

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on May 1, 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 L. Calise; Cheryl A. Greathouse;
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr.,
President

Also Present: David Igliozi, Town Solicitor; Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

V. **Resolution #2025-05**

2025 State Champions - Lady Chieftains Basketball Team

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Council on behalf of the Town of Gloucester wishes to congratulate the Ponaganset Lady Chieftains for achieving the 2025 State Championship with a Town Council Resolution.

Councilor W. Worthy asked G. Martinelli, Head Coach , if he would like to say a few words.

G. Martinelli expressed his thanks to the Council for having the team here tonight. G. Martinelli stated that the team accomplished a heck of a feat this year with 25 wins and 4 losses as well as a state championship. G. Martinelli stated that it was quite a magical ride and he enjoyed the season. G. Martinelli stated that it was truly a team effort and he is proud of the team.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that each of the ladies will receive a citation, and asked those present to come forward to receive their citation. Councilor W. Worthy asked the team members to then remain standing for the reading of a resolution to be presented to the school. Councilor W. Worthy read the names as follows:

Kelsey L'heureux
Elena Muldowney
Marron Nerney
Kaylin Couto
Anastasia Nerney
Kaitlyn Simoneau
Malia Ellis

Lyla Briggs
Zoey Thorp
Jennie Bernardi
Marley Haynes
Sydney Parent
Brigid Mara
Layla Bucci
Javiana Stec
Giuliana Bachini
Adrianna Mello
Tiayanna Colon
Sadie LaRose
Haleigh Mooney

Councilor W. Worthy read the resolution as follows:

State of Rhode Island
Town of Glocester
RESOLUTION #2025-05
2025 State Champions - Lady Chieftains Basketball Team

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the Town Clerk of the Town of Glocester would like to congratulate the 2024-2025 Ponaganset High School “ Lady Chieftains” basketball team for achieving the distinct honor of **2025 State Champions**; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains defeated Portsmouth High School in the semifinal round with a score of 44-31; and earned the title of champion with a victory over defending state champion, Moses Brown School ,in a thrilling overtime victory , with a score of 57-54 ; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains demonstrated that despite losing two seasoned players at the start of the season and being a young team , that if they stay focused on just playing the game and never quitting that they had the ability and motivation to make the plays when needed ; and

WHEREAS, the Chieftains belief in one another, their confidence and perseverance led the team to a record of 18-3 in the regular season and a record of 25-4 overall for the season, making this their second state championship in the last four years and eleven championships overall; and

WHEREAS, the team was led by Head Coach , Gary Martinelli and Assistant Coaches; David Sevegny, Jim Field, Francesca Corsinetti, and Charles Stockwell; and, Manager , Joshua Stockwell; and

WHEREAS, it took each and every member on the team to make the Ponaganset High School Girls Basketball Team the success it has become; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Town Council, the Town Clerk, and the residents of the Town of Gloucester appreciate the dedication and efforts of the Ponaganset High School “Lady Chieftains” Basketball Team for achieving the distinct honor of becoming the:

2025 State Basketball Champions

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

William A. Worthy, Jr., President
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice-Pres
Jonathan E. Burlingame
Stephanie L. Calise
Cheryl A. Greathouse

Adopted this 1st Day of May, 2025

seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated when he observed games the team played with tenacity, with team work and they worked hard each game. Councilor W. Steere stated to the team members present that these characteristics will serve them well in your lives. Councilor W. Steere stated that the state championship is an achievement that will always be with them.

VI.

Proclamation #2025-03

In support of 2025 National Small Business Week

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received a request to support National Small Business Week. Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have prepared a Proclamation which he read as follows:

**Town of Gloucester
Proclamation #2025-03**

National Small Business Week 2025

WHEREAS, small businesses are the engine of the American economy and the foundation of a free and prosperous nation built by men and women who work hard, take risks, and believe in the power of the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, small businesses make up more than 99 percent of all private sector employers and create nearly two out of every three new jobs in America, fueling opportunity and driving local economies across every corner of the country; and

WHEREAS, whether in our fields, on our factory floors, or at the frontiers of technology, small businesses are driving the innovation and building the products that keep America strong, competitive, and secure; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, small business owners have faced unprecedented challenges from record-high inflation to reckless federal spending and burdensome regulations yet

have remained resilient in their commitment to delivering for America's communities; and

WHEREAS, despite these headwinds, the American spirit of enterprise endures, and we now stand at the threshold of a new golden era for small businesses — built on common sense, pro-growth policies that put our people, our workers, and our job creators first; and

WHEREAS, under strong leadership that prioritizes energy independence, secure borders, and fair trade, we can once again restore American dominance, self-reliance, and independence; and

WHEREAS, Glocester, Rhode Island, shares this Administration's commitment to cutting red tape, keeping taxes low, and fighting for the hardworking entrepreneurs who power our economy from the ground up; and

WHEREAS, National Small Business Week has been proclaimed by the President of the United States since 1963, honoring the vital role of small businesses in creating jobs, growing the economy, and anchoring our communities;

Now, Therefore, the Glocester Town Council, does hereby proclaim

May 4–10, 2025, as NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

and we encourage all citizens to support small businesses and celebrate their many achievements.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Glocester, to be affixed this 1st of May, 2025.

William A. Worthy, Jr., President
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice-Pres
Jonathan E. Burlingame
Stephanie L. Calise
Cheryl A. Greathouse

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Special meeting of April 14, Regular Meeting of April 17, & Public Hearing of April 21 , 2025

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of

Special meeting of April 14th and April 21st and the Regular meeting minutes of April 17, 2025; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions - Discussion and/or Action

1. Appointments - Discussion and/or Action

a. Land Trust - Member at Large from Planning Board

One Term to expire 1/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Planning Board will meet on Tuesday and a name should be coming following that meeting.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointment of a member at large to the Land Trust from the Planning Board to the May 15th Town Council meeting; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

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

1. Economic Development Commission

a. One ad-hoc non voting member #1, term to expire 12/31/2026

b. One ad-hoc non voting member #2, term to expire 12/31/2026

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair has stated there is no recommendation at this time but they indicate they may have someone from their May meeting.

MOTION was made to TABLE the appointments to the Economic Development Commission to the Town Council meeting of June 5, 2025; seconded by councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Gloucester School FY 2024/25 Budget, Corrective Action Plan - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Gloucester School Superintendent was notified of a potential deficit in the current budget. Councilor W. Worthy stated that per the Charter a corrective action plan is necessary.

Discussion: R. Palazzo, Superintendent of Gloucester Schools stated she has a letter to read into the record and also gave one to each Councilor. R. Palazzo read the following letter into the record:

To: Honorable Town Council Members

Pursuant to RIGL 16-2-9, we are providing you notice of a potential deficit in the current school year budget. On April 21, 2025, we were notified for the first time in writing by the Town Director of Finance that a number of expenditures were trending well above the budget levels for the year. These expenditures include out of district transportation, out of district placements, unemployment insurance and sick leave payoff. The projected deficit at that point was believed to be \$500,000.

Upon receiving this notification and as is required by law, we began a corrective action plan. The first step was to understand the current financial situation. As the superintendent I organized a meeting which included the assistant superintendent, the Director of Finance, and an accountant. We analyzed the current budget line by line and were able to identify potential reductions in expenditures for the remainder of the school year. In addition, there was an increase in some revenue sources. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was determined that the potential identified deficit was decreased to approximately \$150,000.

The school department does not have additional areas that could be cut for the remainder of the year. However, there is approximately \$370,000 in a restricted account. We will transfer funds from that account to cover the remaining deficit for 24/25. Based on this information the school department is expected to be funded and not end the year in a deficit. Therefore, there is not a need for a corrective action plan or notification to the auditor general.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Renee Palazzo Superintendent
Patricia Dubois, Assistant Superintendent

(End of letter)

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame asked which accounts this money was being proposed to come from. R. Palazzo stated that they are the Town of Gloucester school projects capital reserve accounts. Councilor J. Burlingame asked if these funds were for capital expenses. E. Beltram, Finance Director, stated that both of these accounts are restricted for capital and are held in the Town's special revenue funds. E. Beltram stated that the account was set up to be specifically used

for capital improvements.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked if the proposed use of the money was for capital expenses.

E. Beltram stated that the town pays capital expenses from this account. E. Beltram stated that the account was established by contributions from the town and the school of \$300,000 each over a five year period for capital improvements. E. Beltram stated that in researching this issue she found the motion by Council establishing the account and it specifically stated it was to be used for capital only. Councilor J. Burlingame asked the balance of the account. E. Beltram stated that there is a high yield money market account and a checking account. R. Palazzo stated the balance was \$368,000. E. Beltram stated again that this account is restricted to capital improvements.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked if the over expenditure in the school budget were capital expenses so that is why the money can be taken from this account. R. Palazzo stated that they were not capital expenses. R. Palazzo stated that the school is short \$150,000. R. Palazzo stated that it is her understanding that reimbursement of housing aid goes into this account and it is her opinion that it does not have any restrictions as to use. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he wants to make sure there are no violations of the Charter if this money is taken out for use.

R. Palazzo stated that the school cannot run a deficit. R. Palazzo stated her opinion that if the school has access to funds then they should be able to use it .

E. Beltram stated that it is her understanding that the arrangement regarding this account was that the reimbursement would go back into this account to replenish it for capital improvements. E. Beltram stated that she has not been able to find in her research the answer to how the housing aid was to go back into this fund as the arrangement was made about 10 years ago. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the housing aid was to go back into this account to replenish it for future capital expenses. E. Beltram stated that is what has been done.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked R. Palazzo what the decreases were to get the deficit down to \$150,000. R. Palazzo stated a few examples of decreases in line items of boiler repairs, maintenance and repairs, purchased property services, diesel fuel , electrical supplies, reference books. R. Palazzo stated that the finance department took all of the line item changes from the meeting and created a spreadsheet .

Councilor W. Steere stated that he was looking at the Charter and questioned whether these funds could be used to cover expenditures as there is a provision that prohibits unappropriated fund balance from being used to cover expenditures unless the voters approve the use at the Financial Town Referendum. E. Beltram stated that the money is in a restricted account and is not a fund balance.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked if this money were used would it mean there would be no deficit at the end of the school year. E. Beltram stated that there are still unknowns such as busing.

R. Palazzo stated that it was a tedious process to go line by line in the budget and try to determine what was needed for the rest of the year, what was outstanding and what would be left . R. Palazzo

stated her thanks to E. Beltram for her help.

Councilor W. Steere stated that if these funds were used that it seems to cover this year but he has concerns about funding this restricted account in the future. Councilor W. Steere asked the plan regarding the budget for next year.

R. Palazzo stated that her first step tonight was the plan for this year and then her second step is her concern regarding the proposed budget. R. Palazzo stated that it is difficult to be able to know a plan for next year until the voters approve a budget.

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that if the budget gets voted down then we all would need to make cuts. Councilor W. Steere thanked R. Palazzo.

No Action taken by Council

B. FY 2025/2026 Budget

Amendments, (to include deletions and/or additions as needed) and overall changes to proposed budget - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that tonight is the opportunity for the Town Council to propose any changes they would like incorporated into the proposed budget. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council can make their proposals and once voted on by the entire Council, if approved, the Finance Director will have to re-calculate and give Council an update as to how it affects the bottom line of budget. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council needs to remember additions or changes voted on may result in the need to cut other line items to not exceed the cap we are held to on our budget.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to amend the 2025/2026 budget proposed to reflect an increase in health benefits of 7.8% and 6.6 % to dental benefits; said amendment to reflect an increase to benefits in the line items in each department's budget; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the actual percentages have been received and are higher than the estimate received.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to amend the 2025/2026 proposed budget by moving \$330,000 from Capital - EMA Match grant line item to Capital - DPW Paving; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated he requested this item, as in his opinion, there are a lot of roads in town in rough shape. Councilor J. Burlingame stated he spoken with residents who stated their support for paving.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that the town has already turned down other grants and if we turn this down then it would be another negative which would not help in getting future grants. Councilor W. Steere stated his agreement and that the town already gave back a 3.8 million dollar grant. Councilor S. Calise stated her opinion that this building would help the police.

Chief Delprete stated that this building will help EMA as well as provide some much needed storage for the police department. Chief Delprete stated that if this grant is returned, as was the 3.8 million dollar grant, then it decreases the town's chances for getting grants in the future. Chief Delprete stated that there are many projects in need at the police station especially the condemned tower.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he was proposing this motion as he recognizes the need for the roads but also recognizes there is only one pot of money.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the police chief has said that since the police bond was not passed that the needed projects will still have to be done. Councilor W. Steere also recognizes the need for paving. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that future grants would not be coming if we were to give back this grant too. Councilor W. Steere stated that the police facilities are in need of improvements and that this new building would provide storage and EMA facility.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Budget Board went into great detail about this proposal and felt it was warranted.

Councilor C. Greathouse stated that there are a lot of roads that need work but that the police really need this building. Councilor S. Calise agreed.

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

MOTION FAILED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to amend the 2025/2026 proposed budget to cut the DPW salt line item in the proposed budget, by \$10,000, from \$85,000 to \$75,000; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that this item was cut by \$10,000 in order to fund the health and dental benefits.

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to amend the 2025/2026 proposed budget with an increase of \$2969.00 to Building/Zoning Department clerk payroll and benefits line item to reflect a re- classification from Senior Clerk to Administrative Aide; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

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

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to amend the 2025/2026 proposed budget with an increase of \$2969.00 to Planning Department clerk payroll and benefits line item to reflect a re-classification from Senior Clerk to Administrative Aide; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

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

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that all of these changes bring the budget to just under 4%. E. Beltram stated she could go and make these changes in order to make sure that the budget is still under 4%.

J. Fecteau stated a reminder to Council that they can make a motion to continue this item to later in the agenda in order to allow E. Beltram to make these changes and report back to Council.

Councilor W. Worthy asked the school if they had a plan to bring down the \$830,000 they will be missing in their FY26 budget. R. Palazzo stated that the only items left to cut are staff. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that the children will feel the effect of the problem created by the adults. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that he hopes there will be some type of plan going forward so this problem does not occur again without creating a structural deficit. R. Palazzo stated her agreement. R. Palazzo stated that one of the biggest issues is the out of district cost that can't be anticipated. R. Palazzo stated that they have been advocating at the state level and been in contact with our state representatives but until out of district costs are changed it will continue to be a problem.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he understands the impact and credits the teachers and administrators for our high level performing schools. Councilor W. Steere stated that there is only so much money to go around and the Council did everything they could by giving the school 6%. Councilor W. Steere stated that the budget is right about 4% and there is no more money. Councilor W. Steere stated that if the voters do not pass this budget then there will have to be more cuts.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that tonight's final calculations will be put into the budget and ballot questions will be formulated and Council will have a final vote to adopt at a Special Meeting of the Town Council on Monday, May 5th, 2025. Councilor W. Worthy stated that is the final deadline to ensure ballots are printed in time for our referendum on May 20, 2025.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that since all these proposed motions have been discussed and voted upon, the Finance Director is going to go calculate the new number to determine if the changes fit

in the budget.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONTINUE this item to later in this agenda; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

C. Authorization for signature - Discussion and/or Action

1. RI Resource Recovery Agreement

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the DPW has received the current Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement Between the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the Town of Gloucester. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the agreement has been reviewed by the Town Solicitor.

Discussion: D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, asked for this item to be continued in order to finalize his review.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Calise to TABLE the Town Council President to sign the Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement Between the Rhode Island Resource Corporation and the Town of Gloucester to the Town Council meeting of May 15, 2025; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Grant Agreement - Learn365 & Math Matters RI - Municipal Learning Project

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the local school department through the Town was awarded a grant for approximately \$40,000 which will allow them to continue providing High Dosage Tutoring after school for math at both elementary schools along with a summer program focused on math. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council approved the application and now that the grant was awarded, Council must approve the Grant Agreement.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Grant Agreement between the R.I. Dept. of Education and the Town of Gloucester, titled "Supplier #002678, Relating to Learn365 & Math Matters RI-A Municipal Learning Project"; to be dated 5/1/2025; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

3. Indemnification & Hold Harmless Agreement - 1272 Putnam Pike
Between Town of Gloucester & Matthew C. Light

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk received an Indemnification & hold Harmless agreement from the successful bidder for the removal of structural material at 1272 Putnam Pike. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Solicitor has reviewed the agreement. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the signature of the President is required.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the Indemnification & hold Harmless Agreement between the Town of Gloucester & Matthew C. Light for work to be done at 1272 Putnam Pike; seconded by Councilor S. Calise

Discussion: None

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

D. House Bill # 5957 Relating to Towns and Cities -- Low and Moderate Income
Housing - 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: April 29, 2025
Re: Housing Bill

An amendment to the Low and Moderate Income Housing Act was proposed by our local delegation, H 5957 on February 28, 2025.

This bill would add a clause that would allow municipalities to be considered to have met the requirements of the act if the “city or town has adopted an inclusionary zoning ordinance requiring that all housing developments include at least fifty percent (50%) low or moderate income housing units.”

This could be a possible alternative for the Town to meet the requirements of the Act. If the Council would like to support this bill, I would recommend that we include a minimum number of units for the inclusionary zoning to apply.

In addition, legislation passed in a previous session requires municipalities to provide density bonuses for inclusionary zoning- “For all projects subject to inclusionary zoning, subject to applicable setback, lot width, or frontage requirements or the granting of relief from the same, a municipality shall allow the addition of two (2) market rate units for each affordable unit provided

and the minimum lot area per dwelling unit normally required in the applicable zoning district shall be reduced by that amount necessary to accommodate the development” (See RIGL 45-24-46.1 (c)-
<https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/Statutes/TITLES45-24-46.1> 45-24-46.1htm
(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that this is commonsense and also shows the town’s willingness to try and help our affordable housing stock and at the same time it takes away some of the odious restrictions that the state has been pushing on our local zoning . Councilor W. Steere stated his request to have a resolution for the next agenda and to send the resolution to the state and the other cities and towns. Councilors Calise and Burlingame agreed.

K. Scott stated her suggestion to have a minimum number of units that this would apply to and feels that 6 would work. K. Scott explained that the state does not want more than 10 and that by selecting 6 it would provide 3 affordable housing units.

No Action Taken

X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor S. Calise asked R. Palazzo about the proposed bill regarding bus districts. R. Palazzo stated that the proposed bill would restructure the current districts so ours would become smaller. R. Palazzo stated that the school pays for out of district transport of students to private schools in our zone. R. Palazzo stated that this would not help with the transport of students who are homeless and placed in our town who the school has to transport back to their prior school. Councilor W. Steere asked if that was based on state or federal law. R. Palazzo stated it is federal law and that the cost is shared. Councilor W. Steere asked if there were any other proposed bills the school would like the Council to support. R. Palazzo stated her appreciation and that there are several that were heard recently . Councilor W. Steere stated that if there are any the school would like the Council to support to send the town clerk an email.

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

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

1. Memo recommending the review of Congressional One time funds for funding the budget
2. Invitation to visit Washington on Rhode Island Day 2025 from Representatives Magaziner and Amo.
3. R.I. Dept. of Housing introducing a draft of housing 2030, RI’s first Statewide Housing Plan since 2006.

XII. 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. Councilor W. Steere asked R. Shields about the plans for Memorial Day. R. Shields, Recreation Director, stated that he filed the form to request military personnel for the parade and made all bus arrangements. R. Shields stated that he will be ordering the flowers next. R. Shields stated that all will be ready for the day .

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards and Commissions had anything to report or if any Councilors had any questions for any of the Boards and Commissions.

None

XIV. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone had anything to discuss and if so to please state your name when you come to the microphone.

1. Walter Steere, resident, stated his opinion that the transportation issue is a 70-80 million dollar problem. W. Steere stated that changing the zones and using smaller busses will help reduce the amount of cost to the town but that it won't solve the problem. W. Steere stated that no one can prepare for this cost and until the state takes it over it is going to be a burden.

W. Steere stated that the \$40,000 grant is the Learn365 that many cities and towns approved it in order to receive the funds but that the grant contained items that were not agreeable to all.

W. Steere stated his opinion that taking money from a restricted account is illegal by our charter. W. Steere stated his opinion that the only money that can be used is that which is voted on by the voters. W. Steere stated his opinion that the school ran out of fund balance and now is trying to go after capital fund money especially in terms of maintaining the capital account for the future. W. Steere stated the council is to enforce the Charter and asked for a legal opinion as to whether or not this proposed taking is legal.

2. R. Palazzo stated she wanted to offer some clarification regarding the Learn365 grant. R. Palazzo stated that this grant is for grades K-8 and the funds will be used at the Gloucester elementary schools and Ponaganset Middle School (PMS). R. Palazzo stated that this grant had to be approved by the town both in application and in approval because the school cannot do so on its own. R. Palazzo stated that the grant is math focused and described how it would be used at the elementary school and at PMS.

R. Palazzo stated that in her opinion the housing reimbursement is for the school to use and if it is going into a capital restricted account then that needs to be changed in order to enable the school to use it. R. Palazzo stated her opinion that school funds should be accessible and used for the school especially when there is a deficit.

3. D. Reilly, secretary at elementary school, asked for the Council to help the schools financially.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to RECALL item IX. B. ; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: E. Beltram stated that the budget before tonight's changes showed a 3.933% increase for the amount to be raised by taxes. E. Beltram stated that the changes made tonight now reflect a 3.988% increase in the amount to be raised by taxes. E. Beltram stated that there is no wiggle room for changes as the cap is 4%.

No Action Taken by council

XV. 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:
 - 1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: Negotiations for successor union contracts

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to 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:
 - 1. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action re: Negotiations for successor union contracts
 - 2. For discussion only- Pending tax cases with FM Global

seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll:

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVI. 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 in Executive Session & to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Clerk to call the roll:

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

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 11:04 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED