

Ordinances & Administration Committee
Monday, March 2, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Room - City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Vice Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Councilor Jamie O’Hara; Councilor Jen Holmgren (Alternate)
Absent: Councilor Nolan
Also Present:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. *Appointments:*

Human Rights Commission

Mauiza Alves (Cont’d from 2/3/20)

TTE 02/14/23

Ms. Alves explained that she came from Brazil, always involved with the Brazilian community. About seven years ago she advised she got involved in the Gloucester community, helping the Mayor with immigrant issues; helping families with cancer through a fundraiser. She expressed this Commission is yet another way for her to help more people in the community. Diversity is important to her, she indicated, noting she has a multi-racial family. She conveyed she advocates for everyone, and will always speak up for anyone who needs a voice. By serving the community in this way it will give her a chance to do more, she highlighted.

Sunny Robinson, 20 Harvard Street, offered her endorsement for Ms. Alves’ appointment.

Councilor Holmgren offered her thanks to Ms. Alves, having seeing her in action over the years. The community will appreciate her efforts, she added. Councilor O’Hara offered his thanks, also.

Councilor LeBlanc expressed he didn’t see color and appreciated Ms. Alves stepping forward.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Mauiza Alves to the Human Rights Commission, TTE 02/14/23.

Open Space & Recreation Committee

Dave Sargent (fulfilling unexpired term)

TTE 02/14/21

Mr. Sargent recounted he is the city’s former Shellfish Warden for the city, and that the Planning Director asked if he could join the Open Space & Recreation Committee (OS&RC). Previously, he noted he was asked by Noel Mann, OS&RC member to join the committee. He mentioned he dealt with the OS&RC when he worked for the city, and mentioned working on the 2001 Open Space Plan assisting in obtaining community. He outlined some of the areas of importance of open spaces in the city both suburban and urban briefly saying he could be of assistance to the OS&RC.

Ms. Robinson voiced her support for Mr. Sargent’s appointment noting she knew him from her time as a Public Health Nurse with the city of Gloucester.

Councilors Holmgren and O’Hara offered their thanks to Mr. Sargent for stepping forward.

Councilor LeBlanc mentioned his concern about the Friend Street playground which he indicated should be open space but now is used as an erstwhile parking lot, and asked if the OS&RC can look into that matter. Mr. Sargent expressed he would seek guidance on it. The property was formerly known as the Middleton Playground, he noted.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Dave Sargent to the Open Space & Recreation Committee, TTE 02/14/21.

Tourism Commission

Patricia Gates, Francesco Margiotta

TTE 02/14/23

Ms. Gates conveyed she had been a member of the Downtown Development Commission which will now be defunct. She added that she owns two businesses on Main Street, expressing she is passionate about the downtown. She pointed out she is a member of the Downtown Merchants Association. She conveyed she wants to make the city great for everyone.

Councilors Holmgren and O’Hara offered their thanks to Ms. Gates for her advocacy.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Patricia Gates to the Tourism Commission, TTE 02/14/23.

Mr. Margiotta reviewed his background for the Committee (resume on file) explaining that he is a Gloucester native, left for 20 years and has now returned with his young family. He recounted his family's background in the fishing industry. He expressed that one day he hopes to be a Councilor and wants to help the city grow using what he's learned to date on the Commission.

Councilor Holmgren expressed appreciation for Mr. Margiotta's background, and Councilor O'Hara offered his thanks to Mr. Margiotta for stepping forward.

Councilor LeBlanc mentioned organizing a joint meeting of the Waterways Board with the Tourism Commission in the next month or two as those two entities go hand in hand.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Francesco Margiotta to the Tourism Commission, TTE 02/14/23.

Reappointments:

Community Preservation Committee

Robert Whitmarsh (Cont'd from 1/21/20)

TTE 02/14/23

Mr. Whitmarsh reviewed for the Committee his business background and his abiding interest in Historic Preservation, noting he took a course in historic preservation and has a certification as a result. He mentioned the annual awards the Commission gives out for preservation of buildings in the city. He asked the Councilors to feel free to contact him if they know of buildings that they think would qualify. The Committee thanked Mr. Whitmarsh for all he does on behalf of the city.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Robert Whitmarsh to the Community Preservation Committee, TTE 02/14/23.

2. *CC2019-039 (LeBlanc): request review of GCO Ch. 21, "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places" Art. V, "West Gloucester Firing Range" and whether certain sections of Art. V be amended (Cont'd from 02/03/20)*

Councilor LeBlanc explained that this matter will be continued to March 16, 2020 as Councilor Nolan was absent.

This matter is continued to March 16, 2020.

3. *CC2020-001 (LeBlanc): request review of GCO Ch. 2 "Administration," Div. 8 "Human Rights Commission" (Cont'd from 02/03/20)*

Councilor LeBlanc reviewed that Councilor Gilman asked this matter be continued as she has yet to be able to meet with Donna Leete, Human Resources Director.

This matter is continued to March 16, 2020.

4. *CC2020-002 (LeBlanc): Amend GCO Ch. 2 "Administration," Art. V "Boards, Commissions, Council & Committees" by DELETING Div. 7 "Downtown Development Commission," Secs. 2-419 through 2-495; and ADDING Div. 7, Secs. 491-495.-Reserved.*

Councilor LeBlanc explained that after the City Council was sworn in January 2020, the Mayor had asked him to put in an order to dissolve the Downtown Development Commission. He advised that the Mayor has something else in the pipeline on this matter. The Commission isn't meeting and doesn't have a quorum to do so, and the Tourism Commission is thriving, he added.

J. TRUE COPY ATTEST
Joanne M. Sena

CITY CLERK

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Patricia Gates to the Tourism Commission, TTE 02/14/23.

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Reappointments:

Historical Commission

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TTE 02/14/23

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Robert Whitmarsh to the Historical Commission, TTE 02/14/23.

2. *CC2019-039 (LeBlanc): request review of GCO Ch. 21, "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places" Art. V, "West Gloucester Firing Range" and whether certain sections of Art. V be amended (Cont'd from 02/03/20)*

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Holmgren, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Div. 7 “Downtown Development Commission,” “Secs. 2-419 through 2-495”; and ADDING “Div. 7, Secs. 491-495.-Reserved.”

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

5. *City Council vote of 1/28/2020 re: Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Art. II, Div. 2 “Traffic Commission” re: number of members and membership,” Returned by City Council from 2/11/2020 meeting*

NOTE: Motion as passed by the City Council on 1/28/2020:

MOTION: *On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the City Council voted 9 in favor, 0 opposed, to Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Art. II, Div. 2 “Traffic Commission,” Sec. 22-32 “Composition; appointment; terms of members” the words “five members” and ADDING as follows: “eight members comprised of an ex-officio member of the Fire Department, Police Department, Department of Public works and five” resident members who shall be at-large members. These members shall be....”*

Councilor Holmgren explained that she wasn’t clear who would be a voting member of the Commission. The firefighter on the Commission now is a voting member, and more city staff on the Commission would add value to the Commission. She pointed out that by having city staff on the Commission would streamline the process for the public. The Traffic Commission having representatives of the city on the Commission would be helpful, she indicated.

Councilor LeBlanc expressed he spoke with Mike, Hale, DPW Director; Police Chief Conley, and the Administration and former Commission members. To have the department representative that is just going to sit through meetings without voting rights didn’t make sense, he indicated. Councilor McCarthy, he noted, when he was Police Chief had suggested such a change to the Commission would be useful. This way everyone can weigh in making it a collaborative decision-making process and enhancing the recommendations forwarded to the O&A Committee for their consideration, he pointed out.

This matter is continued to March 16, 2020.

6. *CC2019-032 (Gilman): request City Council adopt MGL Ch. 90, 17C re: establishing a speed limit of 25 mph on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the city or town on any way that is not a state highway (Cont’d from 01/21/20)*

Councilor LeBlanc advised that Councilor Gilman has asked this matter be withdrawn.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Holmgren, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to permit the withdrawal of CC2019-032 (Gilman): request City Council adopt MGL Ch. 90, 17C re: establishing a speed limit of 25 mph on any roadway inside a thickly settled or business district in the city or town on any way that is not a state highway without prejudice.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgensson

Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.