

Ordinances & Administration Committee

Remote Meeting

Monday, March 15, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Sean Nolan; Vice Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Councilor Jamie O’Hara

Other Councilors Present: Councilor Val Gilman; Councilor John McCarthy; Councilor Jennifer Holmgren

Also Present: City Clerk Joanne Senos; CAO Nicole Kieser; Police Chief Ed Conley; Assistant to CAO, Chris Sicuranza

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

*This meeting was conducted remotely through ZOOM
All votes conducted by ROLL CALL*

Chairman Nolan announced 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. Additionally, all votes taken by the Committee during this and future remote meetings will be by roll call vote. 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 to be recognized to speak.

1. Management Appointment

Chief Administrative Officer Nicole Kieser TTE 2/14/22 (Cont. from 1/19/21)

This matter has been continued until June 14, 2021.

2. Boards, Committees & Commission Reappointments

Clean City Commission Jamie L. Mathison TTE 2/14/24 (Cont. from 3/1/21)

This matter has been continued to April 5, 2021.

Historic District Commission Robert Chandler TTE 2/14/24 (Cont. from 3/1/21)

Summary of Discussion: **Mr. Robert Chandler** stated he was an architect with skills and experience to offer the public who come before the board to make improvements to their buildings. **Councilors LeBlanc, O’Hara** and **Nolan** thanked Mr. Chandler for his willingness to serve.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council reappoint Robert Chandler to the Historic District Commission, TTE 02/14/24.

Magnolia Pier Advisory Cmte. Lisa Nogelo

TTE 2/14/24 (Referred back from 3/9/21 City Council meeting)

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor LeBlanc** stated the City Council was notified by the chair of the Magnolia Pier Advisory Committee that Lisa Nogelo had not been to a meeting in two years. **Councilor Nolan** stated Ms. Nogelo has not made any contact with the City Clerk's office.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to RESCIND the Committee's vote and recommendation to City Council of March 1, 2021 to reappoint Lisa Nogelo to the Magnolia Pier Advisory Committee, TTE 02/14/24.

3. *CC#2020-014 (Nolan): Request that the State Legislators file a Home Rule Petition regarding raising parking fines pursuant to Sec. 20A ½ of Chapter 90 of the General Laws (Contd. from 2/1/21 & 3/1/21)*

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor Nolan** stated he would like to ask the State for a Home Rule Petition with an up to \$150 maximum fine so the City does not have to go back to the State every time the City wants to raise the parking fines. At a later date, the City Council could then decide what monetary value should be assigned to which particular parking infraction.

Councilor LeBlanc asked **Police Chief Ed Conley** what the cost would be to add line items to the ticketing books or if there was a line that the infraction could be noted. **Chief Conley** stated it would depend on how many changes were made. He then clarified that the vast majority of tickets given out are done electronically, which would be a matter of updating software. He stated the City was trying to phase out the patrol books with training. **Chief Conley** explained in the short term the officer issuing a ticket with a patrol book could simply cross out a number and write in the new number. He stated the goal was to ultimately have ticket issuing a more streamlined process.

Councilor Gilman asked the **Police Chief** if there was a concern with the fines being arbitrary instead of being a set amount from a consistency standpoint or did the flexibility work. The **Police Chief** stated that at this point they were setting the bar at a maximum level. Subsequent to receiving that permission on where the bar was set, then the fines could be set.

Councilor Gilman asked **Councilor Nolan** to explain the conversation he had with Senator Tarr regarding what the Home Rule Petition allowed the City to do. **Councilor Nolan** explained the Home Rule Petition was to ask the State one time with a maximum fine instead of having to keep revisiting the issue with the State each time the City wanted to raise parking fines.

Councilor McCarthy asked **Chief Conley** how many parking ticket machines the City currently had and if **Chief Conley** believed it would be one more round of paper tickets before every officer was properly trained on the parking fine machines. **Chief Conley** agreed that one more round of paper tickets was probably necessary, but it was dependent on equipment. He then stated the City currently had 5 parking ticket machines, with 3 working properly. Also, the City's online payment processor for fines would provide the City with some handheld machines as part of the City's contract with them.

Councilor Gilman asked once approved by City Council, if the City Council should proactively address the infraction amounts as the City awaited approval from the State. **Councilor Nolan** stated he has worked with Councilor Gilman, Councilor McCarthy and Chief Conley on spreadsheets regarding the parking infraction amounts and they would continue to do so. **Councilor LeBlanc** agreed.

Councilor LeBlanc, Councilor O’Hara and Councilor Nolan stated they support this motion in raising the fine to a maximum and having the discretion to work within that maximum.

Mary Ann Albert Boucher, 93 Mount Pleasant Avenue

Suggested that the parking signs that read “Resident Parking Only” be adjusted to add “Subject to a fine of up to \$150”. **Councilor LeBlanc** stated this would be a simple request to the DPW to add that language to some of the signs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council request that the State Legislators file a Home Rule Petition; and based on said Petition, the General Court approve and enact a Special Act substantially as follows:

Section 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the city of Gloucester may, upon approval by the city council and mayor, raise any parking fine established pursuant to section 20A ½ of chapter 90 of the General Laws; provided, however, that a fine established for all other parking violations pursuant to said section 20A ½ of said chapter 90 shall: (i) if paid not more than 21 days after the issuance of the fine, be not more than \$150; (ii) if paid more than 21 days after the issuance of the fine, but before the parking clerk reports to the registrar as provided for under section 20A ½ of said chapter 90, be not more than \$160; and (iii) if paid more than 21 days after the issuance of the fine and after the parking clerk has so reported, shall not be more than \$175.

- 4. CC#2021-002 (Cox/O’Hara): Amend GCO Ch. 21 “Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places,” Article V, “West Gloucester Firing Range”* *(Cont. from 3/1/21)*

This matter was continued until April 5, 2021.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

Submitted by Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees

Documents submitted at the meeting: None.

Meeting Recording:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KpnlQbW22cfquLoKL7hB8qA24qAgSngZ/view?usp=sharing>