul J. Pisano, Attorney on behalf of MS Walker of RI, Inc., claiming indebtedness of \$683.50 and a claim from Greg Mancini, Attorney on behalf of Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits, in the amount of \$1,103 . Councilor W. Worthy stated that all claims have been released.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the application of the transfer .

Discussion:

None

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to GRANT the Transfer of a Class BT-Tavern Liquor License:

FROM: DLUM, LLC, David Lumnah, d/b/a Tavern on Main, 1157 Putnam Pike

TO: PZ LLC, Phillip Zahlany, d/b/a Tavern on Main, 1157 Putnam Pike

contingent upon PZ LLC obtaining the following : 1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes; 3) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 4) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 5) current Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing, 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales, 7) current Alcohol Service Certification for all employees, 8) copy of current menu, 9) current Rhode Island B.C.I. check; 10) Per R.I.G.L. a Certificate of commercial, general-liability and property damage insurance for a minimum amount of \$300,000; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. New Victualing License

Applicant: Phillip Zahlany, By Corporation: PZ LLC
d/b/a Tavern on Main @ 1157 Putnam Pike

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on December 19, 2024, December 27, 2024 and January 3, 2025.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the PUBLIC HEARING OPEN

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak for or against the application for a new victualing license.

Discussion: P. Zahlany, applicant stated that there would be no major changes to the current menu and some cosmetic changes to the interior.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to GRANT the application for a new Victualing License to: Phillip Zahlany, By Corporation: PZ LLC. d/b/a Tavern on Main at 1157 Putnam Pike contingent upon:

1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 4) current Health Department approval; 5) current Food Manager Certificate; and 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of December 19, 2024 and the Organizational Meeting of January 2, 2025
- B. Tax Assessor' Additions and Abatements -December 2024
- C. Finance Director's Report - December 2024

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of December 19, 2024 and the Organizational meeting of January 2, 2025; to APPROVE the Abatement to the 2024 Tax Roll in the amount of \$1,365.21, NO ADDITIONS; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Report for December 2024; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action
 - 1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Zoning Board - **NO ACTION - SEE ITEM VIII. E. for action**
 - 1. Alternate #2, 1-year term to expire 12/31/2024
 - b. Parade Committee (continued from 9/5/2024)
 - 1. Alternate #2, Alternate #3

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are no recommendations at this time, Council can TABLE to next meeting if they chose.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointments to the Parade Committee, Alternate #2 and Alternate #3 positions to February 6th, 2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. DPW - Building & Facilities Supervisor

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a recommendation for appointment has not been received from the DPW Director at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to DPW- Building & Facilities Supervisor to the Town Council meeting of February 6th, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

- A. DEPARTMENT APPOINTMENTS: Terms Concurrent with Town Council - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have Department Head appointments on the agenda for terms that run concurrent with the Town Council's term.

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated a suggestion to establish some type of a review process for the future especially to aid any new town council members who may not be familiar with the departments. Councilor W. Steere asked about the potential process. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated a suggestion that Council could hold a Special meeting and in an executive session discuss the appointments and /or interview any appointees.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT

1. Chief of Police - **Joseph DelPrete**
2. Probate Judge - **Jane Gurzenda**
3. Director of Finance - **Elizabeth Beltram**
4. Director of Public Works - **Gary Trembl**
5. Deputy Town Clerk - **Christine Mathieu**
6. Tax Collector - **Laurie Caspoli**
7. Deputy Town Treasurer - **Not to be filled at this time**
8. Zoning Official - **Dennis Begin**

9. Town Solicitor - **David Igliozi**
10. Town Planner - **Karen Scott**
11. Senior Center Director - **Melissa Bouvier**
12. Director of Emergency Management - **Gerald Mosca**
13. Electrical Inspector - **James Clarke**
14. Plumbing Inspector - **Gary M. Coyne**
15. Mechanical Inspector - **Roland Belanger**
16. Building Inspector - **Dennis Begin**
17. Building Inspector- **Lawrence Desormier**
18. Animal Control Officer/Appraiser of Dog Damage - **Jennifer Grundy**
19. Asst. Animal Control Officer - **Not to be filled at this time**
20. Recreation Director - **Robert Shields**
21. Deputy Tree Warden - **Michael Dahlquist**
22. Sealer of Weights & Measures - **Robert Salley**
23. Honorary Town Historian - **Edna Kent**

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy and W. Steere both stated that the town is very fortunate to have the people we do to work for the town.

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Annual Appointments - 2025

1. Tree Warden - Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Sandra Shepard, current Tree Warden, wishes to be reappointed. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Ms. Shepard possess a valid arborist license as required by law.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Sandra Shepard to the position of Tree Warden for 2025; contingent upon maintenance of a valid Arborist License; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Town Council Liaisons for Boards, Comm. & Depts.- Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that Councilors volunteer to be the liaison to different departments and certain boards.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated a suggestion that each Councilor should end up with four or five liaison positions each. In an effort to form a listing of the liaison for each department or commission, Councilor W. Worthy stated each one and a Councilor volunteered .

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Town Council liaisons as follows:

1. Affordable Housing Advisory Board - **Councilor Greathouse**
2. Building/Zoning Office (to include Zoning Board)- **Councilor Worthy**
3. Conservation Commission - **Councilor Steere**
4. Finance (to include Budget Board)- **Councilor Burlingame**
5. Historic District Commission - **Councilor Greathouse**
6. Town Historian - **Councilor Calise**
7. Housing Authority - **Councilor Calise**
8. Human Resources (Personnel)- **Councilor Burlingame**
9. Human Services Dept.- **Councilor Greathouse**
10. Land Trust - **Councilor Worthy**
11. Parade Committee - **Councilor Calise**
12. Planning Office & Planning Board - **Councilor Steere**
13. Public Safety: to include Police, Safety Commission, Animal Control, Emergency Management, & Harmony Hill School - **Councilor Steere**
14. Public Works - **Councilor Worthy**
15. Recreation Director & Rec Commission - **Councilor Greathouse**
16. School Department - **Councilor Burlingame**
17. Senior Center - **Councilor Calise**
18. Town Clerk - **Councilor Worthy**
19. Economic Development Commission - **Councilor Greathouse**

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Board & Commission Appointments - Terms concurrent with Town Council, to expire 12/31/2026 - Discussion and/or Action

1. Board of Contracts & Purchases

Two (2) regular members

(Board also consists one 1 Ad-hoc member - no action)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that an adopted Procurement Policy sets the members of this Board as the

Finance Director, and the Town Clerk. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the department head initiating the procurement serves at the time of meeting as the Ad-hoc member.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Elizabeth Beltram, Finance Director & Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk, as two regular members to the Board of Contracts & Purchases for a term to expire 12/31/2026; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Recreation Commission

Five (5) regular members

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this appointment is for the two year term of all five members. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has indicated that all members wish to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to REAPPOINT Thomas Lemos to Position #3; Andrew Dunn to Position #1; Lauren Niedel-Gresh to Position #5; Lewis Pryeor to Position #2; and Marie Penta to Position #4 on the Recreation Commission for a term to expire 12/31/2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Safety Commission

Seven (7) regular members

Three (3) At Large Members

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Safety Commission is made up of members from all branches of public safety. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has recommended reappointing existing members and the new Harmony Fire Chief.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to APPOINT Joseph DelPrete, Police Chief; Gerry Mosca, Emergency Management Director; Gary Treml, Public Works Director; Chief Steve Quattrini, Harmony Fire Chief; Chief Dennis Huestis, Chepachet Fire Chief; Chief Christopher Labutti, West Glocester Fire Chief; Heather Busald, School Bus Coordinator & Members at Large: Earl Newman, Joseph Desrosiers II, and Steven St. Pierre for terms to expire 12/31/2026; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

4. Scituate Watershed Commission

Two (2) regular members

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Board was created by the Town Council in 1997 to include the Town Planner and a representative from the Conservation Commission as members.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to REAPPOINT Karen Scott and Roy Najecki to the Scituate Watershed Commission for a term to expire 12/31/2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS- 0

MOTION PASSED

5. Affordable Housing Advisory Board

Five (5) regular members

Councilor W. Worthy stated that currently four of the five seats are vacant, due to lack of meetings. Councilor W. Worthy stated that one member is listed for re appointment.

MOTION was made by Councilor W.Steere to REAPPOINT J. Aaron Broccoli to Position #1; and to TABLE Positions #2, 3, 4, & 5; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS- 0

MOTION PASSED

6. Economic Development Board

Seven (7) regular members

Two (2) ad-hoc non voting members

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Economic Development Board currently has four members that do not wish to be reappointed. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has one recommendation, Gary Turner and that Mr. Turner has submitted a talent bank application. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the other 3 positions can be tabled or Council can chose from the Talent Bank listing.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to REAPPOINT Bernadette MacArthur to Position #1;

Brad Kettelle to Position #2; Kevin Lavoie to Position #5; Melissa Wright to Position #6; Laura Davis to Position #7; to APPOINT Gary Turner to Position #4; and TABLE the appointment to Position #3 and Ad Hoc non voting positions #1 & #2; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Boards and Commissions- Terms not concurrent with Council terms- Discussion and/or Action

1. Resignation

a. Planning Board

Position #3 for an unexpired 5 yr term to expire 2/27

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the resignation of Michael DeGrange from the Planning Board and that this also creates a vacancy on Land Trust because Mr. DeGrange was the Member at Large from the Planning Board to the Land Trust.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Michael DeGrange from the Planning Board Position #3; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Budget Board

1. Position #6 - term to expire 12/2025

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the resignation of Michael Robinson from Position #6 of the Budget Board.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to ACCEPT, with thanks, the resignation of Michael Robinson from Position #6 Budget Board; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Appointment
 - a. Planning Board

Position #3 for a 5 yr term to expire 2/27

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is no recommendation from the Chair at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint from the Talent Bank listing or table to next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Planning Board, Position #3, for an unexpired 5 year term to expire 2/27; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- b. Budget Board

1. Position #6 - unexpired 3 year term to expire 12/2025

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has made a recommendation to the Council, Steven Masello and that Mr. Masello has submitted a talent bank application.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Stephen Masello to the Budget Board, Position #6, for a term to expire 12/2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position #1 - expired 3 yr term to expire 12/31/27

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this is the position of Cassandra Barone who does not wish to be reappointed. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are no recommendations from the Chair.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to APPOINT Dave Steere to the Budget Board, Position #6, for a term to expire 12/2025; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Worthy
RECUSAL- Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: D. Igliazzi asked if it was Council's intent to appoint Mr. Masello to Position # 6 for a 3 year term to expire 12/2025. Councilor W. Worthy stated yes.

D. Igliazzi stated that the next motion Council made was for the same position and term but a different name so the position needs to be changed if it is not correct.

J. Fecteau asked if Council could appoint and she can add the correct position number.

AMENDED MOTION was made by Councilor W. Worthy to appoint D. Steere to the Budget Board (Position #1) ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Worthy
RECUSAL- Steere
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Position #5 - expired 3 yr term to expire 12/31/27

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this is for the expired term of Maureen McNamara who has recently taken over as the chair and wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to REAPPOINT Maureen McNamara to Position #5 on the Budget Board for a 3 year term to expire 12/31/27; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Conservation Commission

1. Position #6 - expired 3 yr term to expire 12/31/2027

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this appointment is for the expired term of Michael Anhrud. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has recommended Mr. Anhrud be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to REAPPOINT Michael Anhrud to the Conservation Commission , Position #6, for a term to expire 12/31/2027; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position #7- expired 3 yr term to expire 12/31/2027

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this appointment is for the expired term of Jonathan Smith. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has recommended Mr. Smith be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT Jonathan Smith to the Conservation Commission, Position #6, for a term to expire 12/31/2027; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

d. Tax Assessor's Board of Assessment Review

1. Position #3 - expired 6 yr term to expire 12/31/2030

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is for the expired term of Position #3 , member Matt Varatta and that Mr. Varatta wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT Matt Varatta to the Tax Assessor's Board of Assessment Review, Position #3, for a 6 year term to expire 12/31/2030; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

e. Zoning Board

1. Alternate #1 - expired 1 yr term to expire 12/31/2025

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this appointment is for the expired term of John Kitson and that Mr. Kitson wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT John Kitson to Alternate #1 Position on the Zoning Board of Review for a 1 yr term to expire 12/31/2025; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Alternate #2 - 1 yr term to expire 12/31/2025

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position was open due to a resignation and tabled to fill in December. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair is now recommending Brendan Fogarty for the position.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Brendan Fogarty to the Alternate #2 position on the Zoning Board of Review for a 1 yr term to expire 12/31/2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

f. Land Trust

1. Member-at-Large from Planning Board

Councilor w. Worthy stated that this position became vacant due to the resignation of the at- large member from Planning Board. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair, through the Planning Board members, will follow up with a recommendation if Council would table at this time.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment to the Member-at-Large Position from the Planning Board to the Land Trust; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Personnel

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Police Dept. - Part Time Dispatcher

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has submitted the a request which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Town Council Members

From: Chief Joseph DelPrete

Date: January 8, 2025

Subject: Part-time dispatcher

Dear Council Members,

I would respectfully request to appoint Mark LaPlat age 44, of Burrillville to a part-time dispatcher position on the Gloucester Police Department. Mark LaPlat is a full-time police, fire, and EMS Dispatcher on the Burrillville Police Department. Mr. LaPlat needs no training and can immediately fill shift vacancies at the police department when available. He also is a Chepachet volunteer fire fighter and is familiar with all aspects of the Fire and EMS service in the Town of Gloucester.

Mr. LaPlat has already completed a Police Department background check. This part-time position will be afforded an hourly rate of \$24.00 per hour and not to exceed 24 hours per week.

There will be no fringe benefits with this position and I respectfully request this appointment to be effective on Friday January 17, 2025.

This extra part-time dispatcher is needed to assist with consistent overtime vacancies and mandatory order backs for full-time dispatchers.

Joseph DelPrete
Chief of Police
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Mark LaPlat to the position of part-time dispatcher on the Gloucester Police Department at the rate of \$24.00 per hour, not to exceed 24 hours per week; said position will not include fringe benefits and shall be effective as of January 17, 2025 and is contingent upon successful police background check; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Human Services - Temporary "As needed" Driver

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Human Services Director has made a request which he read :

1/14/2025

To: Gloucester Town Council
From: Department of Human Services

Distinguished members of the Town Council. The Department of Human Services has a driver out of service for 3 to 6 months. Because of this I have contacted Robert (Bob) LaPierre. Bob was the driver who held this position before he retired.

After he retired, he stayed on as a volunteer driver in which he uses our van to meet the needs of the senior center. His BCI and driving record are still on file and this Council approved his position some

time ago. I asked Bob if he would consider coming back to a paid position until such time we can resolve this issue. Mr. LaPierre would fill the number 3 driver position.

I respectfully request the Council approve this action as it is necessary for our continued transport operation

Thanking you in advance

John Luszc

Director of Human Services

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if the position needed to be posted. J. Luszc, Human Services Director, stated that this is a temporary position to replace a current driver at the same salary for six months. Councilor W. Steere asked if he would be driving if no one else was available. J. Luszc stated that he would drive only if no one else was available.

D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the position would need to be posted if it were a union position which it is not.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Robert Lapierre to the position of “as needed” temporary part time Van Driver for the Human Services Department, at an hourly rate of \$15.77; contingent upon submittal of a current BCI check, and a copy of a current R.I. Drivers License for a period of a maximum of six months; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

G. Tax Collections Office - Authorize per diem training - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Finance Director which he read as follows:

Memo: Honorable Town Council
From: Elizabeth A. Beltram, Finance Director
Re: Tax Collector Consultant/Training
Date: January 16, 2025

At the time of her hire, our new Tax Collector was able to spend a number of days with the outgoing Tax Collector to review as many of the day to day operations of that office as time would allow. As we get further into the current fiscal year, there are a number of annual activities beginning to arise that they were unable to cover during that time.

In order to be sure nothing gets missed or done incorrectly, I would like to request authorization to

periodically have Jane Steere act as a consultant for that office at the rate of \$30 per hour. I foresee the need to be for a few hours at a time only sporadically over the next few months, at a total cost of \$450 - \$600. The department's budget for FY25 can support this expense.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth A. Beltram

Finance Director

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that this matter was authorized when the Council hired the new tax collector

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Tax Collector's Office to utilize the former Tax Collector, Jane Steere, to serve as Per Deum consultant to the Tax Collections Office at the rate of \$30 per hour on an as needed basis to the end of current fiscal year; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Worthy
 RECUSAL- Steere
 NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

H. Disposition of Town Property - 1272 Putnam Pike - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a Public hearing was held on October 19, 2023 and all wishing to be heard were allowed to speak. Councilor W. Worthy stated that after discussion, the hearing was closed. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the disposition of the property and funding, later on that agenda, was tabled.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that the recommendation at the time was to take the building down. Councilor Worthy stated the current Building Official has condemned the building. Councilor J. Burlingame stated the building is definitely unsafe and unsalvageable . Councilor J. Burlingame stated that it does not make sense to use taxpayer money to fix. Councilor C. Greathouse asked the cost to take the building down.

D. Iglizzi stated that the DPW has previously stated the work could be performed by that department.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to give the DPW the discretion to take what actions are necessary to demolish the building and remove the foundation; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion:

Councilor W. Steere stated that this decision is not being made lightly and that even RI Housing recommended the building be demolished which is unfortunate . Councilor W. Worthy stated the building is a danger to the town and it is best to demolish.

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

I. Consideration of options for the remediation of litter (Town wide and/or Transfer Station) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a fence in front of DPW is being suggested to prevent trash from blowing across the street.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that he requested this item to help protect the town from trash being blown across the street. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the DPW could look at fence options that would fit in with our town and nature. Councilor W. Worthy stated a request that the police could help monitor residents to cover their trash. Councilor W. Worthy is asking for this item to be placed on the next agenda on February 6, 2025 to give the DPW time to bring back some options as to fencing.

Councilor W. Steere stated that trash is a problem and that awareness of the problem needs to be promoted. Councilor C. Greathouse stated that awareness can be addressed in schools. Councilor W. Worthy asked if a fine could be given. Councilor W. Steere suggested a warning. Chief Delprete stated that this is an ongoing problem that they have addressed and that a fine can be given. Chief Delprete stated he would put up the electric message sign with a message about trash in the next couple of weeks. Councilor C. Greathouse suggested a CodeRed message.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to authorize Councilor W. Steere to send a CodeRed call and for the DPW Director, Gary Treml, to get quotes on fence options; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

J. Union Contract Negotiations - Assign negotiators - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has been notified that the Gloucester Police Union Local IBPO, Clerks Local 1322, & Dispatchers Local 1322 are ready to begin negotiations for a successor agreement. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can now acknowledge requests and appoint the negotiators for each group.

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that Council needs the impact of what the town can afford from the Finance Director before entering negotiations. Councilor J. Burlingame stated his opinion that the town attorney and department heads should be involved in negotiations, at times, for guidance on certain matters.

Councilor W. Steere stated his agreement that guidance from the Finance Director would be beneficial.

Chief Delprete stated his opinion that the contract be reviewed by the Solicitor to insure correctness. D. Iglizzi stated his opinion that the Town Clerk also be involved due to her knowledge of management. D. Iglizzi suggested an executive session of the Council be held to discuss the strategy and/or process to get organized before negotiations.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to Acknowledge notice that Gloucester Police Union Local IBPO, Gloucester Clerks Local 1322 & Gloucester Dispatchers Local 1322 are ready to begin negotiations for successor agreements and APPOINT the following teams to negotiate with same:

Gloucester Police IBPO: Councilor W. Steere and Councilor W. Worthy

Gloucester Clerks Local 1322: Councilor J. Burlingame and Councilor C. Greathouse

Gloucester Dispatchers Local 1322: Councilor W. Steere and Councilor S. Calise

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

K. Authorization by Town Council - Filming in Chepachet Village - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk received a request from a company named "Vagrants Inc." requesting authorization to film in Chepachet Village for their client "Rhode Island Commerce Corporation". Councilor W. Worthy stated that they state they are doing an upcoming tourism commercial for the Rhode Island Commerce Corporation, working on the "Winter" version of a series. Councilor W. Worthy stated that they are looking to get ground footage of Chepachet Village with a crew of 6 in the late afternoon on Tuesday, February 4th. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk suggested they ask business owners of each building they focus on for their permission and let our Police Department know when they will be in the village. Councilor W. Worthy stated that in addition, the company would like the Council's approval to film in the village.

Discussion:

Councilor J. Burlingame asked about the town's liability. D. Iglizzi stated that the town is insured and does not see a problem.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE Vagrants Inc. To film on the streets of Chepachet Village on February 4th, 2024; said company will notify Police Department of their schedule prior to filming; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- L. Ratification by Town Council by Resolution or motion - State minimum wage increase per RIGL 28-12- 3 for applicable town employees

Councilor W. Worthy stated that per law, the minimum wage in Rhode Island has increased to \$15.00 per hour as of January 1, 2025.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to RATIFY that the salaries of Town of Glocester employees, currently at minimum wage, shall be increased to \$15.00 per hour as of January 1, 2025 per R.I.G.L.; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- IX. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors have any legislative news or questions.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Legislature has some interesting items in their budget and the Council needs to be on the look out for ways the state is trying to diminish the town with zoning and land use.

- X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received the following correspondence:

1. Notice of Zoning Board Public Hearing for property located at 0 Putnam Pike, applicant: Paul DiMascio and owner: Polly Barnes
2. Notice from Town of Smithfield Planning Board regarding a public hearing, tonight, for a Comprehensive Permit Application for property located at lots 82-89 West Greenville Road.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had any correspondence or a discussion item.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the proposed development on the boundary of Glocester and Smithfield is going to be very large. K.Scott, Town Planner stated it is a large development right on the Glocester line but that there is not much the town can do.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated he received an email complaining about potholes and asked DPW if they could be a bit more proactive about filling potholes as they see them. G. Treml, DPW Director, stated that the department tries to address potholes weekly.

Councilor W. Steere stated the assistant Town Solicitor has submitted his letter of retirement which he read as follows:

December 27, 2024

Glocester Town Council
1145 Main Street
Chepachet, RI02814

Dear Council Member:

Congratulations on your election to the Glocester Town Council. I have great faith that you will always act in the best interests of this town.

I have been a resident of Glocester for over forty-four years and have been the Assistant Solicitor for the last fifteen years. My primary responsibilities were serving as the police prosecutor and as counsel to the Zoning Board, although there were numerous occasions when I advised the Town Council, the building/zoning official, public works department and others.

Working with Chief DelPrete, Captain Fague and the entire police department, I strove to maintain and enhance the stellar reputation that the Glocester Police Department enjoys among the judges and staff across our judicial system. It was an honor to identify myself as the prosecutor for the town every time I appeared in court. Likewise, it was rewarding to have served as counsel to the Zoning Board, which also enjoys a fine reputation.

The time has come, however, for retirement. Although the often-cited reason for retirement is "to spend more time with family", it is truly a primary reason for me, as we now have a three-year-old granddaughter. Therefore, I am now requesting that I not be considered for or appointed to the position of Assistant Solicitor when the council conducts its next organizational meeting. It has been a privilege to represent the town over the last fifteen years.

Very truly yours,
William L. Bernstein

(End of letter)

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department heads had anything to report or if any councilors had any questions for Department heads.

1. G. Treml, DPW Director, stated that he did not have a maintenance person at the Town Hall and police station so he would like to hire the Senior Center cleaning person . G. Treml stated that he received a preliminary quote of \$12,000 for three months. G. Treml stated that he has money in his budget to cover this cost . G. Treml asked for it to be on the next agenda.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards or Commissions members have anything to report or if any Councilors have any questions for any Board or Commission members.

None

XIII. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if anyone has anything to discuss on any other subject to please state your name when you come to the microphone.

None

XIV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to ADJOURN at 8:48 P.M.; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED