

Ordinances & Administration Committee

Remote Meeting

Monday, March 14, 2022 – 6:00 p.m.

-Minutes-

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

Other Councilors Present: Councilor Tony Gross; Councilor Jeff Worthley

Also Present: Mayor Greg Verga; CAO, Jill Cahill; Clerk of Committees, Sherry Karvelas

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.

Councilor Nolan announced the names of City councilors and City staff in attendance.

1. Boards, Committees and Commission Appointments & Reappointments (Cont. from 02/28/22)

New Appointments

Capital Improvements Advisory Board Kelly Brancaleone TTE 2/14/25

Summary of Discussion: **Ms. Brancaleone** stated that she was a practicing civil engineer and had experience in the local construction industry. She stated she used to work for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and had experience with large capital projects.

Mayor Verga stated that **Ms. Brancaleone** was a custom fit for this board. The **Members of the O&A Committee** commented on **Ms. Brancaleone’s** extensive background and thanked **Ms. Brancaleone** for her willingness to serve.

The **CAO, Jill Cahill** stated that the next Capital Improvements Advisory Board meeting would be on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss next steps for the ARPA [American Rescue Plan Act] funding.

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 to the City Council to appoint Kelly Brancaleone to the Capital Improvements Advisory Board, TTE 02/14/25.

Council on Aging Elizabeth “Betty” Munroe TTE 2/14/25

Summary of Discussion: **Ms. Munroe** stated that she is a registered nurse and had worked for the last twenty years as a renal nurse in the Nephrology Department at Harvard Vanguard in Boston and is now

retired. She stated that she has extensive experience working with the elderly and was excited about the appointment to the Council on Aging. She stated that she also has volunteered at the Open Door for the past seven years.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Ms. Munroe** for her willingness to serve the City on the Council on Aging. **Mayor Verga** thanked **Ms. Munroe** for stepping forward.

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 to the City Council to appoint Elizabeth “Betty” Munroe to the Council on Aging, TTE 02/14/25.

2. Boards, Committees and Commission Appointments & Reappointments

New Appointments

Archives Committee

Dani Hodge Stotzer

TTE 2/15/25

Summary of Discussion: **Ms. Hodge-Stotzer** stated that she graduated from Salem State College as a history major and also had her Master’s in Education. She stated that she has been volunteering with the Archives Committees for the past year, as well as volunteering for the Pride Stride for the past twenty-five years.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Ms. Hodge Stotzer** for her willing to serve. **Mayor Verga** stated that **Ms. Hodge Stotzer’s** background was a perfect fit for this board.

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 to the City Council to appoint Dani Hodge Stotzer to the Archives Committee, TTE 02/15/25.

City Hall Restoration Commission

Kellie Verga

TTE 2/14/25

Summary of Discussion: **Mrs. Verga** stated that she has worked as a nurse for the last thirty years at Addison Gilbert and Beverly Hospital and had been on multiple committees to improve those facilities. She stated that she loved the beauty of City Hall and stated that it was a precious commodity that needed to be preserved.

The **Members of the O&A Committee** thanked **Mrs. Verga** for her willingness to serve. **Mayor Verga** thanked **Mrs. Verga** for volunteering.

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 to the City Council to appoint Kellie Verga to the City Hall Restoration Committee, TTE 02/14/25.

Fisheries Commission

Tessa Brown

TTE 2/14/25

Summary of Discussion: **Ms. Brown** was not in attendance; her appointment was moved forward to the full City Council as she was known to the Committee.

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 to the City Council to appoint Tessa Brown to the Fisheries Commission, TTE 02/14/25.

Fisheries Commission

Maria Carpenter

TTE 2/14/25

Summary of Discussion: Ms. Carpenter stated that she worked for Fishing Partnership Support Services and was the daughter of a fisherman. She stated that she helped fishermen with safety and CPR, as well as being a recovery coach.

The Members of the O&A Committee thanked Ms. Carpenter for her willingness to serve. Mayor Verga stated that he was looking forward to seeing what the newly reconstituted Fisheries Commission would do. The CAO stated that she was thrilled to have Ms. Carpenter on the Commission.

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 to the City Council to appoint Maria Carpenter to the Fisheries Commission, TTE 02/14/25.

Gloucester Cultural Council

Tricia O’Neill

TTE 2/14/24

Summary of Discussion: Ms. O’Neill stated that she has had a working art business since the 1980s, as well as a sign business, and then went back to Tufts to get a photo degree. She stated that she had done hand lettering at Fenway Park, as well as a mural honoring Vincent Ferrini downtown. She stated that her art background was a good fit for the Gloucester Cultural Council. Ms. O’Neill, per Councilor Nolan’s request, expanded on her experience working at Fenway Park.

The Members of the O&A Committee commented on Ms. O’Neill’s extensive background and thanked her for her willingness to serve. Mayor Verga thanked Ms. O’Neill for volunteering.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend to the City Council to appoint Tricia O’Neill (fulfilling unexpired term) to the Gloucester Cultural Council, TTE 02/14/24.

Reappointments

Magnolia Pier Advisory Committee

Noreen Gillis

TTE 2/14/25

Summary of Discussion: Ms. Gillis stated that she has been a resident of Magnolia her whole life and was involved in the fundraising for the Pier restoration. She stated that she was looking forward to continue working with the Committee.

The Members of the O&A Committee, as well as Mayor Verga, thanked Ms. Gillis for her continued willingness to serve.

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 to the City Council to reappoint Noreen Gillis to the Magnolia Pier Advisory Committee, TTE 02/14/25.

By the will of the Committee, a brief recess was taken at 6:46 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:49 p.m.

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

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor Nolan** stated that this matter was regarding the language in the ordinance for maintenance and repaving of City streets after a contractor dug up/worked on a section. He added that the **Public Works Director** was working on language for this matter for how long the City would hold a contractor liable after a street was dug up to make sure that the streets were properly repaved and maintained.

Councilor Nolan stated, without any disrespect, that he would like to remove former Councilor LeBlanc's name from the Council Order and add **Councilor Gilman**. The Committee agreed.

This matter was continued until April 18, 2022.

4. *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." (Cont. from 2/14/22)*

Summary of Discussion: **Councilor O'Hara** stated that he has had continued support from constituents for a modification of this ordinance. **Councilor Margiotta** stated that he had spoken to constituents who had concerns regarding bus stops and sidewalks that students used to get to school and added that those areas were generally taken care of.

Councilor Nolan asked **Councilor O'Hara** what he suggested the process be or what documentation be required in identifying homeowners that were greater than 60 years old. **Councilor O'Hara** stated that the voter registration book was a way to identify age and stated that there were multiple ways. He stated that although the ordinance was hardly enforced, some residents have had notices for noncompliance and stated that this was a matter that brought stress to many people. He stated that the bottom line was how the City addressed snow on sidewalks. **Councilor Margiotta** suggested a potential sticker that could be placed on a home to identify residents greater than 60 years of age. **Councilor Worthley** stated he had concerns surrounding implementation and stated that there were many gray areas surrounding this matter. **Mayor Verga** stated that the ordinance was unenforceable and that the Administration had nothing further to offer on this matter. He suggested that the City Council readdress the whole ordinance.

Councilor Nolan offered a motion, seconded by **Councilor Margiotta**, to move the matter forward to full City Council. **Councilor O'Hara** stated that this matter was a real issue whether the ordinance was enforceable or not. He stated that the bottom line was how the City addressed snow on sidewalks. **Councilor O'Hara** stated that he would like to continue this matter to work with the Administration. **Councilors Nolan** and **Margiotta** stated that they would like to move this matter forward to get feedback from other councilors.

Councilor Nolan then offered an amendment to the motion, seconded by **Councilor O'Hara**, to remove 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."

MOTION TO AMEND: On a motion by **Councilor Nolan**, seconded by **Councilor O'Hara**, the **Ordinances & Administration Committee** voted by **ROLL CALL 2** in favor, 1 (**Nolan**) opposed, to

remove 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.”

It was determined to advertise this matter for Public Hearing for the April 26, 2022.

Councilor Margiotta stated that he would like to move for an immediate reconsideration on this matter as he misunderstood the wording.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 2 in favor, 1 (O’Hara) opposed, to reconsider the vote to remove 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.”

There was discussion on what exactly the motion was for, either removing the ordinance or removing the greater than 60 age requirement. **Councilor Nolan** explained that the motion was for removing the ordinance so residents would not be required to have to shovel the sidewalks surrounding their property.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor O’Hara, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted by ROLL CALL 1 in favor, 2 (Margiotta, Nolan) opposed, to remove 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.”

It was determined that the Public Hearing for this matter would still be at the April 26, 2022, City Council meeting.

5. City Council Civility Resolution (Referred back to O&A and Human Rights Commission) (Cont. from 2/28/22)

Summary of Discussion: The CAO stated that she had attended the most recent Human Rights Commission meeting. **Councilor Grow** was also present at the meeting, as he was the City Council liaison to the Human Rights Commission and that **Councilor Grow** was committed to adding more substance to the resolution. She stated that she believed that a subcommittee was being set up regarding this matter.

This matter was continued until April 18, 2022.

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 7:18 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>