

At a meeting of the Town Council in and for the Town of Gloucester on March 19, 2026

I. Call to Order

Councilor W. Worthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Jonathan E. Burlingame; Stephanie L. Westgate; Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice- President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President
Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor; Elizabeth Beltram, Finance Director; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Treml, DPW Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Chief J. Delprete; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor W. Worthy asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if anyone wishes to speak on any issues to please step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

D. Wright, 95 Pound Road, stated his opinion that Pound Road is in need of desperate repair as there are significant potholes. D. Wright stated his opinion that DPW does a great job and is recommending that funding for fixing the road would be great.

V. Citation #2026-02 – Years of Volunteer Service – David Calderara

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has prepared a citation to honor a long-term member of our Planning Board, David Calderara which he read as follows:

State of Rhode Island
Town of Gloucester
Citation # 2026-02

David Calderara

**Given in recognition of and with deep gratitude and appreciation of your
25 years of service to our Town as a member of the
Gloucester Planning Board, serving as the Chairman of the Board for six years and Vice-
Chair for 13 years.**

Your knowledge, expertise and insight were invaluable especially when addressing the major changes in state law related to Planning and Zoning. You served with dependability, preparedness, and always showed respect to our applicants, residents and your fellow board members even when the processes and discussions caused heated moments.

The Town Council and Town Clerk wholeheartedly represent the administration and all Gloucester residents when we say “Thank You” for your commitment and service to our

community. Your shoes will be hard to fill!!

William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice. President

Jonathan E. Burlingame, Councilor

Cheryl A. Greathouse, Councilor

Stephanie L. Calise-Westgate, Councilor

David V. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Adopted this 19th day of March 2026

Seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that he worked with D. Calderara on the Planning Board. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that D. Calderara was always prepared, a gentleman, steady and that he is still a member of our Board of Canvassers. Councilor W. Steere stated that he is leaving a good group and his shoes will be hard to fill.

J. Pitocco, Chair of the Planning Board, stated that it has been a privilege to work with D. Calderara and that he has been steady, a good mentor, always acted with integrity, had the best interest of the town in mind and will be missed.

VI. Resolution #2026-03 – RESOLUTION

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has prepared a resolution to sign and forward to the Foster/Glocester Regional School District calling for an investigation which he read as follows:

**State of Rhode Island
Town of Glocester
Resolution #2026-03**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF
FOSTER- GLOCESTER REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT COMPLIANCE WITH STATE LAW, REGIONAL DISTRICT
STATUTES, AND TITLE IX REGARDING SEXUAL ASSAULT COMPLAINTS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Glocester is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students in its schools; and

WHEREAS, the Foster-Glocester Regional School District is a traditional regional public-school district, established by the Rhode Island General Assembly under the 1958 enabling statute (Chapter 109, Public Laws of Rhode Island), and is governed by the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee and School Department are required under Rhode Island state law, regional statutes, and Title IX of the Education

Amendments of 1972 to properly investigate and address allegations of sexual assault and misconduct within school facilities; and

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised regarding the adequacy, timeliness, and compliance of the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee and School Department's handling of sexual assault complaints, including any pending or current allegations; and

WHEREAS, the Town seeks to ensure full compliance with all mandatory reporting and investigative obligations, including but not limited to:

1. Mandatory Reporting Under Rhode Island Law (R.I. Gen. Laws§ 40-11-3.3)

- o Anyone with reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been the victim of sexual abuse by a school employee, agent, contractor, or volunteer must immediately report to the principal or educational leader.
- o The principal (or designee) must report to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) within 24 hours.
- o DCYF forwards the report to local/state law enforcement and conducts protective services investigations as required.
- o The school must cooperate fully with DCYF and law enforcement investigations.

2. Duties Under Title IX (Federal Law)

Sexual harassment and sexual assault constitute sex discrimination under Title IX.

- o Once a school official with authority to address the issue has actual knowledge of sexual harassment or assault, the district must respond promptly and effectively.
- o Responsibilities include designating a Title IX Coordinator, providing complaint procedures, conducting prompt investigations, offering interim supportive measures, resolving complaints fairly and impartially, and informing parties of outcomes and appeal rights.

3. District Policy and Internal Process

- o Foster-Glocester's policies, including Policy 5146 (Title IX Non-Discrimination/ Anti-Harassment) and Policy 5151.1 (School Response to Bullying, Teen Dating Violence, and Sexual Violence), govern internal complaint handling, investigations, supportive measures, and remedies.
- o Staff are required to receive training on reporting obligations, maintain confidentiality, and coordinate with DCYF and law enforcement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Glocester formally requests that the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee and School Department commission an independent investigation into their policies, procedures, handling of sexual assault complaints, and any pending or current allegations to ensure compliance with:

1. Rhode Island state law regarding mandatory reporting of sexual abuse (§ 40-11-3.3);
2. Statutes governing regional school districts; and
3. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, including federal regulations regarding sexual harassment and assault in educational programs and activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the independent investigation:

- Be conducted by a qualified third-party investigator with expertise in Title IX compliance, child protection law, and educational oversight.
- Be made available to the Town Council, the public, and relevant oversight authorities.
- Assess the district's compliance with Rhode Island law, regional district statutes, Title IX, and district policies (5146 and 5151.1).
- Include factual findings, conclusions, and recommendations for corrective action to ensure student safety and legal compliance.
- Include interim measures as necessary to protect students during the investigation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Council requests that the Foster-Glocester Regional School Committee and School Department implement any recommendations arising from the investigation promptly and provide periodic updates to the Town Council regarding progress.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Glocester, Rhode Island, this 19th day of March, 2026.

ATTEST:

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

William A. Worthy, Jr.
Town Council President

Seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items- Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of February 19th and March 5th, 2026
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements – February 2026
- C. Finance Director's Monthly Report – February 2026

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of February 19th and March 5th, 2026; to APPROVE the Tax Assessor's Additions to the 2025 Tax Roll in the amount of \$3,927.15; No Abatements to the 2025 Tax Roll; and to ACCEPT the Finance Director's Monthly Report for February 2026; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business- Discussion and/or Action

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

a. Budget Board

1. Position # 3- unexpired term to expire 12/31/2028

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair does not have a recommendation at this time. Council may table or appoint from the talent list.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3, to the Town Council meeting of April 2nd, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Planning Board

1. Position # 1- one 5-year term to expire 2/28/2031

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair does not have a recommendation at this time. Council may table or appoint from the talent list.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to TABLE the appointment to the Planning Board, Position # 1, for a 5yr term to expire 2/30/31 to April 2nd, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Presentation of Proposed Budget from Budget Board for TC Public

Hearing (to be held 4/20/26) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that tonight, the Budget Board gives the Council their recommended budget for FY 2026/27. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council will "accept" the budget, as is, for the Public Hearing to be held on April 20, 2026. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there will

be no changes to the budget proposed by the Budget Board until that time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the budget will be available to the public in the office of the Finance Director and on-line at www.glocesterri.gov.

Discussion:

M. McNamara, Budget Board Chair, stated that preparing the budget was a difficult process. M. McNamara stated thanks to the Council for attending the workshop as well as thanks to, Beth Beltram and, Lori Chorico, Finance Department; Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk and Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk. M. McNamara also acknowledged the Budget Board members in attendance and asked them to stand: D. Steere, L. Lyons, M. Morgan, S. Masello and K. Bonoyer.

Councilor W. Worthy stated his thanks to the Budget Board. Councilor W. Steere stated his thanks and commented the board put in a lot of time and effort into this process which is not an easy one.

Councilor W. Worthy asked how to handle non union/union salary increases or step up requests as the Clerk has received three requests so far. Councilor W. Steere stated a suggestion to wait until the public hearing as no changes will be made until then.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, asked if she could forward the non-union requests to E. Beltram, Finance Director, in order to determine the impact to have ready for any proposal at the public hearing. Councilors agreed. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that union contracts are still being negotiated.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT for Public Hearing the Budget Board's proposed budget for FY 2026/2027, said Public Hearing to be held on April 20, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Presentation of Annual Financial Report – FY ending June 30, 2025
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the audit for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2025 will be presented to Council by a representative from Damiano & Company, the Town's Auditors

Discussion: E. Beltram, Finance Director, introduced Greg Parisi from Damiano & Co. to speak. G. Parisi stated his thanks to E. Beltram for help in the process. G. Parisi stated that the company had performed a financial audit and a compliance audit for the town. G. Parisi gave a brief description as to how the audit report is organized and presented.

D. Igliazzi asked about the unreserved fund balance and the auditor general set percentage of 17% percent. G. Parisi stated that there is an overall fund balance with restrictions and set asides that leave the total unassigned fund balance as the remaining amount. D. Igliazzi asked for the percentage. G. Parisi stated that there is no penalty for going under the unassigned fund balance amount but that the reality is to not be in a structural deficit. D. Igliazzi asked if the audit could include the amount required by the auditor general and the actual amount for the town.

E. Beltram stated that the fund balance is well within the 12% to 17%.

No Action Taken by Council

C. Catalis Tax & CAMA, Inc. – Discussion and/or Action RE: Processes, Procedures, Complaints during current revaluation

Councilor W. Worthy stated that over the past few weeks there has been a lot of discussion regarding the revaluation appeal interviews being done in town. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has asked for a representative of the revaluation company to meet with Council.

Discussion:

R. Nadeau (sp?), representative from Catalis, stated that they are currently doing a statistical revaluation of properties in Gloucester. R. Nadeau described how the company creates a database for the evaluation process.

R. Nadeau stated that the median single-family home value is \$486,900 in Rhode Island. R. Nadeau stated that the firm follows the International Association of Assessing Offices (IAAO) practices. R. Nadeau stated that the values are based on sales in Gloucester only and specific to style of home. R. Nadeau stated that hearings are ongoing and that no decisions are made at the hearing. R. Nadeau stated that the hearing officer brings reports back for analysis and a letter issues after review. R. Nadeau stated that the individuals can appeal to the town every year.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the values change depending on a rural area versus a city area. R. Nadeau stated that the data is based on sales in Gloucester only. R. Nadeau stated that the exception is commercial properties as they are so limited in Gloucester.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that part of the frustration he is hearing is because the increase in values could force long time residents to leave town and questioned why the values and percentages have increased so much.

R. Nadeau stated that they strictly look at sales data and value the appraisal on the market sales. R. Nadeau stated that the average increase for residential properties as a whole is up 25% and that the average increase for commercial properties was 19.1% in response to Councilor J. Burlingame's question. R. Nadeau stated that just single family homes are up 24% even though residential properties as a whole are up 25%.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that if a property increased by 30% to 40% how is that justified. R. Nadeau stated that it is that they strictly look at sales data to determine market value but also do consider depreciating for aging. R. Nadeau stated that they do not consider rural versus city into their data but rather just looking at sales data in our community. R. Nadeau stated that if a property owner feels the value is not in line then to make an appointment for an informal hearing.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the practices followed are professional and best practices. R. Nadeau stated that they follow the guidelines and best practices of the professional organization IAAO. Councilor W. Steere stated that Council has received concerns about customer service. Councilor W. Steere stated that the individuals doing the hearings could show a bit more empathy as it is important to Council that residents be treated fairly and respectfully.

R. Nadeau stated his apologies for any unacceptable behavior and wishes things had been better.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked if more days could be added for residents. R. Nadeau stated that more days could be added and to just let the Rachel Smith, Tax Assessor Clerk know.

D. Laplante, 47 Absalona Hill Road, questioned the 40 % increase to his older ranch style home without having done work that was not already factored into his value. D. Laplante questioned

why his property increased 40% when the average increase in Gloucester is 24%. D. Laplante stated he reviewed comparable homes which increased only by \$30,000 or so and questioned the inconsistencies.

R. Nadeau stated that some people in the company do field reviews and others do sales reviews. R. Nadeau advised him to come in for an informal hearing appointment.

R. Lavallee, Pine Orchard Road, questioned the sales versus the non sales of the same style home. R. Lavallee stated that he wanted to know how many capes like his have to be sold in an area to effect his value. R. Nadeau stated that the values are based on the total sales of all styles in town.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked how the company differentiates values between homes that have made improvements and homes that have not made any improvements. R. Nadeau stated that the town has a database with descriptions of all properties and all improvements that have been done over time. R. Nadeau stated that they work with the tax assessor's office as to descriptions when making any adjustments for improvements that have been done when they go inside the property. R. Nadeau stated that this is found under condition on the website. R. Nadeau stated that the values for the homes are based on current market value not a formula in answer to the question of Councilor S. Westgate.

G. King, 55 Blackinton Drive, asked if there was a provision as to how historical homes are treated. G. King stated the value of his historical home has increased to well over a million dollars from \$660,000 and he has not done any major upgrades. R. Nadeau stated that there are a lot of properties with unique issues and that the taxpayer needs to make sure the property card in the assessor's office accurately describes the property because the assessor's office may make adjustments if they are warranted.

W. Steere asked if the same style homes are valued based on location in town. R. Nadeau stated that the value of the building does not change no matter where in town it is located. R. Nadeau stated that property on a lake is valued higher than property on a highway for example. R. Nadeau stated that the company does not make adjustments as to the type of land. R. Nadeau stated that particular type of land whether it is ledge or wetlands etc is something the property owner needs to bring to the assessor for possible adjustments on the description on the property card.

Councilor W. Steere stated that Council would like to extend the amount of time for informational hearings. Councilor W. Steere asked E. Beltram, Finance Director, to let the Assessor's Office know that the time for informal hearings is being extended.

No Action Taken by Council

- D. Personnel
 - 1. Retirement – Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Town Clerk Office – Clerk

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Clerk has received a letter of retirement from Sue Harris, a clerk in her office.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to ACCEPT the letter of retirement from clerk, Susan Harris; effective end of workday May 29th, 2026 seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

2. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Town Clerk Office – Clerk

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk and Don Zimmerman will work on posting and/or advertising this position as soon as possible if authorized by Council.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Clerk and HR Director to post and/or advertise the position of Clerk for the Town Clerk’s Office and make a recommendation to the Town Council after interviews are conducted; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

3. Promotions - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Police Department- Discussion and/or Action

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

Honorable Town Council
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: March 11, 2026
RE: Police Department Promotions

I am respectfully requesting that the Gloucester Town Council approve the promotion of Sergeant Daniel Lefebvre to the rank of Lieutenant, and Robert Glaude to the rank of Sergeant on the Gloucester Police Department.

Sergeant LeFebvre is a 12-year veteran on the Gloucester Police Department and will be the lead shift Supervisor and assume new assigned administrative responsibilities including Accreditation Manager.

Patrol Officer Robert Glaude is a six-year veteran and BCI Investigator on the Gloucester Police Department and will be assigned as patrol shift Sergeant.

Both Officers are outstanding candidates in leading and moving the department forward. I would request these promotions take effect on Sunday March 22, 2026 and both will be afforded the salary and benefit changes in accordance with the current IBPO 628 collective bargaining agreement.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete
Chief of Police

(end of memo)

1. Promotion: Sergeant to Lieutenant - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the promotion of Daniel Lefebvre from Sergeant to Lieutenant, said promotion to take effect on Sunday March 22, 2026, said employee will be afforded the salary and benefit changes in accordance with the current IBPO 628 Collective Bargaining Agreement; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Promotion: Senior Patrolman to Sergeant - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the promotion of Robert Glaude from Senior Patrolman to Sergeant, said promotion to take effect on Sunday March 22, 2026, said employee will be afforded the salary and benefit changes in accordance with the current IBPO 628 Collective Bargaining Agreement; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Discussion regarding consideration to forward correspondence to Fire Depts. RE: financial support for replacement of tower – Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council discussed reaching out to fire departments in town regarding their financial support for the replacement of a police department communications tower at the last council meeting.

Councilor W. Worthy stated the matching grant amount the town would be responsible for is \$130,000.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that the reason this topic was brought up is because the tower is condemned and needs to be replaced. Councilor W. Steere stated the town has received a grant towards the cost of replacement. Councilor W. Steere stated that one problem is the different frequencies used by the different fire departments and the police department. Councilor W. Steere stated that if all departments, both fire and police, could use the same frequency then the cost and size of the new tower would be less.

Councilor W. Steere stated that he does not know where the different departments stand on this issue and that time for using the grant is a concern.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the town does not charge for the use of the tower. Councilor W. Steere would like to know if the fire departments would consider contributing to the cost of the new tower.

Chief S. Quattrini, Harmony Fire Department, stated even if Harmony were to use the same frequency as the police that the tower would need to be used for dispatch. Chief Quattrini stated

that he would bring the question of contributing to the tower to the Board and let council know their answer.

D. Laplante, Harmony Fire Dept. Board member, asked Council for the amount they were thinking of asking from each of the 3 fire departments. Councilor W. Steere stated that it would be a four way split of the \$130,000.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to forward correspondence to all three fire districts Board of Commissioners asking for a contribution of approximately \$32,500 towards the replacement of the Police Department communication tower located on the Police Department property; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Discussion, vote or other action RE: consideration of expansion of number of annual mobile food establishment permits by resolution

Councilor W. Worthy stated that a new ordinance was adopted that allows the Council to amend the number of annual mobile food establishment permits allowed by resolution. Councilor W. Worthy stated that currently there are 7 annual licenses in use with 5 Type A and 2 Type B. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are currently 5 names on the waiting list.

Discussion

Councilor W. Steere asked Chief Delprete as to the safe limit of mobile food establishment (mfe's). Chief Delprete stated that there are no significant issues but that the food trucks are taking up the prime spots on main street.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he would like a discussion as to the use of the Pavilion by the food trucks. Councilor W. Worthy stated he would like a map of the feasible locations from the Chief. Chief Delprete stated that all the food trucks want Main Street.

R. Baumann, Phillips Lane, asked if he could get a daily permit and that he has a spot-on private property. Councilor W. Steere asked if R. Baumann was on the waiting list. Councilor J. Burlingame asked if a permit could be issued for just private property. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that Council may not be able to restrict solely to private.

Chief Delprete stated he would look into the public safety as it has an impact on Council's decision. Councilor W. Worthy asked Council how many annual permits they would like.

D. Igliazzi stated that if all five on the waiting list including Mr. Baumann then the number to add would be 6 to the current 7 to have a total of 13.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Mr. Baumann is not on the waiting list and she has an application if he would like. R. Baumann stated that he called to be put on the waiting list about a month ago. J. Fecteau stated that she does not have him on the list. J. Fecteau stated that no one has signed up in quite a while and her office even called all of those on the waiting list to make sure they still wanted to be on it.

D. Igliazzi stated that the question is whether the town can support 6 additional mfe's.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the ordinance lists the prohibited areas. Councilor W. Steere stated he was not ready to decide the number tonight and needs information from the Chief.

J. Fecteau stated that if the Pavilion is going to be used then the ordinance must be changed as there are specific rules and regulations for the Pavilion.

Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he was not ready to make a decision.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Worthy to TABLE proposing to set a new number of Annual MFE permits for the Town of Gloucester, per Code of Ordinance, Chapter 206-3.B. 1. MFE Annual Permits; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

G. Special Event Application

1. Applicant: Gloucester Heritage Society

Event: Yard Sale

Location: 1043 Putnam Pike

Date: April 18, 2026

a. Determine if exempt from Public Hearing and/or Set Public Hearing Date - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the President of the Heritage Society, Marie Sweet, has submitted an application for an event to be held at 1043 Putnam Pike. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Ms. Sweet has indicated, on the application, this event is the same event previously held with no changes, and therefore, they are seeking a waiver of public hearing.

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated that there were no problems with the event last year in response to Councilor W. Steere's question.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to WAIVE a Public Hearing for a Special Event, per Ordinance 175-4, B.2, to be held by the Heritage Society at 1043 Putnam Pike on April 18, 2026, with a rain date of April 19, 2026, said Special Event is a repeat event with the same components as their previous event; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

b. Consider Application (if exempt from hearing) - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated if the Public Hearing is waived then the application can be considered.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to GRANT the application for a Special Event to be held by the Heritage Society on April 18, 2026, with a rain date of April 19, 2026, at the Reuben

Mason House, 1043 Putnam Pike; said event to include a "yard sale" and seven vendors; with the following stipulations:

1. No on-street parking
2. The number of vendors shall not exceed the number included on application.
3. No alcoholic beverages shall be allowed in the area utilized for the event.

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

H. Senior Exemptions- Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the current senior exemption has not changed in about ten years. Councilor J. Burlingame would like to propose that the Senior exemption be changed to be more in line with the rate of inflation. Councilor W. Steere stated that a cost analysis would need to be done but he is in favor of helping residents.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked for the Assessor to be able to run the analysis. E. Beltram, Finance Director, stated that there is no Assessor in the office and she is not sure if the Clerk knows how to run that type of analysis.

D. Iglizzi stated that Council cannot change the town ordinance as the General Assembly would be the correct party to change the state law. D. Iglizzi stated that Council needs to be aware that the deadline with the General Assembly is June.

Councilor J. Burlingame asked if E. Beltram could find out if the Clerk can run the analysis. E. Beltram stated she would find out and reminded Council that the Clerk is working alone as there is no Assessor and handling the day to day as well as many questions with the revaluations.

No Action

I. Consideration of Resolution RE: Affordable Housing Laws & Joint Statement - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: L. Fitzmorris, Portsmouth, stated he was present to speak to Council about a resolution of affordable housing. L. Fitzmorris described the process by which the General Assembly changed the Planning and Zoning laws that reduced the ability of people to defend their property rights. L. Fitzmorris stated that the intent is to drive up density in rural areas but without any regard for utilities etc. because one size does not fit all.

L. Fitzmorris stated that he is asking cities and towns to join by signing this Resolution to then form a group to challenge to these laws in court.

Councilor W. Steere asked for K. Scott, Town Planner opinion. K. Scott stated that the traditional avenues were tried and did not work but that a lawsuit was not tried. D. Iglizzi stated that if Council were to sign the resolution then they would be committing the town to participate and to be responsible for any costs associated with the potential litigation. D. Iglizzi stated that this matter would be similar to the Evergreen litigation where the cities and towns that participated in the lawsuit were held financially responsible for a share of the total cost. D. Iglizzi stated that he wants Council to make a decision with more facts.

L. Fitzmorris stated that no plans have yet been made and that the intent is for the cities and towns

that sign on to determine whether to go to court and the cost.

D. Iglizzo stated a recommendation to add to the next meeting to discuss as it is potential litigation.

D. Iglizzo asked if there was a contact person he could speak with. L. Fitzmorris stated a contact name of Gio Ciccone, the Portsmouth Town Solicitor

D. Iglizzo stated he would speak with the Portsmouth town attorney and report back to Council.

No Action taken

J. Local School Department Financial Status - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: Councilor J. Burlingame stated that he and E. Beltram, Finance Director met with R. Palazzo, Gloucester Superintendent, and some members of the school committee. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that there are concerns about the budget as the bills are adding up. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the school is not in a deficit right now. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that The superintendent will get back to him after the first school committee meeting in April after they review the budget and if they are in a deficit the plan to correct.

No Action

K. Discussion and/or Action RE: Fire & Police Dispatch

Discussion: Chief Delprete asked for this matter to be tabled.

L. Update RE: Police Chief Replacement Search - Discussion and/or Action

Discussion: J. Fecteau, Town Clerk stated that D. Zimmerman, Human Resources Consultant is working on the ad and job description.

No Action Taken

M. Authorization RE: Police Dept. K-nine "Gary" - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director talked with the Trust regarding bringing on another k-nine. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Trust stated we can utilize all the dogs we want as long as the dog and the handler are certified. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Trust stated there are different certifications and the dog can only be used for the certification they hold.

Discussion: Chief Delprete stated they are on board with policies due to the current k nine dog, Tate. Chief Delprete stated that Gary would be used for community outreach, search and rescue as well as narcotics. Chief Delprete stated that trying to do funding outside the police department.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to AUTHORIZE the addition of K-Nine "Gary" to the Gloucester Police Force; per the Trust said K-nine and handler shall be certified and utilized only for the work for which they are certified; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated he was recusing.

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Burlingame, Westgate, Greathouse, Worthy
NAYS-0

RECUSAL- Steere
MOTION PASSED

X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Councilors had updates on legislation.

Councilor W. Steere asked if K. Scott has seen any new proposed zoning laws. K. Scott stated that there is a new package of bills but that they limit it to cities and towns with water and sewer. K. Scott stated the other proposed ones clarify ones already passed.

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

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

1. Notice from the State Traffic Commission regarding crosswalk in the vicinity of 1179 Putnam Pike
2. Notification to Abutters, from RIDEM, investigation at 33 Steere Road in Smithfield is pending.
3. West Gloucester Fire grant application.
(end of correspondence)

Council discussion:

Councilor W. Steere is asking the Town Solicitor to look into the West Gloucester Fire Grant as to how funds are to be received.

D. Crowley, West Gloucester Fire, stated that according to S. Magaziner's office the town would have to sponsor the fire district. D. Crowley stated the town would receive the funds and would forward to the fire district.

D. Igliazzi stated that he would draft a resolution for the next meeting.

D. Crowley stated that S. Magaziner's office just needed to know if the town supported. J. Fecteau asked if she could send an email to West Gloucester that the Council will do a resolution on April 2nd that he could then forward to s. Magaziner's office.

XII. Dept. 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.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she received correspondence today from the Town of Putnam regarding a 3 lot subdivision on Blood Road about a public hearing that was held yesterday and she received the notice today.

J. Fecteau stated that she has now received an application from R. Baumann to be added to the waiting list that had not changed since December. J. Fecteau asked if preference could be given to town residents. D. Igliazzi stated that he would check state law.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there was a resignation from an employee of the Animal Control Office.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards or Commissions had anything to report.
J. Fecteau stated she asked the 250th Commission to give the Council an update.

XIV. Open Forum

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

Discussion: Chief Quatrinni, Harmony Fire Dept., asked to keep the fire department in the loop as to the independent study of the police/fire dispatch matter.

G. King, stated that the school committee voted to extend the school superintendent contract and questioned the legality of the vote. G. King stated his reasons he feels this was done to handcuff any new school committee members after the next election.

G. King asked if the solicitor could check with the Attorney General to look into this matter. D. Iglizoi stated he would look into the matter but stated his opinion that it is probably an ethics matter or an open meetings violation matter.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council now needs a motion for Executive Session:

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

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

DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL, VOTE OR OTHER ACTION RE:

1. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, etc.;
 - a. One Personnel Session (Employee notified)
2. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to potential litigation:
 - a. Negotiations for successor union contracts – (Police, Dispatcher & Clerks)

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

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

DISCUSSION BY COUNCIL, VOTE OR OTHER ACTION RE:

1. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(1) Any discussions of the job performance, character, etc.;
 - a. One Personnel Session (Employee notified)
2. RIGL 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining, litigation or work sessions pertaining to potential litigation:
 - a. Negotiations for successor union contracts – (Police, Dispatcher & Clerks)

Seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye

Councilor Westgate- Aye

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

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

After Executive Session

XVI. Reconvene Open Session; Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose zero Votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the minutes of Closed Executive Session; Seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

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

Councilor Burlingame- Aye
Councilor Westgate- Aye
Councilor Greathouse- Aye
Councilor Steere- Aye
Councilor Worthy- Aye

Discussion: None

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Personnel

A. IT Contract - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item is not needed at this time

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE to the Town Council meeting of April 2, 2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

XVIII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 11:15 pm; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

