

Ordinance & Administration Standing Committee
Monday, June 1, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
-Minutes-
Remote Meeting

Present: Chair Sean Nolan, Vice Chair Steve LeBlanc, Member Councilor O’Hara

Absent: None

Also Present: Joanne M. Senos, Mayor, Vanessa Krawczyk, Councilor, Councilor Gilman, Councilor McCarthy, Nancy Papows, Peter Seminara

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. There was a quorum of the City Council.

This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. Consistent with the Governor’s orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation.

If you are calling in on a phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a “raise hand” button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.

1. Appointment:

Assessor Tim Good TTE 2/14/23

Tim Good conveyed to the Committee that he came from a real estate appraisal background and has been working for the City as an Assistant Assessor since 2005. He is an elected member of the Board of Assessors in Rockport since 2012. When he switched over to assessing, he also became a Mass Accredited Assessor. Principal Assessor Nancy Papows conveyed to the Committee that they were very fortunate to hire Tim Good as an Assistant Assessor back in 2005. He brought with him a wealth of appraisal experience. Mr. Good has 18 years in the field with experience in both residential and commercial appraising, as well as managerial experience. He’s proven to be a competent and dedicated employee who she can rely on, and now has all the experience and skills necessary to be successful in the position of Assessor and to be a member of the Board, and an excellent candidate for the position. Assistant CAO Vanessa Krawczyk, on behalf of the Mayor, echoed what Ms. Papows said about Mr. Good. Mr. Good’s experience will serve the City well, and they look forward to working with him in his new role going forward.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Tim Good to Assessor TTE 2/14/23.

Councilor Nolan commented that the Assessor’s is one of the best offices in the City, and Ms. Papows runs it well. Mr. Good has been an asset to the team, and his experience is going to hope and continue with the great work that comes out of that office. Councilor O’Hara commented that he met with Mr. Good on numerous occasions, and he does his homework. He treats everyone fairly and with utmost respect and supported his appointment. Councilor LeBlanc echoed what was previously said. He has been down the Assessor’s Office and Mr. Good and the whole staff are fabulous and supported his appointment.

2. Application of Sarah Valencik for a Permit for Scientific Research in the Coastal Waters & Tidal Flats in the City of Gloucester pursuant to GCO Ch. 20, Sec. 20-27 “Permits for Scientific Works in coastal waters and flats of city”

Ms. Valencik, President of Massachusetts Oyster Project, conveyed to the Committee that she still does not have the required permits from the Division of Marine Fisheries as of the date of this meeting.

This matter is continued until June 15, 2020.

3. CC2020-003 (LeBlanc): Request City Charter review pursuant to City Charter Sec. 10-1(b) **(cont’d from 05/18/20)**

Councilor LeBlanc said that at the last meeting they had a brief discussion on what direction the Committee wanted to go with this. On an inquiry by Councilor LeBlanc, Councilor Nolan commented that he thought they still needed to get some information together and put together a committee. He suggested to extend this matter out a month or two weeks to get more information together. Councilor LeBlanc said one of the things that he would like to do is have the interested applicants submit their applications, and the Committee review the applications. The applicants can attend an O&A meeting, have a brief interview with the Committee, and the Committee can select the eight members and appoint them at a future O&A Committee. Councilors Nolan and O’Hara were in agreement with Councilor LeBlanc.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to create a City Charter Ad Hoc Committee for the purpose of reviewing the City Charter pursuant to City Charter Sec. 10-(b) and submit a report with recommendations to the full City Council concerning any proposed amendments or revisions to the Charter.

4. CC2020-008 (Nolan/Gilman: Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-176 “Penalties for parking violations,” Subsection (c) “In beach district” by ADDING Hickory Street, Sawyer Avenue & Hough Avenue **(cont’d from 5/18/20)**

Councilor Gilman conveyed to the Committee that the close of their last meeting, it was suggested that she should reach out to General Counsel. She highlighted the communication that was sent to them from General Counsel. She looked at the nexus distances involved in all of the streets that are in section (c). Council Gilman went over the nexus distances of Hickory Street and Sawyer Avenue to Plum Cove Beach and said that is point three miles, and that the distance for every other road is higher than that of the two different beaches with the exception of Salt Island Road and Witham Street. Everything else is between .4 four miles all the way up to two miles and that’s how far people will walk with their beach chairs. She believes that they meet the reasonable nexus and this would be a good step in a positive direction for the streets that are closest to the beach. Councilor Gilman said that giving out tickets of seventy-five dollars is certainly better than fifteen dollars and would send a message that, when cars are parked illegally, the fines are going to be meaningful enough to create a feeling that they are probably not going to do it again. She hoped that the Committee would support moving this forward to the full Council. Councilor LeBlanc recounted his visits to this area the past couple of days and today. He spoke with a couple of neighbors, walked the path and spoke with Councilor McCarthy to answer some questions he had and would support moving this matter forward. Councilor O’Hara commented he also recently visited the neighborhood, walked the path, looked at the parking lot and the road. He agreed with Councilor LeBlanc and would support moving this matter forward. Councilor Nolan commented that he would support moving this matter forward.

There has been a lot of work with everyone going out there looking at it and Councilor Gilman's information on the distances. There is an absolute issue there with parking and the residents need some sort of resolution to make this go away. The fine is going to make a difference, and he would be supporting this tonight and everyone did a great job on this. Councilor McCarthy said that he has been out there many times over the last 40 years or so. They have expanded the beach area streets over the years especially around Good Harbor. When there is a lot of congestion, it turns into a public safety issue when ambulances, fire trucks and police cars cannot get through the streets. This started a long time ago with the late Councilor Jackie Hardy. It is a work in progress, and he thought that still have to look at lot of area down there. This is a great tool to have to discourage improper use of the area.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinance and Administration Standing Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to AMEND GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-176 "Penalties for parking violations," Subsection (c) "In beach district" by ADDING Hickory Street and Sawyer Avenue.

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

A motion was made, and seconded and by ROLL CALL the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Senos
City Clerk