

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on February 6, 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: Stephanie A. Calise; Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Member absent: Jonathan E. Burlingame

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Chief Joseph Delprete

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to please stand and join us in the Pledge of Allegiance .

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. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of January 16, 2025

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Town Council Regular meetings of January 16, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. 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 APPOINT from the Talent Bank listing or TABLE to next meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointments to the Parade Committee, Alternate #2 and Alternate #3 to the Town Council meeting of February 20th, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

- b. Planning Board
 - 1. Position #3 for a 5 yr term to expire 2/27

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is a recommendation from the Chair at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair recommends resident, Brian White. Councilor W. Worthy stated that a talent bank listing is on file. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint the recommended applicant, appoint someone from the Talent Bank listing, or table to next meeting.

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

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

- c. Land Trust
 - 1. Member-at-Large from Planning Board
One term to expire 1/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position became vacant, last month, due to the resignation of the at-large member from the Planning Board. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Planning Board Chair has indicated a recommendation from the Planning Board will be forthcoming.

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

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

- 2. Board & Commission Appointments - Terms concurrent with Town Council, to expire 12/31/2026 - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Economic Development Board
 - 1. Position #3, 2 year term to expire 12/31/2026
 - 2. One ad-hoc non voting member, 2 yr term to expire 12/31/2026
 - 3. One ad-hoc non voting member, 2 yr term to expire 12/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has not received a recommendation at this time from the Economic Development Commission Chair. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint from the Talent Bank listing or TABLE the appointments to Position #3 and Ad Hoc non voting positions #1 & #2.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointments, Position #3 and Ad Hoc non voting positions #1 & #2, to the Economic Development Commission; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

- b. Affordable Housing Advisory Board
 - 1. Position #2, #3, #4, & #5 terms to expire 12/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has not received a recommendation from the Town Planner at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can appoint from the Talent Bank listing or wait for the recommendation of the Town Planner.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE Positions #2, 3, 4, & 5 to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- 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 Council has received a recommendation from the DPW Director which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Treml
Director of Public Works
Re: Building and Facilities Supervisor

The Building and Facilities Supervisor position was advertised in the Bargain Buyer and on the Towns website. We received 6 applications. All 6 applicants were interviewed. The first applicant offered the position declined. The second applicant offered the position accepted. I am requesting that Justin S. Gordon, 100 Sayles Ave., Putnam, CT, be appointed to the position of Building and Facilities Supervisor. The rate of compensation will be \$31.67 per hour as per the NAGE Union Contract. This appointment will be effective Monday, February 10, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Treml
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if this position falls under the policy of a supervisor or a department head because department heads are interviewed and hired by Town Council. Councilor W. Steere stated that he wants to make sure the proper procedure has been followed. Councilor W. Steere stated that if G. Treml was comfortable then that is okay. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that if Council votes to appoint tonight then it is a done matter.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to APPOINT Justin S. Gordon to the position of DPW Building

and Facilities Supervisor at the rate of \$ 31.67 per hour, as per the NAGE Union contract, with an effective date of February 10, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

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

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the DPW Director gave Council a memo as to an idea for fencing which he read as follows:

February 5, 2025

To: Honorable Town Council
From: Gary Trembl
Public Works Director
Re: Transfer Station Fence

The fence at the Transfer Station would be 8 feet high by 375 linear feet long, green vinyl chain link with green privacy slats like the black one recently installed at the Police Station.

The estimated cost would be \$50,000.00 installed. It would be installed along the entire front of the Transfer Station except at the entrance and exit gates. Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns.
Respectfully,

Gary Trembl, DPW Director
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the DPW Director has indicated to the Clerk that the placement on the road would be behind the Christmas trees.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that he asked for this item but that the fence cost is expensive and may not be something worthwhile for the town to spend money on at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that he would like to try robocalls and for the police to monitor the situation. Chief Delprete stated that he hopes to place the electronic sign at the transfer station about the end of the month. J. Colaluca, resident, thanked the Council for their efforts.

No Action Taken by Council

VII. New Business

A. UPDATE & Disposition of Town Property - 1272 Putnam Pike - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that at the Town Council meeting of January 16, 2025 the Council voted unanimously to authorize the DPW Director, at his discretion, to take what actions are necessary to demolish the building and remove the foundation.

Discussion:

Councilor Worthy stated he asked for this item to update the Council. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is a resident in town who wants to present an idea to the Council at the first meeting of March.

No Action Taken by Council

B. Set Schedule for Financial Referendum - Budget FY 2025/2026- Discussion and/or Action
Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Clerk has worked with the template for setting the schedule for a financial referendum. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the whole process starts with the budget being submitted by the Budget Board, per the charter, by the second meeting of March. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has worked with the Finance Director and the Deputy Town Clerk to determine the best date in May for the Referendum within the charter deadlines.

1. Set Financial Town Referendum Date

Councilor W. Worthy stated that since we started the Referendum, we have held the vote by May 31st each year, but not the week of Memorial Day. Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have held the vote on Tuesdays, as are all Title 17 votes, and as the Charter states we will hold our meeting as with R.I. Elections. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the window of opportunity as determined is from May 19th, 2025 to May 31st, 2025 and our referendum calendar works best with May 20, 2025.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can vote to set the 2025 Financial Town Referendum Date for May 20th, 2025.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to SET the 2025 Financial Town Referendum for May 20th, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Set Public Hearing Date

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Public Hearing should be between the 30th day prior and the 35th day prior to the ballot language adoption. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the window for the Public Hearing would be April 19th to April 24th. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has planned on the hearing being April 21st, the Monday of that week. Councilor W. Worthy stated in doing so, if another hearing is needed that week there would still be time to post a second meeting. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can make a motion to set April 21st as the Public Hearing for the budget.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to SET the Public Hearing Date, for hearing on the proposed 2025/2026 FY budget, on Monday, April 21st, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

a. Conservation Commission

One year Alternate position term to expire 1/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is the expired term of Bruce Payton. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair is recommending the reappointment and stated that Mr. Payton wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to REAPPOINT Bruce Payton to the Conservation Commission for the One year Alternate Position to expire 1/31/2026; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Land Trust

1. At-large member from Conservation Comm. - Term to expire 1/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is for the expired term of Roy Najecki, at large member from the Conservation Commission. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has recommended the re-appointment of Mr. Najecki after a vote of the Conservation Commission.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to REAPPOINT Roy Najecki as the At-Large member to the Land Trust from the Conservation Commission for a term to expire 1/31/26; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position #4 -5 yr. Term to expire 1/31/2030

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this position is the expired term of Steven St. Pierre. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has recommended the reappointment to Position #4 and states Mr. St. Pierre wishes to be reappointed.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to REAPPOINT Steven St. Pierre to the Land Trust, Position #4, for a 5 year term to expire 1/31/2030; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Authorization for Signature- Discussion and/or Action

1. Planning Office: Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) Phase II Storm Water Annual Report – 2024

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: January 21, 2025
Re: RIPDES Annual Report - 2024

In accordance with the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) program general permit for Storm Water discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and from industrial activities at eligible facilities operated by regulated small MS4s, I have drafted the required Phase II Storm Water Annual Report for submission to RIDEM. This Annual Report was available on the Town's website and in the Planning Department for public comment through February 5, 2025. I am requesting authorization for the Town Council President to sign the report. Thank you
(end of request)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign Phase II Storm Water annual Report for submission to RIDEM in accordance with the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) program; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

2. Planning Office: Municipal Infrastructure Grant – Public Water Feasibility Study – Grant Extension

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: January 21, 2025
RE: Request for Signature - Grant Agreement

The Town received a Municipal Infrastructure Grant from the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank for \$85,000 to conduct a Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet Village in September 2022. This study is currently underway with the assistance of Northeast Water Solutions. The request before Town Council is authorization to extend the grant agreement with the Infrastructure Bank. It expired on December 31, 2024. The extension will give the Town until June 30, 2025 to complete the project. This is sufficient time to complete the project and request reimbursement for the grant funds. There is no change to the scope of work or budget associated with the project. This grant required no cash contribution from the Town.

(End of memo)

Discussion: none

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council Present to sign an extension of a grant agreement to conduct a Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet Village to June 30, 2025, between the Town of Gloucester and the Infrastructure Bank, said Municipal Infrastructure Grant was originally granted in September 2022; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. DPW: Authorization for Temporary Building Maintenance Contract - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Department of Public Works has submitted a temporary building maintenance contract for assistance with the cleaning of town buildings. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Solicitor has reviewed the contract.

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that he is satisfied with the contract after reviewing it.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Cleaning Service Contract between Simply Clean and Town of Gloucester, effective 2/10/2025 to 3/28/2025, for the temporary maintenance of town facilities; said contract shall be at a daily rate of \$250, plus an additional \$25 daily for maintenance of the Police new dispatch room & ½ bath, total fee paid not to exceed \$5,000 for the contract duration; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Calise, Greathouse, Steere, Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel

1. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action

a. Tax Assessor's Board of Review - Secretary/recording clerk position

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Tax Assessor has submitted a request to Council which he read as follows:

To: Town Council

From: Jessica Parker, Tax Assessor

Date: February 5, 2025

Re: Board of Assessment Review

I would like to recommend Ashley Poole for the position of the Board of Review Secretary. The pay rate is \$150 per meeting starting February 7, 2025 pending a BCI check. The funds were budgeted for FY 2025. Ms. Poole is a substitute teacher with the Town and lives locally. She has availability to attend the meetings

as needed. She also has a background in business.
(End of request)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if the position had been posted. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk stated the position was posted and advertised.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to APPOINT Ashley Poole to the position of the Tax Assessor's Board of Review secretary, pay rate for this position shall be \$150 per meeting, effective February 7, 2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

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

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she and the Deputy Town Clerk read through all of the proposed legislation to determine if there was any of interest to bring to the Council. J. Fecteau stated there were many housing related proposals as well as some tax exemption legislation.. J. Fecteau stated that the one she wanted to bring to Council's attention was a proposal to reduce the number of days of early voting to 10 days and it would include a weekend. J. Fecteau stated that the reduction from 20 days to 10 days would reduce by about half the pay to pollworkers which has been almost \$10,000 per election. J. Fecteau stated that the change to 10 days would be in line with what voters have asked for in the past, as it would call for a weekend of voting. J. Fecteau stated she would monitor the legislation and may be asking for the Council's letter of support in the future.

J. Fecteau stated she would continue monitoring the proposed legislation.

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received correspondence from the ACLU regarding support of an immigration ordinance with a model ordinance attached.

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

J. Fecteau suggested that Council may want to answer the correspondence from the ACLU as in her experience, the ACLU will continue asking for a response until they get one.

Chief Delprete stated that any individuals with immigration issues are referred to ICE and that his department does not really see much activity.

X. 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.

None

XI. 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.

Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks to R. Palazzo, Superintendent of Gloucester Schools, for attending the Council meetings.

XII. 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.

W. Steere, resident, stated his concerns regarding the Gloucester School budget and how funds have been used to pay for items over the past few years . W. Steere stated his opinion that the manner of spending is in violation of the Charter and that the Council should look into the matter. W. Steere stated his opinion that he is not placing blame but that the manner of spending needs to be reined in and hopes the Council will take action.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
Discussion and/or Action re: negotiations for successor union contracts.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONVENE to Executive Session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation: Discussion and/or Action re: negotiations for successor union contracts; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll

Councilor Calise- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session, all were invited back into the meeting

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 votes were taken in Executive Session & Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll

Councilor Calise- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to to ADJOURN at 9:40 P.M.; Seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED