

At a meeting of the Town Council in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 20, 2026

I. Call to Order

Councilor W. Worthy called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliozi, Town Solicitor (arrived at 6:40 PM); Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Gary Trembl, DPW Director (Open Session); Gerry Mosca, EMA Director (Open Session);

III. Pledge of Allegiance

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

IV. Gloucester Police Swearing in Ceremony

Councilor W. Worthy stated that tonight, we have some important business to attend to, the swearing in of Officers for the Gloucester Police Department.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Father T.J. Varghese is present tonight. Councilor Worthy stated that Father Varghese has faithfully served as the Chaplain of the Gloucester Police Department for the last 19 years. Councilor W. Worthy invited Father Varghese to offer a prayer which he did.

Councilor W. Worthy asked each officer to please stand when their name was called.

Bryan McConnell – Sergeant

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we welcome Bryan's partner Ashley Rittenhouse

Timothy Heston – Lieutenant

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we welcome Tim's wife, Julie and his children Daniel and Brian

Daniel Lefebvre – Captain

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we welcome his wife Stephanie and his children Sadie, Jayna, and Easton

Jeffrey Jenison – Chief of Police

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we welcome Jeff’s wife Dawn and his children Brayden, Brody, and Brielle

Councilor W. Worthy asked the Town Clerk to please step to the podium to swear in of each of the officers.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated she was truly honored to swear in these four officers.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that first, we have **Officer Bryan McConnell – Being promoted to the rank of Sergeant**. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Officer McConnell joined the Gloucester Police Department in 2024. Councilor W. Worthy stated that his Chief stated “Sergeant McConnell has demonstrated the potential to become a strong and effective supervisor. He is very motivated and willing to learn and respond to and handle the responsibilities that come with the Sergeant Position”.

J. Fecteau offered the oath of office of his commission to Officer Bryan McConnell.

Councilor W. Worthy stated congratulations Sergeant McConnell.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that next we have **Officer Timothy Heston – being promoted to the rank of Lieutenant**.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Officer Heston has been with the department since 2011 and came to us from the North Providence Police Department. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Tim has been a great addition and an outstanding officer on our force. Councilor W. Worthy stated that upon his promotion, his Chief stated “His dedication to mentoring fellow officers and maintaining the highest standards of public service has earned the respect of his peers and supervisors alike. As he assumes the responsibilities of Lieutenant, I am confident that his experience, leadership, and commitment to excellence will continue to strengthen the department and positively impact both our personnel and the residents of Gloucester”.

Councilor W. Worthy asked J. Fecteau to administer the oath to Officer Heston

J. Fecteau offered the oath of office of his commission to Officer Timothy Heston.

Councilor W. Worthy stated congratulations to Lieutenant Heston.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that next we acknowledge **Daniel Lefebvre – Being promoted to the rank of Captain**

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Officer Lefebvre has been with the department since 2014 and has served our force well. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Officer Lefebvre is known to be a strong leader and a mentor for other officers.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Chief Jenison said the following about Officer Lefebvre upon his promotion: “Throughout his career with the Gloucester Police Department, he has consistently demonstrated sound judgment, dedication to the department and community, and the ability to effectively lead and supervise members of the department”.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Lieutenant Lefebvre’s experience and knowledge of department operations will allow him to transition into this position and continue providing effective leadership to our personnel and the residents we serve.

Councilor W. Worthy asked J. Fecteau to administer the oath to Officer Lefebvre. J. Fecteau offered the oath of office of his commission to Officer Daniel Lefebvre.

Councilor W. Worthy stated congratulations to Captain Lefebvre.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that tonight we are honored to join with Officer Jeffrey Jenison as he begins a new chapter of his career as the Chief of the Gloucester Police Department.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Officer Jenison began his career in 1994 with Gloucester serving as a Dispatcher, and he has risen through the ranks from that point on. Councilor W. Worthy stated that during his time in Gloucester Officer Jenison has gained extensive experience in all aspects of police work. Councilor W. Worthy stated that he has performed many special assignments and has served in administrative oversight roles. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Officer Jeffrey Jenison has shown leadership and community engagement along the way. Councilor W. Worthy stated that from working in our schools with our students, training our town employees in active shooter classes, and his involvement with helping to make Special Olympics north the important event it is today Jeff has shown his commitment to our community. Councilor W. Worthy stated that his personnel jacket holds numerous citations and merit awards, all well-earned.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we are lucky to have Jeff serve as our Chief and we look forward to many years with Chief Jeffrey Jenison serving our town.

Councilor W. Worthy asked J. Fecteau to administer the oath to Chief Jenison
J. Fecteau offered the oath of office of his commission to Officer Jeffrey Jenison.

Councilor W. Worthy stated congratulations to Chief Jenison.

Chief J. Jenison stated his thanks for the confidence and trust being placed in him; that he is honored and humbled to stand before all as the new Chief. Chief J. Jenison gave a brief history of his rise from part time dispatcher to new Chief.

Chief J. Jenison stated that many things have changed over the years but not the incredible people he works with in the department and their commitment to serving the community. Chief J. Jenison stated that he has learned valuable lessons over the years from the outstanding people he has worked with. Chief J. Jenison stated his thanks to his mother, his wife and children for their support, sacrifices, patience, and understanding.

Chief J. Jenison stated his commitment to serve with integrity, transparency and respect. Chief J. Jenison stated that the department has a good reputation and he will build upon that reputation by investing in training, professionalism, community partnership and the next generation of leaders.

Chief J. Jenison stated his thanks to the Gloucester residents and stated that the department will continue to serve and uphold the highest standards of professionalism, compassion and accountability.

Chief J. Jenison stated that the department has given him a career, life long friendships and the opportunity to serve the community he loves. Chief J. Jenison stated that he is proud of where the department has been, excited to see where it is going and honored to lead the dedicated men and women of the Gloucester police.

REGULAR SESSION STARTS AT 7:30 P.M

Councilor W. Steere asked all to stand for a moment of silence to honor Tom Lemos, a long time Recreation Board member, who recently passed away.

V. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

None

VI. Public Hearing – Discussion and/or Action

A. Licensing: Discussion and/or Action

Applicant: Christopher Churchill

CCNC LLC

Name of Business: d/b/a Stage Coach Tavern & Grille

Location: 1157 Putnam Pike

1. New Victualling License

Councilor W. Worthy stated that first, we have the hearing for a new victualling license for the above applicant. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this hearing was advertised on July 30th, August 6th, and August 13th, 2026 in the Valley Breeze Observer.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing Open

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the applicant was present. Christopher Churchill, applicant stated his presence.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to be heard for or against the issuance of this application to please step to the microphone and state your name for the record when called to speak.

None

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy asked C. Churchill, applicant if he would like to say a few words. C. Churchill, applicant stated that hours would be Wednesday through Sunday with a family casual menu.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to GRANT the ISSUANCE of a Victualing License to Christopher Churchill, CCNC LLC; d/b/a Stage Coach Tavern & Grille; Location of business: 1157 Putnam Pike contingent upon: 1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 4) current Health Department approval; 5) current Food Manager Certificate; and 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

2. New Class B-T Tavern License

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we also have the hearing for a new Class B-T Tavern license for the above applicant. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this hearing was advertised on August 6th, and August 13th, 2026 in the Providence Journal Legal ads.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing Open

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the applicant was present. Christopher Churchill, applicant stated his presence.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to be heard for or against the issuance of this application to please step to the microphone and state your name for the record when called to speak.

Discussion: None

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to GRANT the ISSUANCE of a Class B-T Tavern License to Christopher Churchill, CCNC LLC; d/b/a Stage Coach Tavern & Grille; Location of business: 1157 Putnam Pike; contingent upon: 1) Issuance of a valid Victualing License; 2) payment of all Town taxes; 3) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 4) Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 5) current Rhode Island Certificate of Good Standing, 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales, 7) current Alcohol Service Certification cards for all employees, 8) copy of current menu, 9) Per R.I.G.L., a Certificate of commercial, general-liability and property damage insurance for a minimum amount of \$300,000; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

B. Expansion of Mobile Home Park – Discussion and/or Action

Owner/ Applicant: Shana Boyer & Peter Dufresne

Location: 2267 Putnam Pike, Glocester, RI 02814, a/k/a AP 4, Lot 57

Name of Business: Sunset Cove Mobile Home Park

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on August 6, 2026.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing Open

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have an application for the expansion of an existing Mobile Home Park, Sunset Cove. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the original granting was for 10 mobile homes and the request is for 2 more

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the applicant was present. S. Boyer, applicant stated her presence.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to be heard for or against the issuance of this application please step to the microphone and state your name for the record when called to speak.

Discussion:

A. Dufresne, 148 Pond Rd, Dayville, CT., stated his opinion that this is a great place for low income housing which is needed. A. Dufresne stated his opinion that he sees the work being done and he stated his hopes for support from the Council as he feels it is great for the town.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received an advisory opinion from the Planning Board which he read as follows:

**Sunset Cove – Expansion Application Advisory Opinion of
the Planning Board August 4, 2026**

At their August 4, 2026 meeting, the following motion was made by Planning Board member Steve Clifford:

After careful consideration and discussion at the August 4, 2026 Planning Board meeting, the Glocester Planning Board hereby recommends that the Town Council approve the request from Sunset Cove Mobile Home Park for applicants Shana Boyer & Peter Dufresne located at 2267 Putnam Pike, AP 4, Lot 57 to remove four (4) 1- bedroom cabins and add two (2) 2-bedroom manufactured homes to the existing 10 mobile homes that are located in the park.

In making this decision the Board has considered the following:

1. The Mobile Home Park License Expansion application and supporting materials.
2. The Administrative Officer Report dated July 28, 2026.
3. Testimony from the applicant at the Planning Board meeting.

In making this decision the Board makes the following findings:

Section 208-4 – General requirements for operation of mobile home park or trailer park

1. A mobile home park or trailer park shall be located on a site graded to insure drainage of surface and subsurface water, sewerage, and freedom from stagnant pools.
 - a. The map submitted does not include any grading, elevation or stormwater information.
2. A minimum lot size of 10,000 square feet shall be provided for each mobile home or trailer lot of space, but in no event shall there be more than four mobile home or trailer lots per acre of land of the licensee.
 - a. The application does not show the required 10,000 square feet for the existing or new mobile homes.
 - b. The current density of the park is 3.7 mobiles homes per acre. The proposed density is 4.4 mobile homes per acre but the number of overall bedrooms remain the same and the number of structures (cabins and mobiles homes) decreases.
3. There shall be a minimum of 20 feet of clearance between each mobile home or trailer.
 - a. Clearance distances are not included on the plans.
 - b. Using the provided 1" = 20' scale indicated on the plans, it appears that all of the new and proposed mobile homes will meet the minimum clearance.
4. All mobile home or trailer lots shall abut on a roadway of not less than 30 feet in width where off-road parking is provided or 40 feet where no off-road parking is provided.
 - a. No parking information has been provided on the plans.
 - b. No measurements to parking have been provided on the plans.
5. All roads within any park shall be well drained, provided with gravel or hard surface, and shall be maintained in good condition by the owner or licensee of the park.
 - a. No drainage information has been included with the plans.

6. No mobile home or trailer shall be located closer than 40 feet to the traveled portion of any public highway.
 - a. One (1) existing mobile home (41) abuts Putnam Pike and it does not meet the 40' setback.
7. Street lights of not less than 1,000 lumens each shall be installed at intervals of not more than 300 feet apart in any park.
 - a. No street light information has been included with the plans.
8. Each licensee shall keep, or cause to be kept, a register in which the following information shall be recorded forthwith upon letting of each mobile home or trailer lot:
 - a. The full name of the mobile home or trailer owner.
 - b. The number of persons occupying each trailer and the names thereof.
 - c. The make, model, size, serial and license numbers and year of manufacture of each mobile home or trailer stationed, maintained, or registered on the premises of the licensee.
 - d. The state of registration and registration number of each trailer and auto used to transport or pull each such trailer.
 - i. The applicants are in the process of removing and replacing the ten (10) existing mobile homes.

Section 208-5 – Sanitary requirements for mobile home parks or trailer parks.

1. An adequate supply of potable water with a minimum of 25 pounds per square inch pressure at all times shall be provided for each mobile home or trailer space or lot. The water source shall be capable of producing 300 gallons of potable water per mobile home or trailer lot per day from a source approved by the Health Officer of the Town of Glocester, Rhode Island.
 - a. The application states that water is provided through a 3-well strategy designed to serve the park while remaining below the threshold for a Public Water System designation under RIDOH regulations.
2. No part of the sewerage disposal leaching field system shall be located within 80 feet of any mobile home or trailer park well water supply.
 - a. Two (2) of the existing mobile homes are located within 80 feet of the OWTS.
 - b. No wells are located within 80 feet of the OWTS.
3. Where the sewer lines of a mobile home park or trailer park are not connected to a public sewer, the means of disposal of all sewerage shall be approved by the State Board of Health.
 - a. The applicants state that a newly engineered 30 bedroom OWTS has been approved by RIDEM. This system is in the process of

being installed. The permit was not submitted with this application.

4. Each mobile home or trailer lot shall be provided with an electrical connection approved by the Building Inspector of the Town of Gloucester.
 - a. The mobile homes are in the process of replacement. The electrical connection will be approved by the Building Inspector as part of the replacement.
5. Licensees shall furnish at least one suitable refuse can with tight-fitting cover for each occupied mobile home or trailer lot, or use any approved collection method in accordance with the state health sanitation laws. Refuse shall be collected and removed regularly and, in such manner, that no nuisance shall be maintained, and it shall be the responsibility of each licensee to maintain proper sanitary conditions with respect to waste and refuse disposal.
 - a. This information has not been provided.

Therefore, the Board makes the following conclusions:

1. Based on the evidence outlined above, which is part of the record, this application to remove four (4) 1-bedroom cabins and add two (2) 2-bedroom manufactured homes satisfies the requirements of Gloucester Code of Ordinances Section 208 Mobile Homes and House Trailers with all conditions of approval.

The following conditions are applied to this recommendation:

1. If the expansion is approved, the applicant should submit a plan prepared by a registered engineer that includes the following:
 - a. All manufactured and stick built home and all utility enclosures
 - b. All water and sewer connections
 - c. Any grading, elevation, drainage and stormwater management structures
 - d. Exact distances between each of the homes and the homes and the internal access road
 - e. Location of community refuse collection
 - f. Location of parking spaces for residents and guests
 2. The park owners should be required to conduct annual water quality testing on all three (3) private wells.
 3. The park owners should be exempted from including street lights in the park.
- Based on the above findings, I hereby make a motion to recommend approval to remove four (4) 1-bedroom cabins and add two (2) 2-bedroom manufactured homes to Sunset Cove Mobile Home Park for applicant Shana Boyer & Peter Dufresne for AP 4, Lot 57 to the Gloucester Town Council.

The motion was seconded by Planning Board member John Bart. Ayes – (Bart, Kettelle, Clifford, White, Fournier, Furney, Pitocco).
(end of Planning Board opinion)

Discussion: S. Boyer , applicant, state that the original plans for the 30 bedroom OWTS system were drawn by an engineer and submitted at the time of approval. S. Boyer stated that at the time the plan was submitted, they did not know if Council would consider the removal of several cabins and the replacement by the mobile homes. S. Boyer stated that there was a plan on file with the building Official showing the water connections with the new wells and the placement of all water and sewer lines for the new system.

S. Boyer stated that their intent is to submit revised plans from an engineer once approval for the mobile homes is obtained. S. Boyer stated that no new approval is needed for DEM as they are not changing the number of bedrooms.

S. Boyer stated that each home will have 2 parking spaces. S. Boyer stated they agree with the Planning Board recommendation as to no street lights. S. Boyer stated that they do not intend to use a solid surface on the roads but probably crushed stone.

D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the motion would be conditioned upon the requirements from the Planning Board.

S. Boyer stated that they would be testing the water on an annual basis and have installed three private wells.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the town ordinance requires 10,000 square feet per mobile home and understands how and why this requirement is not being met in this situation. J. Fecteau asked if there should be some mention of this aspect in order to show to any in the future that it was not a missed point.

D. Igliazzi stated that this item is a historical one of Sunset Cove and is acknowledged and not setting a precedent.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPROVE the Application for Expansion **by** Owner/ Applicant: Shana Boyer & Peter Dufresne; Location: 2267 Putnam Pike; a/k/a AP 4, Lot 57; Name of Business: Sunset Cove Mobile Home Park **contingent upon:**

The applicant should submit a plan prepared by a registered engineer that includes the following:

- a. All manufactured and stick built home and all utility enclosures
- b. All water and sewer connections
- c. Any grading, elevation, drainage and stormwater management structures
- d. Exact distances between each of the homes and the homes and the internal access road
- e. Location of parking spaces for residents and guests

The park owners should be required to conduct annual water quality testing on all three (3) private wells.

Applicants will remove four (4) 1-bedroom cabins and add two (2) 2-bedroom manufactured homes to Sunset Cove Mobile Home Park

Seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

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 August 6, 2026
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements – July 2026
- C. Acting Finance Director's Report – July 2026

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of August 6, 2026; to APPROVE the ADDITIONS to the 2026 Tax Roll in the amount of \$271.40 and the ABATEMENTS to the 2026 Tax Roll in the amount of \$917.43; and to TABLE the Acting Finance Director's Report for July 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. Board of Canvassers - Discussion and/or Action

1. Alternate #2, One unexpired term to expire 2/28/2030

Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is no recommendation by the Chair at this time and asked if any Councilor had a recommendation for appointment or a motion to table.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the appointment to the Board of Canvassers; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Economic Development

1. Ad Hoc Non-voting member, unexpired term to exp.
12/31/26

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have a recommendation from the Chair and a talent bank application is on file.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to APPOINT Crystal Baris to fill the AD Hoc Non-voting term to expire on 12/31/2026 on the Economic Development Commission; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Budget Board

1. Position #2 – One unexpired term to expire 12/31/2028

Councilor W. Worthy stated that we have a recommendation from the Chair and a talent bank application is on file.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Lisa Hunter to fill Position #2 on the Budget Board for a term to expire on 12/31/2028; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

A. Personnel

1. Public Safety - Discussion and/or Action

a. Amend effective date: Lieutenant to Captain

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief recommended an effective date for newly appointed Captain Daniel Lefebvre to the rank of Captain of the Gloucester Police Department, effective Monday, August 3, 2026. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Motion made for the promotion, on August 6, 2026, stated August 5, 2026.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AMEND the effective date of the rank of Captain for Daniel Lefebvre to an effective date of August 3, 2026; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Promotion

Patrolman to Sergeant

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

August 12, 2026

TO: Honorable Gloucester Town Council

RE: Promotion of Patrolman Bryan McConnell to rank of Sergeant

Dear Members of the Honorable Gloucester Town Council:

I am writing to formally recommend the promotion of **Patrolman Bryan McConnell** to the rank of **Sergeant within the Gloucester Police Department**, effective **Monday, August 17, 2026**.

I believe Patrolman McConnell has demonstrated the potential to become a strong and effective supervisor. Promotion to Sergeant will provide him with the opportunity to continue developing his leadership, decision-making, and supervisory skills while gaining valuable experience in managing personnel and handling the responsibilities that come with the rank.

I am confident that through continued experience, guidance, and exposure to supervisory responsibilities, he will grow into a capable and respected Sergeant who will be a valuable asset to the department.

Respectfully,
Jeffrey Jenison
Chief of Police
(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the promotion of Patrolman Bryan McConnell to the rank of Sergeant within the Gloucester Police Department, effective Monday, August 17, 2026; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Resolution #2026-11 “A Resolution Requesting The Rhode Island General Assembly to Relieve Cities and Towns of The Unfunded Mandate to Prepare Emergency Action Plans for Privately Owned Dams, And to End the Penalizing of Municipalities for Owner Noncompliance”

Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council discussed the unfunded mandate placed on Gloucester regarding privately owned dams at their meeting of August 6, 2026.

Discussion: D. Igliozi, Town Solicitor, stated that he prepared a resolution based

on Council's conversation at the last meeting if Council wished to proceed. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk stated that the minutes show that Councilor W. Steere requested a letter on this matter be sent to the members of the legislature and that D. Iglioizzi recommended a resolution which councilors agreed upon.

Councilor J. Burlingame read the resolution as follows:

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
TOWN OF GLOCESTER
RESOLUTION # 2026-11**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE RHODE ISLAND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY TO RELIEVE CITIES AND TOWNS OF THE UNFUNDED
MANDATE TO PREPARE EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS FOR
PRIVATELY OWNED DAMS, AND TO END THE PENALIZING OF
MUNICIPALITIES FOR OWNER NONCOMPLIANCE**

WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-19-9(a) requires that an emergency action plan be prepared for each significant-hazard and high-hazard dam **by the city or town in which the dam lies**, without regard to who owns it; and

WHEREAS, most such dams in the Town of Glocester are privately owned, and the Town has no title to them, no right of entry upon them, and no access to the engineering records necessary to prepare a competent plan; and

WHEREAS, such a plan requires a dam breach analysis, downstream inundation mapping, and the services of a licensed engineer, at a cost that may reach tens of thousands of dollars per dam, together with the annual updates required by § 46-19-9(c); and

WHEREAS, the statute appropriates nothing, affording the Town only a right under subsection (d) to bill the owner after the work is paid for out of municipal revenues, and to sue if the owner does not remit — leaving the Town to advance the funds, bear the cost of collection, and absorb the loss entirely where an owner is unknown, insolvent, or dissolved; and

WHEREAS, subsection (f), added in 2022, permits the Department of Environmental Management to assess an administrative penalty against a municipality for noncompliance, while imposing no corresponding penalty upon the dam owner who withholds access, withholds records, or refuses to pay, and affording the municipality no defense grounded in any of those circumstances; and

WHEREAS, such a penalty would be paid from the property taxes of Glocester residents, punishing them for the conduct of a private party they do not control, transferring public money from one government to another, and reducing the very revenues from which the plan would be funded; and

WHEREAS, R.I. Gen. Laws § 45-13-7 defines a state mandate to include state action compelling local expenditures that are not reimbursed, and the General Assembly has appropriated no funds for the costs imposed by § 46-19-9; and

WHEREAS, every other dam safety obligation in Chapter 46-19 — permitting, maintenance, repair, and liability for failure — rests upon the **owner**, and § 46-19-9 is an anomalous departure from that principle; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Glocester supports the purpose of the emergency action plan requirement and stands ready to perform its proper role in local notification and emergency response, but submits that the duty to prepare, fund, and file the plan belongs with the owner of the dam;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Council of the Town of Glocester respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly repeal or amend R.I. Gen. Laws § 46-19-9 so as to transfer the duty to prepare, update, and file an emergency action plan from the municipality to the owner of the dam; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Council requests that § 46-19-9(f) be repealed or amended so that no administrative penalty may be assessed against any city or town, and that the penalty authority be directed instead to dam owners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that should the General Assembly retain any municipal responsibility, this Council requests that it be conditioned upon full state funding and suspended in any fiscal year in which such funding is not appropriated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk transmit certified copies of this Resolution to the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the members of the General Assembly representing the Town of Glocester, the Governor, the Directors of the Department of Environmental Management and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency, the Rhode Island League of Cities

and Towns, and the clerk of each other city and town of this State, with the request that they consider resolutions of like tenor.

This Resolution shall become effective upon passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Glocester, Rhode Island, this 20 day of August, 2026

William A. Worthy, Jr., President
Walter M. O. Steere, III, Vice. President
Jonathan E. Burlingame, Councilor
Cheryl A. Greathouse, Councilor
Stephanie C. Westgate, Councilor

ATTEST:

Jean M. Fecteau, CMC, Town Clerk

Seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: Councilor S. Westgate stated her opinion that sending this resolution to the legislature is a good idea as this law was not thought through.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

C. Glocester Code of Ordinance

1. Proposed Code of Ordinance Amendment: Article III, Chapter 247
Exemption for Elderly & Disabled Person

a. 1st Reading - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that instead of a full reading of the proposed amendment, a Councilor or the Solicitor can explain the proposed amendment. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there are copies available for the Public.

Discussion: D. Igliozi, Town Solicitor, stated that this ordinance would allow the Council to add an annual cost of living adjustment to the current exemption amount based upon the consumer price index and it will be non-compounding. D. Igliozi stated

that this proposed amendment also corrects and ratifies the existing ordinance to be in line with state law.

D. Iglizzi stated that this is a first reading and that a public hearing can now be scheduled.

b. Set Public Hearing Date – Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to DECLARE a first reading held on August 20, 2026 and SET the public hearing date for Sept. 17, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

D. Ratification - Learn365 grant placeholder, Round #5 – Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that at the last Council meeting, due to a time constraint, the President signed a place holder for the state Learn365 Grant, Round #5. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the placeholder was simply that and not a contract committing to grant requirements. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council now needs to ratify.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Westgate to RATIFY the signature of Council President Worthy, of August 6, 2026, on the Learn365RI Municipal Learning Project -Round 5, Acceptance of Funds Form; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Consideration/vote to Authorize: Dept. Heads to work with DEM to prepare a consent agreement regarding high hazard dams in Town - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that at the last Council meeting there was discussion with the EMA Director who stated that he has received a letter from DEM stating that they will begin assessing fines on the 13 high hazard dams in town unless the

town comes up with a plan outlining steps, in each case, of what to do if the dam were to break. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council discussed approving several department heads working together with DEM to formulate a future plan for the repair of these dams. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Building Official, Town Planner and EMA Director were mentioned, and asked who else may be considered.

Discussion: G. Mosca, EMA Director, stated that a Gloucester resident has reached out to him to ask if she can volunteer to help in writing these plans as she is an engineer with 16 years' experience working on dams and writing these plans. G. Mosca stated that her one request is she is asking for a letter of indemnification as protection in case anyone were to sue.

D. Iglioizzi stated that the Trust insures anyone including volunteers working for the town under supervision. D. Iglioizzi stated he would confirm and asked for this item to be on the next meeting agenda.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to authorize the Tax Assessor, the Building Official, the Town Planner and the EMA Director to assist DEM in preparing plans for hazard dam repair in Gloucester; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

F. Disclosure of Vote taken in Executive Session – August 6, 2026
To Authorize the Appeal summary judgement in Factory Mutual Case: West Gloucester LLC and Factory Mutual Insurance Company vs. J. Parker in her capacity as Tax Assessor for Town of Gloucester CA No. PC-2025-05414

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-4(b), the Council at its meeting of August 6, 2026, convened in Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) (litigation), and took the following vote, which is hereby disclosed:

MOTION by Councilor J. Burlingame to authorize L. Fries to file an appeal of the summary judgment entered in C.A. No. PC-2025-05414; seconded by Councilor W. Steere.

VOTE: Unanimous (5-0)

No Action Taken by Council

G. Special Event Application

1. Applicant: Gloucester Heritage Society
Event: Yard Sale
Location: 1043 Putnam Pike
Date: September 19, 2026, rain date of Sept. 20, 2026
 - a. Determine if exempt from Public Hearing and/or Set
Public Hearing Date - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Heritage Society has submitted their annual yard sale application. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chair stated that the event is the “same” as last April’s event. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk notes that were no complaints received after the last event. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council needs to determine if the event is exempt from public hearing due to Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 175.4-B.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated that no complaints were received last year.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to WAIVE a Public Hearing, pursuant to Gloucester Code of Ordinance, Chapter 175.4-B, for Applicant: Gloucester Heritage Society, Event: Yard Sale with vendors at 1043 Putnam Pike; Date of proposed event: September 19, 2026; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

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 that the Clerk has received an application that states a 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. time for a yard sale with vendors names submitted on the application. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the application states no alcohol is allowed at the event, no food, and no on street parking. Councilor W. Worthy stated that there is a request for a 5’ X 6’ pop up tent. Councilor W. Worthy stated the application will be checked by police and fire.

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to GRANT the application for a Special Event to be held by the Heritage Society on September 19, 2026, Rain date of September 20, 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 J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

H. Authorization to Sign: Audit Engagement Letter - Fiscal year ended June 30, 2026 – Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the annual engagement letter from Damiano & Company, LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Acting Finance Director reviewed and sent Council a memo which he read as follows:

To: Town Council

From: Lori A. Chirico-Interim Finance Director

Date: 8/19/26

Subject: FY26 Audit – Damiano & Company. LLP Engagement Letter

The engagement letter from Damiano & Company, dated 7/28/26, for the FY26 audit appears appropriate and is consistent with the engagement letter from prior years. The scope of services and general terms appear to be in line with the Town's previous audit engagements.

(end of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the FY 26 Audit, engagement letter from Damiano & Company LLP; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

X. Legislative Updates - Discussion and/or Action

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

None

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

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

1. Council has received a request from a Killingly, Ct. resident for a letter in support of “the safe repair and long-term maintenance of Old Killingly Pond Dam and supports restoration of Old Killingly Pond to its historical water level once the necessary dam-safety requirements have been satisfied.” The request is also for “Glocester's participation in discussions with Killingly, Connecticut DEEP, Rhode Island DEM, the dam owner, and other appropriate agencies concerning the long-term future of this shared waterbody”.
2. The Blackstone Valley River tourism seeking financial funding for FY 2027.
3. Resident request to block possibilities of the construction of data centers in Glocester

A. Dufresne, 148 Pond Rd., Dayville, Ct. stated that he is before Council tonight asking for a letter in support of repairing the dam at Old Killingly Pond that lies on the Connecticut/Rhode Island state line. A. Dufresne stated that the pond is partly in Glocester but the dam is completely in Connecticut. A. Dufresne stated that he is not asking for any financial help but just a letter of support to the Connecticut Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection recognizing the importance of Old Killingly Pond. A. Dufresne stated how this pond feeds the aquifer for the town of Killingly as part of a five-pond system.

Councilor W. Steere asked if RIDEM has weighed in on this matter. A. Dufresne stated that he would be asking them for a letter of support but the dam is in Connecticut.

Councilor W. Worthy asked for this item, a letter of support, to be on the next agenda.

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.

1. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Early Voting for the Primary started today and 11 people have voted at the end of day 1.

2. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that she wanted to let Council know that she received an application for a proposed special event from Harmony Products that will need to have a public hearing as it is different from last year's prior event. The Clerk explained the number of days the event will be held is the difference. There appeared to be a consensus of the Council that this event would, in fact, call for a hearing.

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

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

None

XIV. Open Forum

None

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Worthy to amend Item XV to add a third item, for discussion only, potential litigation; 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

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

A. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:

1. Collective Bargaining: Negotiations for successor union agreements - Discussion and/or Action
2. Potential Litigation - Discussion and/or Action

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

A. Discussion by Council, Vote, or Other Action pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:

1. Collective Bargaining: Negotiations for successor union agreements - Discussion and/or Action
2. Potential Litigation - Discussion and/or Action
3. Potential Litigation- Discussion only (added by Motion above)

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

All were invited back into the room after Executive session

XVI. Reconvene Open Session, disclosure of votes were 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 S. Westgate

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. Ratification of Contract- Discussion and/or Action

1. Agreement Between the Town of Gloucester and The International Brotherhood of Police Officers for the period July 1, 2025 To June 30, 2028

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to TABLE the successor agreement between the Town of Gloucester and The International Brotherhood of Police Officers for the period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028; seconded by Councilor S. Westgate

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 9:55 p.m.; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

