

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, February 28, 2012 – 7:00 p.m.

Kyrouz Auditorium – City Hall,

-MINUTES-

Present: Chair, Councilor Jacqueline Hardy; Vice Chair, Councilor Sefatia Theken; Councilor Joseph Ciolino; Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Steve LeBlanc, Jr.; Councilor Paul McGeary; Councilor Bruce Tobey; Councilor Greg Verga; Councilor Robert Whynott

Absent: None.

Also Present: Linda T. Lowe; Kenny Costa; Jim Duggan; Mike Hale; Michele Holovak Harrison

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Flag Salute & Moment of Silence.**Oral Communications:**

David Hodgkins, 550 Essex Avenue stated upon leaving City Hall via the handicap entrance which has an overhang, had the lights off in the “tunnel” when he and his wife left after the last City Council meeting twice. It is a very dark passageway and made traversing it difficult. He mentioned his wife, who had spoken at two previous City Council meetings under Oral Communications regarding handicap access issues at City Hall has not had a response yet on either from the Mayor’s office. **Council President Hardy** stated she would inquire of the Mayor’s office to see that Mrs. Hodgkins receives her responses regarding the handicap inaccessibility at City Hall.

Presentation/Commendation:**Introduction to new Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce Director-Robert Heidt**

Ruth Pino, 82 Wheeler Street, former President of the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce acknowledged several Chamber past presidents in the audience, Robert Gillis, and John Morse. She briefly noted the history of the Chamber’s partnership with the City in support, promote and advocate for the business community. She then introduced Robert Heidt, the new CEO of the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, commenting they sought to bring to the Chamber someone committed to building relationships, especially relationships with all of the elected public officials in order to grow the economy. **Robert Heidt** expressed his appreciation to the Council and looked forward to establishing a working relationship with City officials; and looks forward to leading the Chamber into the future. On inquiry by **Council President Hardy**, **Mr. Heidt** outlined several of his goals for the Chamber, one being a return to Chamber’s basic premises of being a relevant business organization to their constituents they serve; becoming a member-first organization; improving their services; stabilizing their financial standing; and identifying and to see their organization positioned for the future. **Councilor Ciolino** welcomed Mr. Heidt. Noting he is the City Council representative to the Downtown Development Commission the Councilor spoke to the liaising with that board as well as the Tourism Commission. This links the Chamber of Commerce to what City government is doing so they can all work towards the same ends. **Councilor Cox**, noting her past volunteer efforts with the Chamber, also welcomed Mr. Heidt. **Councilor Theken** stated changes are hard sometimes in the community. She asked Mr. Heidt to make the liaisons to the various committees, boards and commissions effective. And she urged the effective use of their volunteers. She stated the Council will do what they can to support the work of the Chamber. **Mr. Heidt** stated his belief there are strides that can be made even while he is in a learning curve as the new Director. It is a goal of the Chamber to become a partner with other entities so that all parties know what each is doing for a more cohesive effort. He will look forward to the support expressed to him tonight. **Council President Hardy** also extended her welcome to Mr. Heidt.

Appointments:

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Whynott, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to appoint Jane Fonzo to the Downtown Development Commission, TTE 02/14/14.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor Theken explained that the O&A Committee questioned Ms. Fonzo regarding her appointment Commission based on her experience, background, and professional affiliations as whether she was familiar with the Open Meeting Laws and to file proof of having taken the State Ethics Commission test with the City Clerk's office. They were asked also if they had any possible conflicts of interest. Ms. Fonzo did say she was a property/business owner in the downtown area but did not believe this would be an obstacle to her participating fully with the DDC. If there was any issue where it may be construed as a conflict of interest, she expressed to the Committee she would step from any such discussion and vote. Ms. Fonzo was thanked for her commitment, and endorsed by the Committee unanimously. The Councilor also acknowledged Ms. Fonzo's presence in the audience. **Councilor Ciolino** expressed Ms. Fonzo has already been attending the DDC meetings; and having worked with Ms. Fonzo before, he knew she would make a fine contribution to the Commission.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Theken, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to appoint Jane Fonzo to the Downtown Development Commission, TTE 02/14/14.

Consent Agenda:

- **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Memorandum from General Counsel re: Pavilion Beach Easement Agreement (Refer P&D)
2. Special Budgetary Transfer Request (#2012-SBT-18) from Treasurer's Office (Refer B&F)
3. Special Budgetary Transfer Request (#2012-SBT-19) from Treasurer's Office (Refer B&F)
4. Memorandum & relevant information from Assistant Director of Public Works re: permission to pay two invoices for services Procured without a purchase order in place (Refer B&F)
5. Memorandum from EMS Coordinator and applicable material regarding a funding request for a new ambulance (Refer B&F)
6. Memorandum, Grant Application & checklist from Emergency Management Director re: Emergency Management Grant to Mitigate Poplar Street flooding from FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (Refer B&F)
7. Two Memorandums from Chief Financial Officer re: appropriation request from CPA funds for the City Hall Restoration Project and recommendations to rescind bond authorization (Refer B&F)
8. Memorandum from Emergency Management Director re: summarizing budget transfer requests from Special Reserve Account To the Civil Defense Department & Special Budgetary Transfer Requests: #2012-SBT-20, #2012-SBT-21, #2012-SBT 22, #2012-SBT-23, #2012-SBT-24, #2012-SBT-25 (Refer B&F)
8. New Appointments: Magnolia Woods Oversight & Advisory Committee TTE 02/14/2013 James Cooke, Jane Porter
TTE 02/14/2014 Thomas Falzarano, Alexander Monell
TTE 02/14/2015 Dean Sidell, Christine Rasmusen

Board of Registrars TTE 02/14/2015 Mark Nestor (Refer O&A)

- **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**

1. Request from St. Peter's Fiesta Committee for use of City Land (Refer P&D)
2. Memorandum from City Auditor re: City's FY2009 OPEB Actuarial Valuation Report (Refer B&F)

- **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**

1. PP2012-001: Installation of underground conduits re: Dennison Street (Refer P&D)

- **COUNCILORS ORDERS**

1. CC2012-013 (McGeary) Amend GZO Sec. 22-159 "Parking prohibited between certain hours and on certain days" re: Davis Street Extension (Refer O&A & TC)
2. CC2012-014 (Verga) Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-269 "Stop intersections" re: Castle View Drive at the intersection Of Sea Fox Lane (Refer O&A & TC)
3. CC2012-015 (Hardy) Amend GCO Chapter 2, Article V, Sec. 2-471 to 2-476 re: Tourism Commission (Refer O&A & P&D)
4. CC2012-016 (Verga/Whynott) Presentation from Administration re: Report of all parking meter revenues and projected Revenues (Mayor & B&F)
5. CC2012-017 (Theken) Amend GCO Chapter 8 "Fire", Art. V, Sec. 8-18 and GCO Chapter 17 "Police", Art. II "Police Department" Sec. 7-18 (Refer O&A)

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

1. City Council Meeting: February 14, 2012 (Approve/File)
2. Special Joint City Council and School Committee Meeting 02/07/12 (Approve/File)
3. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 02/23/12 (under separate cover), O&A -No meeting, P&D 02/22/12 (Approve/File)

Unanimous Consent Calendar:

1. Memorandum from CAO re: Resubmission of Proposed Reorganization of Community Development (Refer O&A & P&D)

Items to be added/deleted from the Consent Agenda and Unanimous Consent Calendar:

Councilor Ciolino asked to remove Council Order #3, CC2012-015 (Hardy) regarding the Tourism Commission from the Consent Agenda.

Councilor Ciolino asked why the amendments to the Code of Ordinances are being referred to P&D. These changes are normally vetted at O&A which does a fine job; and stated his belief it is a duplicate of effort. He also expressed his belief that the Tourism Commission is “broken”. He further expressed this is a matter that needs to be addressed with some urgency since the tourist season is before them. By sending this Council Order to two committees seemed redundant and would slow the process down. He wished it to stay solely with O&A. **Councilor Theken** had agreed with Councilor Ciolino, but having read further into the order noting a joint meeting, she waived her concern. **Council President Hardy** noted this was her order co-signed by Councilor Cox; the order stated there should be a joint meeting with P&D and O&A. P&D is being tied to it. The Council President then read from Council Order 2012-015, “under Charter Sec. 7-9 hold a joint meeting to share concerns about reformulating the goals for the purpose of the Commission in order for the Commission to be a proactive force for the Gloucester economy.” Where the economy is so important to everyone these days, they would like to tie it to P&D and is not a reflection on the O&A Committee. Under the City Charter, the authority is also given under Section 2-9(d), “The City Council may delegate the powers available to it under Section 2-6 to any of its standing committees. Each standing committee may, in accordance with such rules as may be adopted by the City Council, hold a public hearing on any matter which is referred to it and shall, within a time fixed by Council rule, report on each matter which has been referred to it, in writing, a recommendation and the reasons therefore.” There is authority under the charter to assign to any committee; any one committee can do the work of another committee; and a matter can go to as many committees as they wish. **Councilor Ciolino** stated his understanding that P&D works on land issues and felt it unusual that the matter is being referred to that Committee. If there is a joint meeting to move this along in a timely manner he would be satisfied doing separate meeting would be wasteful. Council President Hardy reiterated that it was not what the order entailed (two separate meetings). **Councilor Cox** stated a joint meeting is fine. She appreciated that **Council President Hardy** had brought her in on the order as she is very interested in the Tourism Commission agreeing the matter needs to go forward quickly. **Council President Hardy** announced the matter stood on the Consent Agenda as presented. Further, **Council President Hardy** noted an item earmarked for the P&D Committee for underground conduits to Dennison Street noted as Item #1 on the Consent Agenda under Applications/Petitions has informally been withdrawn by National Grid. The City Clerk will inform the P&D Committee upon receipt of their formal request for withdrawal.

By unanimous consent the Consent Agenda was accepted as amended.

Councilor Ciolino spoke to the Memorandum from the CAO regarding the resubmission of the reorganization of the Community Development Department being referred not only to O&A but to P&D. He asked if this, too, would be done as a joint meeting between the two Committees. **Councilor Tobey** stated that the matter was previously on the P&D agenda with the matter continued, at the request of the Administration, to their next regularly scheduled meeting (March 7th). He assured they would move right along on the matter. **Councilor Ciolino** asked how P&D would look at this differently than O&A. **Council President Hardy** asked why the Councilor was questioning that a matter of this nature would be referred to P&D when any Councilor could attend any Standing Committee meeting and have input into any matter under consideration. She asked, in turn, why Councilor Ciolino had these questions about the P&D Committee. Councilor Ciolino wished to make the process smoother; and stated he thought, again, this was a matter of redundancy. He could not recall a departmental reorganization ever having gone to P&D. While **Councilor Whynott** didn't have problem with the joint meetings but expressed he hoped the Council would not get into the habit of referrals to multiple committees and having folks come out multiple nights. If they can take up things like this together, in his eyes it was the preferred way to handle such matters. **Councilor Tobey** stated in his years on the Council going back to 1988, and when he was Mayor, he had seen many things referred to multiple committees many times. It seemed to him particularly appropriate that the examination of the Community Development Department would go before P&D because that department plays a unique role in assisting the P&D Committee in doing its work; the planning function, the review function, review of zoning ordinances, for the review of all things that are charged to the P&D Committee under the Charter; land use; other development of the City. He expressed his belief there needed to be a “strong link” between that Committee and that department; so there is a good collaboration, teamwork, and alignment of resources in order for P&D to do their job for the Council and the community with that special focus. O&A will through their normal review on the general administrative considerations as it has done with great skill over the years, on the reorganization of any department. He also expressed the opinion there was “collaborative” room for both Committees to take up this matter. He reminded the

Councilor this was referred to both Committees several weeks ago; and that the Councilor did not have any objections at that time. **Councilor Theken** agreed with Councilor Ciolino as well as Councilor Whynott; if they wish to continue to refer such matters to more than one Committee, they should be handled on a joint basis.

Council President Hardy asked for and received the unanimous consent of the Council for the Administration to remove the Administration's previous reorganization plan from the Council's consideration.

By unanimous consent the Unanimous Consent Calendar was accepted as amended.

And also by unanimous consent, at the request of Councilor McGeary, the Council agreed to suspend their Rules of Procedure in order to take public hearings as the next orders of business (Please note that the public hearings that followed were taken in this order: PH2012-008, PH2012-009, and PH2012-007).

Scheduled Public Hearings:

2. PH2012-008: Loan Order #2012-004: Loan Authorization in the Request from the amount of \$9,032,500 re: Phase 3 Water System Upgrades

This public hearing is opened.

Those speaking in favor:

Mike Hale, DPW Director explained to the Council this relates to the modernization of the City's public water supply. The initial loan authorized by the Council was \$4.5 million in June 2011 of the Phase 3 water work. The previous Council was present during the Phase 1 and 2 work which took care of some of the work at the Babson Water Filtration Plant; some pipe work on Essex and Western Avenue as well as work to the West Gloucester Water Filtration Plant. This \$9 million loan will precipitate a great deal of work to replace a lot of pipes, specifically in Ward 3; and work in Ward 4, Ward 1; a big mix of projects. There is the pipe replacement, water towers work, which sets the City up for a good system for the next generation to enjoy. There was a long gap from the last time the water system was worked on, on such a large scale. He expressed his belief this work will buy the next generation some comfort that the City's water system is safe and reliable. He reiterated this \$9 million loan authorization is coupled with the previous \$4.5 million loan authorization. They apply every year to the SRF (State Revolving Fund) program of the MWPAT (Mass Water Pollution Abatement Trust). Gloucester ranked second in the Commonwealth last year for need. Usually one sees larger cities in greater need than our City. Springfield is ranked first. The Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) recognizes the City's infrastructure need, particularly coming off of the Boil Water Order (which occurred in 2009). This \$13.5 million project has \$10.5 million approved from MWPAT. The City has already asked for an increase to match the additional \$3 million which with the approval of the Council for this loan, the MWAT will consider that increase. He advised this is borne on the water rate. Gloucester is also qualified as an Environmental Justice Community which qualifies the City for principal forgiveness. Last year that principal forgiveness was in the 20% range. They anticipate a 10%-12% principal forgiveness off the top this year. He advised the Council that all the projects have been bid; they know their costs and are ready to go.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Communications: None.

Questions:

Councilor Tobey asked would this proposed water work run simultaneously with the CSO work, and to what extent if at all. **Mr. Hale** responded the current CSO work is a very small project right off of Main Street: Short, Hancock, Elm, Chestnut Streets, then works its way towards East Gloucester to lower Eastern Avenue and Parker Street. He anticipates the work will be completed by mid-May. The water project must start by April to be eligible for the Environmental Justice Money. **Councilor Tobey** clarified by asking would any of the water work is occurring in the CSO sector. **Mr. Hale** responded, "No". The Councilor hoped they would soon have a briefing for future phases of the CSO work; and asked to what extent any other water work will be conducted where any CSO is CSO work may occur in the future. **Mr. Hale** stated CSO work is going to work its way east. The first part was the "002" which is Washington Street where it discharges off of Pavilion Beach which is done. With this next phase they'll work towards the inner harbor. Section 001 discharges off of Fishermen's Wharf. As they work their way through towards Parker Street which is the last CSO project – some will be off of Friend, Taylor and Webster Streets; those catchment areas drain down towards the head of the harbor. The water project is far removed from the CSO work, which will be getting further away from the Phase 3 work. **Councilor Tobey** commented that none of

the other water work will be conducted where CSO work will consequently be conducted. Mr. Hale added that the current CSO project they'll be installing new mains and new valving is being done while the roads are open in order to alleviate some "headaches" for the abutters and businesses. He agreed with the Councilor it is separate and distinct from the work to be done under this bond. **Councilor Tobey** pointed out they won't be digging up the streets twice in the area of the CSO work which **Mr. Hale** confirmed and also expressed his department has worked very hard to coordinate their efforts with the utilities just to prevent the reopening of the streets. National Grid is working ahead of the DPW projects. They're chasing their CSO and water work, so to speak. Mr. Hale assured they would not go back into these neighborhoods after this work is done. There will be some degree of drain and sewer work during this project. That is incidental to the water work; but reiterated they will not open the streets twice. **Councilor McGeary** noted the original request was for \$6 million and subsequently modified it to around \$9 million. **Mr. Hale** explained the loan order before the Council is an amended request. It should have been a \$7 million request. There is a Phase 4 water project in the near future to give them a new river crossing. All "finished" water crosses from the mainland to the island through the Schooner Tunnel adjacent to the Blynman Canal which was constructed in 1904. It's had a series of sump pumps fail over the years; the water main on the Boulevard breaks once a year. That same "H" main is in the Schooner Tunnel. If they lose one of those mains, they lose the other main, the low pressure gas main; and probably lose the canal wall itself in the process. They're looking to do a new river crossing for those reasons right at the Gloucester High School. Part of the increase in the loan order is to get those two pipes almost all the way to the canal wall in advance of any stadium construction; and also recognizing that is a high school that is an active area which they wish to get out of there without disrupting school functions. **Councilor Ciolino** asked what streets are going to be redone for the water projects. **Mr. Hale** explained there are three projects within the Phase 3 work. The pipeline work will travel through Washington Street to Centennial Avenue towards Middle Street: Commonwealth Avenue, Centennial Avenue, Beacon, Wells, Lookout and Exchange Streets. That whole neighborhood will have their water mains restored; the original mains were installed in the 1920's. All the water that passes through the large transmission mains goes through this neighborhood as well. When there is a break it creates brown water going towards East Gloucester and North Gloucester. This will eliminate that issue. It is Ward 3, and is an aggressive project involving about 22,000 feet of water mains to replace; and replace the failing mains on Western Avenue as well. There will be improvements to the Bond Hill water tank, a 7 million gallon water tank off of Old Salem Road; the Blackburn Industrial Park water tank which is filled by a water booster station at the Fuller School. That station hasn't seen much maintenance in years. It is also replacing the water tower at Plum Cove which has never functioned as it should; and has created an issue with the age of the water in that tank because it doesn't drain as it should and have to waste that water every few weeks. **Councilor Ciolino** asked if folks live on some of those streets Mr. Hale mentioned, were there water betterments involved. **Mr. Hale** stated there is no betterment to this process. These are all City-installed pipes; and are the City's obligation to maintain them. **Councilor Ciolino** clarified that citizens should not expect a betterment charge which **Mr. Hale** confirmed there would be no betterment to this project. The Councilor asked what kind of cost may be incurred for property owners to hook up their water; would there be any if all the hook ups are in the street and are in good shape; are there any expectations of a cost. **Mr. Hale** responded when they bring the mains through they will reconnect with new services. Those services are brought from the water main to the property line. From the property line in it is the homeowner's responsibility. He stated it may make sense for a lot of these homeowners to look to replace those services. There will be more water volume with this new system. For points like the top of Commonwealth Avenue, the water pressure itself won't change, but the water volume will. This is more beneficial to the homeowner for residential uses. **Council President Hardy** asked about the impact on the water rate would be per thousand gallons. **Mr. Hale** responded it would be estimated to be impacting the water rate in year three when the long-term financing is put in place, and that would be 70 cents per thousand gallons; the current rate is \$8.75/thousand gallons. He cautioned it is difficult to say it just adds 70 cents to the rate. They still have Phase 1 and 2 and was not sure if any long-term financing had been settled as of yet. However, this was a "once-in-a-generation" rate increase from Phase 1, 2, 3 and 4 which he expressed his belief these completed projects would provide some relief for the next generation. **Jim Duggan**, CAO stated for everything that is in short-term financing; in June they authorized the \$4.5 million; then there is the first part of the Phase 3 water project. Once this is all completed it will bring the rate up from \$8.75/thousand gallons to about \$10.75/thousand gallons.

This public hearing is closed.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Cox, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council the following Loan Order:

Ordered: That up to Nine Million, Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,032,500.00) be appropriated for the purpose of making improvements to the City's Public Water System including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow up to Nine Million, Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,032,500.00) and to issue bonds or notes thereof under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the City unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust ("Trust") established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or the financing thereof; and that the Mayor is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take, with the approval of the City Council, any other action necessary to carry out the project.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGeary stated the DPW Director laid this out well to get ahead of what the City has been behind on for a long time which is the maintenance of the City's infrastructure, and expressed his belief that Mr. Hale has done an excellent job to date. He pointed to the getting ahead of the stadium work as thoughtful planning and would be voting in favor of the loan order and recommended his fellow Councilors support it as well. **Councilor Tobey** stated this is fundamentally important work; that a community is no stronger than its water or its waste water utility systems. Many communities in the State are in difficulty because they haven't committed to the reinvestment in their sewer and water infrastructures. While Gloucester is playing catch up from previous decades of neglect, he expressed his hope that the City could be an example of that willingness to make that investment. He pointed out China invests 9% of its GNP (Gross National Product) in its infrastructure. The European community invests 5%; and USA only 2.4% and that is going lower. Gloucester, however, is making an investment.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted BY ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed the following Loan Order:

Ordered: That up to Nine Million, Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,032,500.00) be appropriated for the purpose of making improvements to the City's Public Water System including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws; and to meet this appropriation the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow up to Nine Million, Thirty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$9,032,500.00) and to issue bonds or notes thereof under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws or any other enabling authority; that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the City unless the Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C; that the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust ("Trust") established pursuant to Chapter 29C and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Trust and otherwise to contract with the Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or the financing thereof; and that the Mayor is authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take, with the approval of the City Council, any other action necessary to carry out the project.

3. PH2012-009: Loan Order #2012-005: Loan Authorization in the amount of \$130,000 re: Zamboni Machine

This public hearing is opened.

Those speaking in favor:

Mr. Hale explained to the Council that with DPW taking over the school facilities, the rink came under their auspices as a part of that. They have made many improvements to the rink's mechanical and safety aspects for

which the Council last year authorized \$400,000 for making those needed improvements – new boards and glass, new condensing units to keep the ice cold and hard; and a new dehumidification system that had been missing in the rink for many years, as well as a new roof. Rink revenues are up this year, \$30,000 over projection. The rink is well received by the community for public skating and youth and adult hockey programs as well, likening it to one of Gloucester's great treasures. One of the components necessary for the rink is an ice resurfacing machine known as a Zamboni. The current Zamboni was purchased in 2001. It suffered from the humidity that existed in the facility; which was corrected this past year. Most of the carriage of the Zamboni has suffered from rot. It's had a lot of maintenance, but has broken down a number of times this year. It is unable to be repaired anymore. The DPW is looking to purchase a new machine at a cost of about \$126,000 plus delivery. They are a long-lead item with 260 days out. While there are other companies that make ice resurfacing machines, Zamboni is the preferred vendor. They're seeking \$130,000 loan order for that purchase. With the new dehumidification system now installed at the rink, they believe they'll get a longer life out of this new Zamboni. He assured they will maintain this new machine for many years. With the Talbot Rink being a new enterprise fund, they are unsure about their ability to fund that debt through the fund in whole. In working with Mr. Towne he suggested they borrow on the General Fund and make sure that the rink produces as much as possible. Last year they had a \$40,000 surplus last year. They did not have any debt service last year. This year they will with the \$400,000 loan's short-term interest. As the rink increases its use and revenue, they think they can be self supporting and likely pay most this debt off, looking at about \$15,000 annually for ten years which is the life expectancy for this equipment and of the loan. **Peter V. Asaro**, 224 Bray Street was a former foreman of maintenance for the School Department who expressed his support of the loan authorization to purchase the Zamboni.

Those speaking in opposition:

Communications: None.

Questions: None.

This public hearing is closed.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Cox, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the following Loan Authorization:

Ordered: That up to One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000) is appropriated to pay for a "Zamboni" ice surfacing machine for use at the ice rink, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow up to One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000) under G.L. c.44, §7 or pursuant to any other enabling authority; that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project; that the Mayor is authorized, with the approval of the City Council, to take any other action necessary to carry out this project, and that the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all such of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGeary expressed that the DPW Director has stated the need for a new Zamboni well. The current machine cannot be fixed. With the addition of the new dehumidification system, they can look forward to a longer life for a new machine that is critical to the success of the rink. The Councilor also expressed his belief that the Council should endorse this loan order. **Councilor Ciolino** would support the loan order; no rink could rent ice time without a Zamboni to resurface its ice; it is an operational expense. The rink is doing much better than in previous years, with the future looking for the rink. The new Zamboni is a part of that improvement.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted **BY ROLL CALL 9** in favor, 0 opposed the following Loan Authorization:

Ordered: That up to One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000) is appropriated to pay for a "Zamboni" ice surfacing machine for use at the ice rink, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow up to One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000) under G.L. c.44, §7 or pursuant to any other enabling authority; that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project; that the Mayor is authorized, with the approval of the City

Council, to take any other action necessary to carry out this project, and that the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all such of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

**1. PH2012-007: Proposed License and Permit fees of the Licensing Board for Cordials and Liqueurs
(Cont'd from 02/14/2012)**

This public hearing is opened.

Those speaking in favor:

Michelle Holovak Harrison, 27 Sayward Street, Chair of the Gloucester Licensing Board explained months ago the City Council had accepted the recommendation of the Licensing Board and some licensees to allow expanded beer and wine licenses. This expansion to the beer and wine license allows the service of cordials and liqueurs along with beer and wine. That was approved. The next step was to determine what fee would be charged of this expanded license. The Licensing Board had a hearing on it, and the O&A and B&F Committee also had a meeting on the subject. Certain fees were suggested and approved which are before the Council now. The Licensing Board recommended, after looking at some other communities that have this expanded cordials and liqueurs license was they learned that other communities increased their fees 1/3 to 1/2 to allow for the expanded license, and followed that pattern also. The fees proposed are: Seasonal Beer & Wine License holders' fee of \$750 and the recommended increase is \$320 for a total of \$1,070. Year Round Beer and Wine License holders who wish to add cordials and liqueurs, that license would increase by \$480 with a total fee of \$1,980. This new beer and wine and cordial and liqueur license would involve filing an application; a public hearing at which the Licensing Board can set certain conditions if appropriate; after their approval, the license is then approved by the ABCC (Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission). The Licensing Clerk prepared a survey, as requested by the Council, as to what other communities charge (on file) which she briefly reviewed. She reiterated that the Licensing Board recommends for a seasonal beer and wine, cordials and liqueurs license fee of \$1,070 and for a year round license holder a fee of \$1,980. Seasonal license runs from April 1-January 15th which is a long season; and was why that fee has gone slightly higher. The Licensing Board generated \$157,000 in fee revenue for the City last year.

Those speaking in opposition: None.

Communications: None.

Questions: None.

This public hearing is closed.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Cox, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to adopt the License and Permit fees as proposed by the Licensing Board in a December 6, 2011 memorandum by ADDING: "Seasonal Beer & Wine License holders: Cordial & Liqueurs \$320.00 per year; Total fee \$1,070.00 yearly and Year Round Beer & Wine License holders: Cordials & Liqueurs \$480.00 per year, Total fee \$1,980.00 yearly.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGeary stated the B&F Committee felt these were reasonable increases and offered an opportunity for beer and wine licensees to improve their business, and so supported the request for the additional fees. **Councilor Theken** stated this matter was also before the O&A Committee which is an example of two Committees working together. The O&A Committee also supported the expanded license and fees unanimously. These meetings took place separately. The Councilor noted this took a bit longer to come to public hearing because they sent out letters to merchants who had licenses; and also had asked the Licensing Board to survey other communities as well. **Councilor Ciolino** would also support this motion; that this will give license holders the ability to offer a larger variety to their patrons.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the voted BY ROLL CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to adopt the License and Permit fees as proposed by the Licensing Board in a December 6, 2011 memorandum by ADDING: "Seasonal Beer & Wine License holders: Cordial & Liqueurs \$320.00 per year; Total fee \$1,070.00 yearly and Year Round Beer & Wine License holders: Cordials & Liqueurs \$480.00 per year, Total fee \$1,980.00 yearly.

Committee Reports:**Budget & Finance: February 23, 2012**

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Cox, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council under MGL c. 30B that the new school bus lease to be executed in FY13 for the City of Gloucester School Department be a contract for a three year lease period with an option to expand that lease contract to a maximum of five years may be allowed.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGeary explained to the Council that this is an experiment by Ms. Verga, Transportation Director for the schools, to see if would be more cost effective for a three year or a five year contract; and give them the option to take a five year contract if it is more financially advantageous.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed under MGL c. 30B that the new school bus lease to be executed in FY13 for the City of Gloucester School Department be a contract for a three year lease period with an option to expand that lease contract to a maximum of five years may be allowed.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A a Mass. Decontamination Unit Grant of \$2,500 from the federal Health and Human Services Department, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) through the Mass. Dept. of Public Health for the FFY2011 program of hospital preparedness.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGeary stated this grant supports an annual training exercise using the City-owned Mass Decontamination Unit in conjunction with the Addison Gilbert Hospital (who makes up any cost overruns for that training). This started after 9/11. There is no match. **Councilor Ciolino** noted that this equipment is gone over annually for this training also. The Fire Department partners with the Addison Gilbert Hospital. The unit will now be moved to the AGH, making it more immediately available should there be an emergency incident requiring decontamination for anyone needing to enter the hospital under such conditions.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A a Mass. Decontamination Unit Grant of \$2,500 from the federal Health and Human Services Department, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Preparedness and Response (ASPR) through the Mass. Dept. of Public Health for the FFY2011 program of hospital preparedness.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Ciolino, seconded by Councilor Cox, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council to establish under MGL c. 44, Sec. 53E-1/2 for a Veterans' Services Donations Fund #293022 for the purpose of receiving donations for the assistance of veterans in the City of Gloucester. The authorized officer of the Fund is Jeffrey M. Williams, Director of Veterans' Services. The fund is credited from donations; expenditure limit is \$5,000; the balance is the available balance, and there are no restrictions to the Fund.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGeary explained the Veterans Services Director has been approached by people who want to give money to assist the City's veterans and had no vehicle to actually do that. By setting up this fund and making him the agent of the fund, this allows people to give tax-free donations for the assistance of City veterans and to put it in a place where it is tracked in the budget of the City. **Councilor Theken** thanked the efforts of Lucia Amero and Jeff Williams of Veterans Services. They work with her through her office at the AGH; they work with Action, Inc., with pharmacies, other social agencies to make sure that any funding is not duplicated. They work together; and

because of this good communication, veterans are receiving better services. **Council President Hardy** recognized and thanked City Auditor Kenny Costa for helping the Veterans Services Director to find a vehicle through which the City could receive the monies legally and disbursed appropriately so the City's outside auditors would not take issue with it. **Councilor Cox** also expressed her appreciation for Mr. Costa's efforts; and reiterated that all donations are tax deductible and assured anyone who wished to donate to Veterans' Services that this money stays in Gloucester. **Kenny Costa**, City Auditor clarified the donations stay with the fund and do not go to the General Fund; the monies revolve year to year.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the City Council voted BY Roll CALL 9 in favor, 0 opposed to establish under MGL c. 44, Sec. 53E-1/2 for a Veterans' Services Donations Fund #293022 for the purpose of receiving donations for the assistance of veterans in the City of Gloucester. The authorized officer of the Fund is Jeffrey M. Williams, Director of Veterans' Services. The fund is credited from donations; expenditure limit is \$5,000; the balance is the available balance, and there are no restrictions to the Fund.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to permit payment of \$105.16 for portable heaters purchased by the Chief Financial Officer without a purchase order in place.

DISCUSSION:

Councilor McGeary explained this was an unfortunate situation in City Hall when there was no heat available and temperatures were dropping rapidly. The CFO did attempt to purchase heaters using an open purchase order but discovered he did not have signing privileges and authority under that open purchase order. In the interest of the health and safety of his staff, he went ahead and purchased the portable heaters charging it on his own credit card. The Committee recognized this was an emergent situation and forgave the oversight just this once. They did say, however, that the City should develop procedures for this kind of an emergency situation; identifying those people who can expend that kind of money without a purchase order and the amount to which they can spend it and would be discussed another day. **Council President Hardy** expressed her hope that discussion would come forward soon. **Councilor Ciolino** understood from the CFO and City Auditor that the system they use for purchase order is archaic and suggested they look at what other communities do to help, in order to improve their own purchase order process.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to permit payment of \$105.16 for portable heaters purchased by the Chief Financial Officer without a purchase order in place.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the accept a Local Option provision under MGL c. 32 §20(6) and as outlined in Sec. 34 of c. 176 of the Acts of 2011, for an increase to the Gloucester Contributory Retirement System Board Member Stipend from \$3,000.00 per year to \$4,500.00 per year.

DISCUSSION:

Council President Hardy declared that under MGL c. 268A she would recuse herself from the discussion and vote on this matter as her husband is a member of the Board of the Gloucester Contributory Retirement Board (GCRB) and stepped away from the dais.

Council Vice President, Councilor Theken assumed the gavel and conducted the meeting related to the issue of the GCRB and subsequent vote.

Councilor McGeary stated the members of the GCRB are facing increasing demands on their time. They have certain training requirements they have to meet each year; and often have to go off site for meetings to gain this training certification. The money for the stipend would come from the returns on the investment of the GCRB, not from the General Fund of the City. It seemed this was a reasonable increase to their stipend to this otherwise volunteer organization. **Councilor Ciolino** explained this came from the State; they control what the stipends are. The Board does work hard for the City's retirees; and that Board works to keep their training current. **Councilor Whynott** noted this stipend hasn't gone up in a long time; and the Board has done a great job in investing the

retirement funds. He would support the stipend increase. **Councilor Theken** asked if the increase was per person and how many people made up the Board. **Councilor McGeary** confirmed this is an annual disbursement per person, and that the Board is made up of five people. The last time it was raised, according to **Mr. Costa**, was 1995.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor McGeary, seconded by Councilor Tobey, the City Council voted BY ROLL CALL 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 (Hardy) recused, to the accept a Local Option provision under MGL c. 32 §20(6) and as outlined in Sec. 34 of c. 176 of the Acts of 2011, for an increase to the Gloucester Contributory Retirement System Board Member Stipend from \$3,000.00 per year to \$4,500.00 per year.

Council President Hardy returned to the dais and resumed her role as Council President; conducting the remainder of the meeting.

Ordinances & Administration: No meeting due to Federal Holiday.

Planning & Development: February 22, 2012

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council to permit YuKanSports LLC to hold a Half Marathon on Sunday, August 5, 2012 with the following conditions:

1. Certificate of Insurance:

A Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Gloucester as an additional insured party is to be filed with the City Clerk's Office on or before July 6, 2012.

2. Road Closure Plans:

Memoranda from the Police Department and Fire Department giving approval of the plans for the YuKanSports Half Marathon on August 5, 2012 to be on file with the City Clerks office on or before July 6, 2012. Roads to be closed are to be marked with signage directing the public as to the duration of the closure and alternate routes. Traffic and parking plan and police detail information by the Police Chief or his designee is to be filed with the City Clerk and the DPW Director or his designee on or before July 6, 2012. Any substantial changes, as determined by either the Police or Fire Chief or their designees to the route or related to safety issues will require Council approval.

3. Refuse and Comfort Stations:

All refuse and recycling due to this event must be removed by the organizer. Any portable toilets (with two handicap accessible) are to be provided and maintained by the organizer, placed the evening before the event or early in the morning of the day of the event and removed by 4:00 PM, August 5, 2012.

4. Emergency Services:

A signed, visible and staffed first aid station must be in place in an accessible location in the area of the race course throughout the event.

5. Staffing:

Event staff is to have cell phones and be identified by the public with distinct shirts. A list of event staff and their cell phone numbers to be submitted to the Police, Fire or DPW Departments.

6. Notification of Immediate Abutters and Businesses to Race Course:

Notice shall be made by the event organizer by hand or by mail no later than 7 days in advance of the event to function halls, motels and hotels, and other businesses along the race route.

7. Responsibility of YuKan Sports, LLC:

The applicant is also required to obtain any necessary approvals from the Licensing Board, the Board of Health and the Licensing Commission. It is the sole responsibility of YuKan Sports LLC to ensure that all required documentation is timely filed with the appropriate City departments as indicated. Failure to comply with any conditions precedent may result in permit revocation.

DISCUSSION:

Linda T. Lowe, City Clerk confirmed for **Councilor Ciolino** that YuKan Sports was a for-profit organization, and at the time the Special Events Application is turned in, her office makes that determination to also see to it the appropriate filing fee is paid. **Councilor Cox** confirmed, also for **Councilor Ciolino**, that YuKan Sports would be donating funds to the Open Door Food Pantry.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Tobey, seconded by Councilor Verga, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed to permit YuKanSports LLC to hold a Half Marathon on Sunday, August 5, 2012 with the following conditions:

1. Certificate of Insurance:

A Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Gloucester as an additional insured party is to be filed with the City Clerk's Office on or before July 6, 2012.

2. Road Closure Plans:

Memoranda from the Police Department and Fire Department giving approval of the plans for the YuKanSports Half Marathon on August 5, 2012 to be on file with the City Clerks office on or before July 6, 2012. Roads to be closed are to be marked with signage directing the public as to the duration of the closure and alternate routes. Traffic and parking plan and police detail information by the Police Chief or his designee is to be filed with the City Clerk and the DPW Director or his designee on or before July 6, 2012. Any substantial changes, as determined by either the Police or Fire Chief or their designees to the route or related to safety issues will require Council approval.

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All refuse and recycling due to this event must be removed by the organizer. Any portable toilets (with two handicap accessible) are to be provided and maintained by the organizer, placed the evening before the event or early in the morning of the day of the event and removed by 4:00 PM, August 5, 2012.

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A signed, visible and staffed first aid station must be in place in an accessible location in the area of the race course throughout the event.

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Event staff is to have cell phones and be identified by the public with distinct shirts. A list of event staff and their cell phone numbers to be submitted to the Police, Fire or DPW Departments.

6. Notification of Immediate Abutters and Businesses to Race Course:

Notice shall be made by the event organizer by hand or by mail no later than 7 days in advance of the event to function halls, motels and hotels, and other businesses along the race route.

7. Responsibility of YuKan Sports, LLC:

The applicant is also required to obtain any necessary approvals from the Licensing Board, the Board of Health and the Licensing Commission. It is the sole responsibility of YuKan Sports LLC to ensure that all required documentation is timely filed with the appropriate City departments as indicated. Failure to comply with any conditions precedent may result in permit revocation.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Verga, seconded by Councilor Hardy, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to permit the Gloucester Downtown Association to hold a their Easter/Spring Promotion on Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with attendant road closure on Main Street from Hancock to Center Street for the duration of the event. Roads to be closed are to be marked with signage directing the public as to the duration of the closure and alternate routes. An approved road closure plan endorsed by the Police Department dated February 16, 2012 is on file with the City Clerk.

DISCUSSION: None.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Tobey, seconded by Councilor Cox, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to permit the Gloucester Downtown Association to hold a their Easter/Spring Promotion on Saturday, April 7, 2012 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with attendant road closure on Main Street from Hancock to Center Street for the duration of the event. Roads to be closed are to be marked with signage directing the public as to the duration of the closure and alternate routes. An approved road closure plan endorsed by the Police Department dated February 16, 2012 is on file with the City Clerk.

Councilor Tobey remarked that in accordance MGL c.40A, Sec. 5.25, and GZO Sec. 1.11, the Gloucester Planning Board will hold a public hearing jointly with a public meeting of the Planning & Development Committee of the City Council, on Monday, March 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Kyrouz Auditorium. The purpose is to consider the petition to amend the Zoning Map and Zoning Ordinance by amendment of the Gloucester Zoning Map for the creation of an overlay district zone consisting of 3 +/- acres in the Marine Industrial district located at 33 and 47 Commercial Street, and to amend the Zoning Ordinance by adopting a corresponding new Section 5.25 entitled Hotel Overlay District (HOD) governing the permitting of hotel and accessory uses by City Council special permit in the overlay district. A copy of the proposed zoning plan and amendments are available for viewing in the Community Development Office, 3 Pond Road and at the City Clerk's office, 9 Dale Avenue. At the public hearing, all interested persons will have the opportunity to be heard. He urged the community, whether for or against or undecided with questions or concerns for this proposed zoning amendment, to come to the first of only two public hearings so there is a comprehensive public statement of input at the beginning of this process before the P&D Committee receives a recommendation from the Planning Board. **Council President Hardy** noted this public hearing is being duly advertised twice according to the zoning laws in the newspaper so the public will also be made aware. **Councilor Tobey** added that the notice ran on Monday, February 27th and would appear again on Monday, March 5th.

For Council Vote:

1. CC2012-008 (Tobey) Proposed periodic adjustment to schedule for regular City Council Meetings to meet in City neighborhoods

Councilor Tobey explained that the motion states it is the intent of the Council to have periodic adjustments to its meeting schedule for the Council for regular Council meetings to go out into the City neighborhoods. He stated he thought it informative as a Council candidate to have the opportunity to go out to meetings in various neighborhoods. This is about bringing government to the people. He recognized there may be logistic issues that will need to be worked out; but he asked the Council to join him in bringing government back into the City's neighborhoods. **Councilor Whynott** thought that it was a great idea, but expressed hope that the facilities they go to are accommodating to all. **Councilor McGeary** applauded the motion and would support it, stating the Council should work with the IT Department and the Facilities Manager to have appropriate sound equipment available also. **Councilor Ciolino** mentioned that those meetings would have to be taped, for instance, rather than being able to broadcast live. While there are a few considerations, he did agree with Councilor Tobey. **Councilor Theken** stated although there are five wards; the Council may need make these meetings combined with another ward or wards. They will also need to be sure that they'll have access via wi-fi as now the Council has gone almost paperless and relies on technology for their packet information. They need to be sure, also, that there is handicap access; that

citizens know of the meetings well in advance; and that accessibility to electronic aids for the Council are important as well. **Councilor Cox** suggested before the Council takes this vote, perhaps they need to look at different places capable of accessibility for all and that have the things the Council needs to conduct their meetings appropriately. **Councilor Tobey** felt that to be a legitimate concern. But this vote would get it into the City Clerk's office and the Council President to find out about these matters. His request is they vote the matter and get this into the hands of the Clerk's office. He contended it was worth the disruption it may cause. Any Council agenda that would contain any major project or issue would not be a candidate to move a meeting out of City Hall.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Tobey, seconded by Councilor Theken, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed that the schedule for regular City Council meetings be adjusted, whenever reasonably possible so that such meetings occur periodically in the City's neighborhoods rather than exclusively in City Hall.

Council President Hardy noted an item earmarked for P&D Committee for underground conduits to Dennison Street noted as Item #1 on the Consent Agenda under Applications/Petitions has informally been withdrawn by National Grid. The City Clerk will inform the P&D Committee upon receipt of their formal request for withdrawal.

Unfinished Business: None.

Individual Councilor's Discussion including Reports by Appointed Councilors to Committees: None.

Councilors' Requests to the Mayor:

Councilor Cox had asked that the street sweeper to get out and about. She was informed it is undergoing repairs and will be out as soon as possible. There is a Ward 2 meeting tomorrow from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall. **Councilor Whynott** thanked Councilor McGeary for having the meeting on the FY13 budget at St. John's Church the previous evening.

Councilor Tobey wished to thank the Clerk's Office and Archives Committee for their support in doing research on the legal and historic background of the City's acquisition of the Babson Watershed and the lands attendant to the creation of the Reservoir. It was the Board of Water Commissioners, all volunteers, in early 1930 who recognized that the City's water supply was inadequate; that wells were not going to be readily available; and that outside the community there were not enough resources either. They focused on a large piece of land in Dogtown which had abundant natural springs; and acquired the land. By 1931 they had built the dam that created the Babson Reservoir. They gave the City a water resource that the City 80 years later had just reinvested in [by way of the \$9 million loan authorization]. He also noted the contribution of Roger Babson's gift to the City of this vast parcel which includes the "so called Rockport Road," a path approximately 8 ft. wide. He stated Mr. Babson deserves the City's thanks for the wisdom for acquiescing to the City's eminent domain taking of the property. For that Mr. Babson received \$1 and promises from the City that this piece of land was to be used for watershed purposes and its sole other purpose was to be a natural and birding sanctuary for the people of Gloucester to be open and available in perpetuity to them as well as being prominently marked as the Nathaniel Babson Memorial Sanctuary; to be freely available to all the people to be explored and enjoyed; but "**on foot only**". This information will be shared with the Town of Rockport so that they understand the City is bound to preserve, free of roadways, the Babson Watershed. He asked by way of a Request to the Mayor that the DPW erect signs at the various entrances to the Babson Watershed in both Gloucester and Rockport stating "The Nathaniel Babson Sanctuary" as required by the bequest to the City by Roger Babson.

Councilor McGeary recognized East Gloucester resident Rory McKenzie, as a member of "Debbie & Friends" for having won a Grammy Award for best children's album for 2011 for a CD compilation, "All about Bullies Big and Small".

Councilor Theken spoke about Good Harbor Filet currently closing down in Blackburn Industrial Park; and that she has volunteered her services to work with their Human Resources Department to assist the about-to-be displaced employees. She urged businesses who are thinking about leaving the City to consider first reaching out to the Administration to see how the City can assist them to stay in the community. She also spoke about open enrollment and some of the issues associated with it. She then expressed the Council's thanks for everyone who volunteers for the City of Gloucester. Sometimes changes are made, but it is not done with disrespect to the volunteers who step forward for the betterment of their community.

Council President Hardy noted a Ward meeting in Annisquam on March 19th at the Annisquam Village Hall regarding brown water.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees**

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.