

Ordinances & Administration Committee

Remote Meeting

Monday, July 19, 2021 – 6:00 p.m.

-Minutes-

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

Other Councilors Present: Councilor Melissa Cox; Councilor Jen Holmgren; Councilor John McCarthy

Also Present: Mayor Sefatia Romeo Theken; City Clerk, Joanne Senos; Assistant to CAO, Chris Sicuranza; School Superintendent, Ben Lummis; Clerk of Committees, Sherry Karvelas

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. There was a quorum of the City Council.

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

Chairman Nolan announced consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning certain gatherings such that an in person meeting of the Ordinances & Administration Standing Committees is not possible, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. The public may not physically attend this meeting but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real-time and participate when necessary. 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.

Matters were taken out of order.

1. Boards, Committees & Commissions Reappointments

Economic Development & Industrial Corp. TTE 7/1/24 Thomas Balf

Summary of Discussion: **Mr. Thomas Balf** stated this was his second term on the Economic Development & Industrial Corp (EDIC) and stated he felt that the EDIC had been successfully invigorated. He stated the EDIC had completed a number of measures to look at expanding and improving their knowledge of what businesses were in the industrial parks, assess the needs of those in the industrial parks, and assist as able. **Mr. Balf** stated he had been involved, as a member of the EDIC, in participating in the North Shore Blue Economy Study that should be released soon; he also stated he also was a member of the Municipal Harbor Planning Committee and looking at what role and responsibility the EDIC could play in further development of the harbor economy. He stated the role of the EDIC was a work in progress beyond the development of the industrial parks.

Members of the Committee thanked **Mr. Balf** for his willingness to continuing serving the City.

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 appoint Thomas Balf to the Economic Development & Industrial Corp., TTE 7/1/24

Economic Development & Industrial Corp.

TTE 7/1/24

Taylor Hedges

Summary of Discussion: Members of the Committee thanked Mr. Hedges for his willingness to serve the City. **Councilor Nolan** added that over the past four years working with the EDIC in his capacity as a business owner in the industrial zone was second to none. He stated he was thrilled with the work that had been accomplished in just the past few years from the EDIC.

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 appoint Taylor Hedges to the Economic Development & Industrial Corp., TTE 7/1/24

2. **CC#2021-009 (Holmgren):** Request the O&A Committee review the Human Rights' Commission's proposed amendments to the 2020 City Council Civility Resolution (Cont. from 6/14/21)

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Jen Holmgren stated she approached the newly reinstated Human Rights' Commission and asked them to examine, in light of increasing racially motivated crimes throughout the country, the 2020 City Council Civility Resolution that was originally created and signed by the City Council in 2017.

Members of the Committee thanked Councilor Holmgren and the members of the Human Rights' Commission for bringing this matter forward to update the document to be in line with today's standards.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor O'Hara, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council adopt the Human Rights' Commission's proposed amendments to the 2020 City Council Civility Resolution:

~~Whereas: On this 28th day of January, 2020:~~

~~Whereas: Gloucester is a special place because we have a long history of community.~~

1. **Whereas:** The Gloucester community is a unique and special one with a long history, we recognize the need to work towards an inclusive and equitable community.
2. **Whereas:** In collaboration with the Mayor and City Administration, the City Council is proud to continue our community spirit by honoring our commitments to ~~respectfulness, equality, non-discrimination, and keeping all of our people safe.~~ inclusivity, equity, and safety for all in our community, especially those who have historically been discriminated against, ignored, or marginalized.
3. **Whereas:** Any acts of violence, discrimination, or harassment do not reflect the values of the Gloucester community, and will not be tolerated. We are committed to examining ourselves, our community, and to eradicating any instances of intolerance.
4. **Whereas:** The Gloucester Police Department ~~has been instructed by our City Administration~~ is committed to **take** taking all allegations seriously and will work diligently to investigate any claims of discrimination.

~~Whereas: If you fear for your immediate safety, call the Gloucester Police Department via 911 or 978-283-1212.~~

Therefore, the undersigned agree to the tenets laid forth in this document.

3. **CC#2021-011 (LeBlanc):** Ordered that the O&A Committee review and discuss the temporary relief granted to businesses and outdoor seating during the State of Emergency regarding the extension of seasonal liquor licenses, and possible action (Cont. from 6/14/21)

Summary of Discussion: This matter was continued until August 2, 2021.

4. **CC#2021-012 (Memhard):** Ordered that City Council consider adopting pilot changes to the 2019 Beach & Stage Fort Park Regulations re: regulations relating to surfing at Good Harbor Beach (Cont. from 6/14/2021)

Summary of Discussion: Councilor LeBlanc stated this matter was being withdrawn without prejudice as this matter fell under the purview of the Administration and the DPW Director who had stated in a previous meeting he would not support this matter due to safety issues.

MOTION: 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 to the City Council to withdraw CC#2021-012 (Memhard) without prejudice

The City Clerk, Joanne Senos stated this matter did not need to go before City Council and could be withdrawn at the committee level.

MOTION TO RESCIND: 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 vote to withdraw CC#2021-012 (Memhard) without prejudice

MOTION TO WITHDRAW: 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 accept the withdrawal of CC#2021-012 (Memhard) without prejudice

5. **CC#2020-003 (LeBlanc):** Request review of City Charter pursuant to Sec. 10-1(b) (Cont. from 6/14/21)

Summary of Discussion: Councilor LeBlanc explained the purpose of the review of the City Charter was to tweak minor phrases or words and not to rewrite the charter. The City Clerk and Chris Sicuranza, Assistant to the CAO, both stated they had not had any volunteers. Councilor Nolan stated he had communication from Jen Beloff who had volunteered to help review the City Charter. There was further discussion regarding this matter. Members of the O&A Committee decided to start the review themselves.

This matter was continued to August 2, 2021.

6. **CC#2021-014: (Cox/McCarthy/Pett):** Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally," Sec. 22-159 "Same-Between certain hours and on certain days," Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" and Sec. 22-283 "Bus stops and taxi stands" re: Pleasant Street and Smith Street

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Cox stated this Council Order contained the same wording used when West Parish students were moved temporarily to the St. Ann's location. She explained her concerns regarding busses turning left or right off of Pleasant Street at the "calming corner" at the intersection of

Shepherd Street and stated there would be some additional parking restrictions needed at that location. She stated when West Parish students were at that location there were complaints about staff not being at drop-off or pickup and that there were many children still at the school location long after staff were gone.

Councilor McCarthy added that when West Parish students used the St. Ann's location there was a bigger traffic issue in the area as many students were signed up as "walkers" even though many of those students should have been bussed to O'Maley for parent/guardian pickup. **Councilor Cox** stated the Traffic Commission was familiar with this matter and would be meeting soon to discuss and that she would be attending the meeting as there were new members on the Traffic Commission that she would walk through the particulars. **Councilor Nolan** stated he did speak with the Traffic Commission who gave their support to this matter.

Superintendent of Schools, Ben Lummis added that a notice would be sent out later this week to update the neighbors of the St. Ann's location that school would be starting in approximately a month and that further traffic and parking updates would be sent out as needed. **Councilor Cox** also added that a trial run with a bus would happen before school started. There was further discussion regarding parking restrictions, busses and student pick up/drop off in the area of St. Ann's.

This matter will be advertised for public hearing for August 10, 2021.

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 amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements – Generally," Sec. 22-159 "Same-Between certain hours and on certain days," Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" and Sec. 22-283 "Bus stops and taxi stands" re: Pleasant Street and Smith Street

MOTION: 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 adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Submitted by Sherry Karvelas, Clerk of Committees

Documents submitted at the meeting: None.

Meeting Recording: <http://gloucester-ma.gov/1097/Past-Remote-Public-Meetings>