

**Ordinances & Administration Committee**

Remote Meeting

Monday, January 31, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

-Minutes-

**Present: Chair, Councilor Sean Nolan; Vice Chair, Councilor Jamie O’Hara; Councilor Frank Margiotta**

**Other Councilors Present: Councilor Val Gilman; Councilor Tony Gross; Councilor Jason Grow; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Jeff Worthley**

**Also Present: Mayor Greg Verga; CAO, Jill Cahill; City Clerk, Joanne Senos**

**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, Councilor Nolan** announced: Consistent with Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, 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. 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.

**Mayor Verga** expressed his thanks to the Boards, Committee and Commission appointments whose terms were ending on February 14, 2022. He also thanked those who were being reappointed and welcomed the new appointments.

**Councilor Nolan** announced the names of City councilors and City staff in attendance. The **City Clerk, Joanne Senos** announced that there was a quorum of the City Council.

**Matters were taken out of order.**

**1. Boards, Committees and Commission Reappointments (Cont. from 01/18/22)**

Affordable Housing Trust

Mary John Boylan

TTE 2/14/24

**Summary of Discussion:** **Ms. Boylan** stated that she was an attorney and that she had recently retired from her position with the Department of Housing and Community Development. **Ms. Boylan** shared her concerns regarding funding in the Affordable Housing Trust. **Mayor Verga** shared that the Administration was committed to providing funding to the Trust in part, he stated, by revenue of short-term rentals.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Ms. Boylan** for her dedication and willingness to serve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Mary John Boylan to the Affordable Housing Trust, TTE 02/14/24.**

City Hall Restoration Commission Janis Bell

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Ms. Bell stated that City Hall was an iconic building and that the City Hall Restoration Commission was looking forward to the fire protection phase of restoring City Hall, as well as updating the sound system.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked Ms. Bell for her willingness to serve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by **ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed**, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Janis Bell to the City Hall Restoration Commission, TTE 02/14/25.

Planning Board

Rick Noonan

TTE 2/14/27

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Noonan, Planning Board Chair, stated that this was his third term and that he was looking forward to the next two years.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked Mr. Noonan for his longevity and willingness to serve.

Councilor Worthley joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by **ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed**, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Rick Noonan to the Planning Board, TTE 02/14/27.

Waterways Board

Phil Cusumano

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Cusumano stated he had been a member of the Waterways Board for many years and that he was a licensed captain, as well as a transient boater. He stated that he was extremely proud that the City's harbor had become a destination.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked Mr. Cusumano for his willingness to serve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by **ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed**, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Phil Cusumano to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/25.

## ***2. Boards, Committees and Commission Appointments & Reappointments***

### ***New Appointments***

Affordable Housing Trust

Deanna Fay

TTE 2/14/24

**Summary of Discussion:** Ms. Fay was not in attendance; her reappointment was continued until the February 14, 2022, O&A meeting.

Capital Improvements Advisory Board

Joel Favazza

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Attorney Favazza stated he was first appointed to the Capital Improvements Advisory Board in 2010 and reappointed under the previous Administration. He stated he stepped back from this Board in January 2021 as he was serving on the School Committee. He was no longer serving on the School Committee, he stated, and was excited to reinvigorate this board.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Joel Favazza to the Capital Improvements Advisory Board, TTE 02/14/25.

Capital Improvements Advisory Board

John McCarthy

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. McCarthy stated that he had a long history with the City including the Police Department for almost 40 years and stated that he had managed many large budgets and improvements. He added that he was on the City Council for the past term as a member of the B&F Committee. He voiced his commitment in creating a 5-year, 10-year and 20-year plan for the City.

Councilor O'Hara stated he was honored to have served previously with Mr. McCarthy on the City Council and that it was honor also to recommend Mr. McCarthy for this position. Councilor Margiotta agreed with Councilor O'Hara and thanked Mr. McCarthy for his police service for almost 40 years. Councilor Nolan stated Mr. McCarthy was a perfect fit for this position because of his previous experience.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint John McCarthy to the Capital Improvements Advisory Board, TTE 02/14/25.

Conservation Commission

Robert Sherman

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Sherman stated that he had been a resident of the City for approximately 25 years and that he was currently a Park Ranger for the Department of Conservation and Recreation. He stated he previously served on this Commission and was looking forward to serving again.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Mr. Sherman for his willingness to serve again.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Robert Sherman to the Conservation Commission, TTE 02/14/25.

Shellfish Advisory Commission

Anthony Murawski

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Murawski stated that he had been a commercial clammer for 25 years and that he had previously served on the Shellfish Advisory Board in Ipswich.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Mr. Murawski for his willingness to share his expertise on the Shellfish Advisory Commission.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Anthony Murawski to the Shellfish Advisory Commission, TTE 02/14/25.**

Waterways Board

Donna Crocker

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Ms. Crocker stated she had been living in the City for over 35 years and used to attend the Waterways Board meetings as the Commodore of the Wheelers Point Yacht Club. She was looking forward to serving.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Donna Crocker to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/25.**

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Ms. Crocker for her willingness to serve.

Waterways Board

Bob Alves

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Alves stated that he had a boat in the City's harbor since 1970. He stated he became actively involved with the waterfront including being part of bringing a launch to the waterfront, as well as transient moorings and resident moorings.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Mr. Alves for his willingness to serve and to share his expertise.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Bob Alves to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/25.**

Waterways Board

Steve LeBlanc (*fulfilling unexpired term*)

TTE 2/14/23

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. LeBlanc expressed his gratitude to the Mayor for the opportunity to serve on the board. He stated he was the former City Council liaison to the board for over seven years and was familiar with the goings on of the board and was looking forward to continue to serve the City in this capacity.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Mr. LeBlanc for his continued willingness to serve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Steve LeBlanc (*fulfilling unexpired term*) to the Waterways Board, TTE 02/14/23.**

Zoning Board of Appeals

Leonard Gyllenhaal (*alternate member*) TTE 2/14/24

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Gyllenhaal stated he had previously been appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals in 2009 for two terms and expressed his gratitude and excitement in being reappointed.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Mr. Gyllenhaal** for his willingness to serve. **Councilor Margiotta** also expressed his appreciation for **Mr. Gyllenhaal's** passion for the City.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Leonard Gyllenhaal (*alternate member*) to the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/24.**

Zoning Board of Appeals

Rob Russell (*alternate member*)

TTE 2/14/24

**Summary of Discussion:** **Mr. Russell** stated he was a former teacher and administrator in education and for the last fifteen years has worked in real estate. He expressed his excitement in joining the Zoning Board of Appeals as an alternate.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Mr. Russell** for his willingness to serve and wished him the best of luck.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Rob Russell (*alternate member*) to the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/24.**

**Reappointments**

Dogtown Preservation Commission Leslie Nicholson

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** **Ms. Nicholson** stated that she had been living in the City for the past twelve years and had been serving on the Dogtown Preservation Commission for the past two years. She stated she was looking forward to moving forward with the Commission.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Ms. Nicholson** for her willingness to serve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Leslie Nicholson to the Dogtown Preservation Commission, TTE 02/14/25.**

Fisheries Commission

Capt. Salvatore Novello

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** **Capt. Novello** was not in attendance; his reappointment was continued until the February 14, 2022, O&A meeting.

Historic District Commission

Arley Pett

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** **Mr. Pett** stated he had been on and off the Historic District Commission since inception and was currently the Vice Chairman.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Mr. Pett** for his volunteerism within the City and for his willingness to continue to serve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Arley Pett to the Historic District Commission, TTE 02/14/25.**

Historical Commission

Suzanne Morreale

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Ms. Morreale stated she had been serving with the Historical Commission as an alternate since August 2019 and was looking forward in continuing to serve. She voiced her love of history and was looking forward to sharing her research with the Gloucester 400 and fellow Commission members.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Ms. Morreale for her continued efforts and her hard work.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Suzanne Morreale to the Historical Commission, TTE 02/14/25.**

Human Rights Commission

Toni Borge

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Ms. Borge stated she was born and raised in the City and had previously worked in the Peace Corps. She stated she was also previously the Adult Education Director for twenty-five years at Bunker Hill Community College in Chelsea. She expressed her gratitude in being reappointed.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Ms. Borge for her continued willingness to serve.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Toni Borge to the Human Rights Commission, TTE 02/14/25.**

Human Rights Commission

Sarah Mitchel Peck

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Ms. Peck stated she had worked as a writer for the past fifteen years for various international and human rights organizations, with six years spent managing a human rights research program at Harvard University. She expressed her excitement in being reappointed to the Human Rights Commission.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Ms. Peck for her continued willingness to serve. Councilor O’Hara remarked on Ms. Peck’s extended resume’ on human rights issues.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Sarah Mitchel Peck to the Human Rights Commission, TTE 02/14/25.**

Traffic Commission

Anthony Bertolino

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Bertolino stated he had been a resident of the City for the last 82 years and was a semi-retired attorney. He stated he had been a member of the Traffic Commission for approximately 45 years.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked Mr. Bertolino for his longevity and continued willingness to serve. Councilor Nolan expressed his appreciation for the work of the Traffic Commission and thanked Mr. Bertolino for his service.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Anthony Bertolino to the Traffic Commission, TTE 02/14/25.

Traffic Commission

Michael Mulcahey

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Mulcahey stated he was a lifelong resident of the City, had spent ten years in the military, and had served on the Traffic Commission for many years and enjoyed helping with the City's traffic matters.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked Mr. Mulcahey for his continued willingness to serve and thanked him for his ten years of military service.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Michael Mulcahey to the Traffic Commission, TTE 02/14/25.

Traffic Commission

Robert B. Ryan

TTE 2/14/25

**Summary of Discussion:** Mr. Ryan stated he had volunteered for the City for over forty years and added that he was appointed to the Traffic Commission in the 1990s. He stated he was looking forward to working with the new administration.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked Mr. Ryan for his continued willingness to serve and thanked him for his willingness to share his wealth of knowledge.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances and Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council reappoint Robert B. Ryan to the Traffic Commission, TTE 02/14/25.

Mayor Verga thanked the **Members of the O&A Committee** for the favorable votes of the appointments and reappointments.

The O&A Committee took a brief recess at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

3. *CC#2021-019 (Memhard): Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-270 "Parking Prohibited at all times" and Sec. 22-291 "Tow-away zones" re: Farrington Avenue (Referred back to O&A from City Council 12/14/21)*

**Summary of Discussion:** **Councilor Memhard** explained that this Council Order would restrict parking on the northerly side (Stewart Avenue to Edgemoor) of Farrington Avenue in which residents and nonresidents were parking for access to Niles Beach. He stated at the request of area residents in the neighborhood it was being proposed to eliminate the northerly side parking. He added that this matter had been approved by the Traffic Commission, as well as the previous O&A Committee, but that due to concern of misinformation the matter was referred back to the new O&A subcommittee for further vetting. **Councilor Memhard** further explained that this has been an ongoing issue for years and that the primary rationale was to maintain safety, as Farrington Avenue did not have any sidewalks.

**Councilor Nolan** asked the **City Clerk** to share a photograph of the section of Farrington Avenue related to this matter:



**Councilor Memhard** pointed out the northerly area on Farrington Avenue between Stewart Avenue and Edgemoor and estimated that the space currently held approximately nine to ten cars. He added that this area was proposed to become a tow-away zone.

**Councilor Margiotta** asked if resident-only parking would be permitted in this area instead of no parking. **Councilor Nolan** stated the ordinance could be amended to allow resident-only parking by the will of the City Council.

The Rules of Procedure were suspended to allow questions from the public.

**Kate Andrews, address not learned**

Stated she was a resident of East Gloucester and frequented Niles Beach. She stated parking was a problem as many non-residents park in the residents-only area. She referred to Niles Beach as the “elderly beach” and “mother’s beach.” She asked the City Council to reconsider their vote on this matter.

**Mary Ann Albert Boucher, 93 Mt. Pleasant Avenue**

Stated she owned a home at 75 Eastern Point Road which was near Niles Beach and stated that she frequented Niles Beach quite often. She stated she worked with a previous city councilor when this issue came up a few years ago and that the solution years ago was adding parking on both sides of the street, which would accommodate both residents and non-residents. She stated it was determined years ago that speed was a factor and that by including parking on both sides cars slowed down. She stated she opposed taking away any parking spaces and implored the City Council to keep the parking as it was currently.

**Sue Muise, 22 Mt. Vernon Street**

Voiced her opposition in changing any parking on Farrington Avenue. She stated that there were limited spaces at Niles Beach. She asked that if there were to be any changes to the parking that it be turned into resident-only sticker parking.



**Seth Hochbaum, 4 Edgemoor Road**

Stated he had a “front row seat” to see what transpired with parking over the summer months. He stated there was two competing interests, public safety and convenience and that the only conclusion that should be reached with the two interests was that public safety should trump convenience. He voiced his disagreement with a previous caller and stated that cars parked on both sides did not deter speeding and further stated that the parked cars served as obstacles to emergency vehicles from getting through the area. He referenced a video that had been submitted to **Councilor Memhard** depicting the safety risk. He asked that the O&A Committee support a restriction of parking on the northerly side.

**Laney Makin, 9 Farrington Avenue**

Stated she also had a “front row seat” and that safety was a huge issue. She shared a story of a medical emergency where a child passed away as emergency vehicles could not access the area. She referenced the comments of a previous caller and stated traffic had gotten worse in the area from just a few years ago. She asked that the O&A Committee vote in favor of this matter.

**Pamela Steele, 10 Pilot’s Hill Road**

Stated she had frequented Niles Beach for 75 years. She stated she had not witnessed any danger elements. She asked that the City Council reconsider this matter.

**Peter Coakley, 5 Farrington Avenue**

Stated he has lived on Farrington Avenue for over twenty years. He stated that the City had been discovered and traffic was heavier than it was just a few years ago and voiced his support on the parking restrictions. He disagreed with the comments of a previous caller who stated that by allowing parking on both sides it deterred speeding. He stated the Mass Audubon Sanctuary near Niles Beach had a traffic study performed recently and that 25,000 cars entered the Audubon property over a period of one year.

**Steve Brown, address not learned**

Stated he was the former Security Chief at Eastern Point for 27 years and that he had a first-hand view of this area. He stated Farrington Avenue was a dangerous road and that traffic had increased exponentially over the past ten years. He explained that when cars were parked on both sides of Farrington moving vehicles were actually going up the middle of the road while pedestrians were trying to cross. He asked that the City Council vote in favor of this matter.

**Councilor Nolan** asked **Bob Ryan, Traffic Commission Chair** to explain the rationale of the Traffic Commission when vetting this matter. **Mr. Ryan** stated **Councilor Memhard** had approached the Traffic Commission with the proposed amendment due to safety reasons, caution and lack of sidewalks. He stated at the Traffic Commission meeting of October 28, 2021, there were only proponents who voiced their opinion. He stated the Traffic Commission concurred with the ten to twelve proponents to support the order of no parking as written. **Councilor O’Hara** asked for clarification of the exact area for the proposed amendment as the Council Order stated St. Louis Avenue. **Councilor Memhard** stated St. Louis Avenue was on the opposite side of the street and was what the Traffic Commission used as a benchmark.

There was discussion regarding how to vote on this matter as it was previously voted on at the November 1, 2021 O&A Committee.

**Councilor Grow** asked if there was a report from Public Safety regarding any accidents or incidents in the area. He further asked how enforcement would be handled if this were to change. **Councilor Nolan** stated information regarding enforcement questions could be sought prior to the Public Hearing. **Councilor Gross** stated, for informational purposes to the Committee, that the area in question was 650 feet long.

**Councilor O’Hara** stated he had reviewed the video referenced previously and had read the letters from constituents. He stated safety was paramount, but that this issue existed throughout the City and was not unique to Farrington Avenue. He agreed that the City had been discovered and that enforcement needed to be increased. He stated he was in favor of bringing the matter to a full Public Hearing but would not be supporting the matter. **Councilor Margiotta** stated he would not be supporting the matter this evening but would like additional information regarding the possible use of speed radar with additional signage. **Councilor Nolan** echoed similar concerns and stated he would not be supporting this matter but would welcome additional information for other solutions.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 0 in favor, 3 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-270 “Parking Prohibited at all times” and Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away zones” by ADDING “Farrington Avenue, northerly side, from its intersection with Eastern Point Boulevard in an easterly direction to its intersection with St. Louis Avenue.”

The Public Hearing will be held at the City Council meeting of February 8, 2022.

4. *CC#2021-022 (O’Hara/Pett): Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-289, “Parking meter zones – on street,” Sec. 22-284 “Service or loading zones” and Sec. 22-270.1 “Resident sticker parking only” re: 67 Middle Street*

**Summary of Discussion:** Councilor O’Hara stated the Community Impact Unit was relocating to 67 Middle Street and had requested two spaces dedicated to be available to visitors from 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

**Chair of the Traffic Commission, Bob Ryan,** stated the Traffic Commission had vetted this matter and agreed with the amendments except for allowing resident-only parking after 4:00 p.m. for the two spots. He stated the spaces would be open to the public after 4:00 p.m.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend GCO Ch. 22, “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-289, “Parking meter zones – on street” by DELETING “Middle Street, two one-hour parking meters in front of the YMCA”;

Amend Ch. 22, “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-284, “Service or Loading Zones” by DELETING “Middle Street, southerly side at a point 34 feet from the easterly side line of Center Street at its intersection with Middle Street and running a distance of 44 feet”;

Amend Ch. 22, “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-284, “Service or Loading Zones,” by ADDING “Middle Street, southerly side, beginning at a point 40 feet from the intersection with Center Street, in an easterly direction for a distance of 40 feet (two spaces).”

**Signage to read:**

**Community Impact Unit  
Parking Only  
7 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

This matter will be advertised for Public Hearing for the City Council meeting on February 22, 2022.

5. *CC#2022-003 (O'Hara): Amend GCO Ch. 21 "Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Sec. 21-19 "Removal of snow from sidewalks" and Sec. 21-20 "Removal or covering of ice from sidewalks" by ADDING "Homeowners above the age of 60 years old shall be exempt."*

**Summary of Discussion:** Councilor O'Hara stated residents over the age of 60 should not be held responsible for removal of snow or ice from sidewalks in front of their property. He stated he had received distress calls from seniors that had received enforcement letters. He stated contractors were not taking on jobs due to lack of staff. He relayed a personal experience that he had with a vendor for snow removal from a recent storm where he felt that he was a victim of price gouging.

Councilor Margiotta questioned if this would be a safety issue, for instance, for children walking to school. Councilor O'Hara added that some residents did not have the equipment to move snow and the snow would not be removed regardless. He stated this strictly addressed residents over 60 years of age.

Mike Mulcahey, Traffic Commission member, recounted his experience from the most recent storm where there were huge snowbanks outside of his home and stated he agreed with Councilor O'Hara's comments.

Councilor Nolan proposed continuing this matter until the next O&A meeting to get input from the Administration. Councilors O'Hara and Margiotta agreed. The CAO, Jill Cahill stated the Administration agreed with the sentiment of the order, but stated enforcement would be an issue. She thanked the Members of the O&A Committee for allowing the Administration to weigh in on this matter at the next O&A Committee meeting.

This matter was continued until the next February 14, 2022 O&A meeting.

6. *City Council Civility Resolution (Referred back to O&A and Human Rights Commission) (TBC 2/14/22)*

**Summary of Discussion:** This matter was continued until the February 14, 2022 O&A meeting.

7. *CC#2021-021 (LeBlanc): Request that the Ordinances and Administration Standing Committee review Chapter 21 "Streets, sidewalks and public places," Article III "Excavations" (Cont. from 12/06/21; TBC 2/14/22)*

**Summary of Discussion:** Former City Councilor, Steve LeBlanc stated he had been working in collaboration with the Public Works Director on this matter before his term as city councilor ended. He explained that any time a utility company, for instance, needed to dig up a section of road there was a gray area regarding the life expectancy of the patch/repaving of the dug up area. He stated the proposed ordinance change would allow the Administration and DPW to hold the contractor liable for a certain number of years (number of years to be determined) to make sure that the City's roads were being properly paved and maintained.

This matter was continued until the February 14, 2022, O&A meeting.

**MOTION:** On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 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>