



CITY of GLOUCESTER TRAFFIC COMMISSION

Robert B. Ryan, Chairman Larry Ingersoll, Secretary

A meeting of the Gloucester Traffic Commission was held on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at Gloucester City Hall.

The meeting was opened by Chairman Robert B. Ryan at 6:01 p.m. Attending were members Anthony Bertolino, Larry Ingersoll, Michael Mulcahey, Michael Mitchell and City Councilor Valerie Gilman.

MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from our 9/19/19 meeting

A MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to APPROVE the minutes.

ORDER #CC2019-032 (Councilors Gilman & Holmgren) ORDERED that the City Council adopt Massachusetts General Law Chapter 90, Section 17C that states the following:

- (a) Notwithstanding section 17 or any other general or special law to the contrary, the city council, the transportation commissioner of the city of Boston, the board of selectmen, park commissioners, a traffic commission or traffic director of a city or town that accepts this section in the manner provided in section 4 of chapter 4 may, in the interests of public safety and without further authority, establish a speed limit of 25 miles per hour on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the city or town on any way that is not a state highway.
- (b) Upon establishing a speed limit under this section, the city or town shall notify the department. The operation of a motor vehicle at a speed in excess of a speed limit established under this section shall be a violation of section 17.

After speaking with Councilor Gilman and a discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to recommend the APPROVAL of the order.

It has been noticed that many other cities and towns have been doing this. If approved by Council, the city would need to publicize this and also install signs at every entrance to the city. Passing this will cover the numerous city streets that have no posted speed limit (which defaults to the 30 mph limit).

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CITY CLERK
GLOUCESTER, MA

The following were continued from our previous meeting and will be further discussed:

ORDER #CC2019-033 (Councilor Gilman) ORDERED that the City Council request that the Police Department, Fire Department, the Department of Public Works and the Traffic Commission review and comment on Article V, "Stopping, Standing and Parking," Section 22-145(a), (b) and (c) specifically as it pertains to the question of whether additional ordinances and/or signage is needed to improve public safety and public safety enforcement of said ordinance.

FURTHER ORDERED that this matter be referred to the Ordinances & Administration Committee, Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Works and the Traffic Commission for review and recommendation to the City Council.

*(September Meeting) After speaking to Councilor Gilman, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the order for further review, and hear from the other departments listed.*

Councilor Gilman explained that newer residents as well as some longtime residents, are not aware of a lot of the city parking ordinances. One of the solutions mentioned would be a courtesy notice given by the police department for a period before actual ticketing. (This had been done in the past sometime in the 1990's).

*(October Meeting) Upon further discussion with the Commission and Councilor Gilman, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to **CONTINUE** the order for more review.*

How to inform the public of these ordinances was discussed. Suggested were public announcements using the Gloucester Times and the Beacon, Good Morning Gloucester, Cable TV, Social Media and various city websites and Facebook pages.

If possible, interns could be used to create small articles highlighting each ordinance and by using photos, provide a good explanation of them.

The goal of this is public safety and awareness and after an informational period, use enforcement to reach the goal.

At this time we have not seen any recommendations from any of the other city agencies listed

ORDER #CC2019-034 (Councilors LeBlanc & Nolan) ORDERED that the City Council request that the Ordinances and Administration Standing Committee and the Traffic Commission review the parking at all times of motor vehicles and RV's on Western Avenue from the County Way Landing to the Avis R. Murray Tennis Courts.

(September Meeting) After speaking to Councilor LeBlanc and the residents present, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to CONTINUE the order for further review.

Many ideas and suggestions were brought up and as one resident stated, it was good that this could all be brought out and discussed as it has been hard to do this in the past.

No one wants to hinder special events but there is a need to clarify different city ordinances that are in conflict with each other. There was a consensus that stronger enforcement is needed and restrictions banning RV's parking on the Boulevard is necessary.

The City Solicitor also needs to be contacted to see exactly what jurisdiction the city has over Western Avenue between County way and Hough Avenue.

(October Meeting) After some discussion, a MOTION was made, seconded and PASSED to CONTINUE the order for more input and review.

There are several overlapping ordinances concerning Western Avenue parking and the best way might be to delete all of them and start over instead of deleting and amending the current ones.

The issue of R/V parking was discussed and the creation of a Special Event parking placard was brought up.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.