

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Ordinances & Administration
Monday, March 19, 2012 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Rm. – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Sefatia Theken; Vice Chair, Councilor Robert Whynott; Councilor Steven LeBlanc, Jr.

Absent: None.

Also Attending: Councilor Verga; Linda T. Lowe; Bill Sanborn

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Items were taken out of order.

1. Continued Business

A) New Appointments & Reappointments (Cont'd from 03/05/12):

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| Affordable Housing Trust | (TTE 02/14/14) | Betsy Works Cook |
| Board of Health | (TTE 02/14/15) | Richard Sagall, MD |
| Magnolia Woods Oversight & Advisory Comm. | (TTE 02/14/13) | Jane Porter |

Councilor Theken spoke with Ms. Works Cook about the work of the Affordable Housing Trust and affordable units; asking was the Trust collecting their title if affordable units were not being built (an equivalent amount of the value of the unit). The Councilor asked for a list of any outstanding fees that have not been paid in forfeit to the City; and that list would be forwarded to the Council for their information. **Councilor Whynott** endorsed Ms. Works Cook's reappointment.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Betsy Works Cook to the Affordable Housing Trust, TTE 02/14/14.

Councilor Theken asked about the Board of Health's progress. **Dr. Sagall** commented there is a good staff and a new Director who is doing an excellent job so far. He also runs Needy Meds, a national non-profit drug discount card program out of Gloucester. He was thanked by **Councilor Theken** for his service to the City.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the reappointment of Richard Sagall, MD to the Board of Health, TTE 02/14/15.

Ms. Porter was welcomed by **Councilor Theken** and thanked for her service over the years as the Magnolia Woods "guardian" and unofficial "sheriff" of the Woods. **Councilor Verga** expressed he was looking forward to the Committee getting started. **Ms. Porter** informed the Committee she had requested this appointment. **Councilor Theken** asked Ms. Porter to expand on why she wished to continue as an advocate for Magnolia Woods. **Ms. Porter** expressed that she was pleased to see the composition of the new Committee representing the Magnolia Woods user groups. She stated she brings to the committee a history of the landfill from the time when it was active to the time it was closed and developed to where it is today.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Jane Porter to the Magnolia Woods Oversight & Advisory Committee, TTE 02/14/13.

B) CC2011-053 (Verga/Tobey) Establishment of City Ordinance re: Securing and Maintaining Vacant Properties and Properties in the Process of Foreclosure (Cont'd from 01/30/12)

Bill Sanborn, Building Inspector reported to the Committee that subsequent to when the O&A Committee last took up this matter, he, Councilor Verga and several others had two meetings to see how they could correct this situation.

They found in general the ordinance as it stands was good. However, there is a need to make a few small corrections to tighten the language. Draft language was given to the Legal Department that morning; and he gave the Committee a copy of the proposed ordinance language (on file). General Counsel will review this draft language and suggest any necessary changes. **Councilor Theken** asked General Counsel to attend the O&A's April 2, 2012 meeting with Mr. Sanborn to review the proposed ordinance language.

This matter is continued to April 2, 2012.

C) CC2012-011(Verga/Hardy) Review GCO Sec. 22.270.1 "Resident sticker parking only" for creation of "Resident Sticker"

Councilor Verga stated that over the last several years there has been restricted resident parking instituted in some sections of the City; and residents were asking for resident parking stickers because they don't want or need beach stickers to show proof of residency in order to park on their own street, particularly if they are not beach-goers. This new parking sticker concept is for those areas already with designations of resident sticker parking only. He noted any resident could park in those 'resident parking only' areas as long as they now currently have a valid beach parking sticker. The Councilor made clear that a beach sticker would be necessary to park at the beaches. **Jeffrey Towne**, CFO explained his department does not sell beach stickers year round; rather they sell the stickers mid-May to mid-August. **Councilor Verga** stated these 'resident parking stickers' are for seasonal parking restrictions in some areas of the City. **Councilor Theken** stated most folks get beach stickers. But for those who don't, this would be a nice service; but that it needs to be explained carefully to avoid confusion. **Councilor Whynott** expressed his opinion that the resident parking sticker should be good for five years and suggested a fee of \$5 or a similar nominal fee. **Ms. Lowe** clarified that a resident parking sticker is used for areas that are restricted to resident parking only, but that a resident beach parking sticker would be able to be used for both beach parking and residents only parking restricted areas. **Councilor Verga** agreed the resident parking sticker should be multi-year to alleviate some of the administrative burden to Mr. Towne's department. **Mr. Towne** discussed his department tracking as well as selling this new class of parking sticker. He noted the replacement cost is \$5 for a beach sticker. It is time, energy and effort for his department. The Committee further discussed some of the contingencies associated with parking stickers, this new one proposed in particular with Mr. Towne. He expressed concern for the volume of resident parking stickers that may need to be issued and the added burden it may place on his staff. **Councilor Theken** didn't see an abundance of residents coming forward for this kind of "resident" sticker. **Mr. Towne** noted some people use the beach sticker to get into the City compost area. **Councilor Theken** stated this resident parking sticker is going to be good for non-fee City services. If there is a fee associated with it, like the Stage Fort Park parking lot, Good Harbor or Wingersheek Beach parking lots, residents will have to show a current beach sticker to gain parking lot access as those are fee-based parking areas. **Mr. Towne** stated they'll design a very different type of sticker, number it, showing "Resident-Not for Beach or Parks". There will also be a spot to write in the license plate number and show "good to 2017". That date would change annually. The resident parking sticker would be handled by the rules which govern the beach stickers. **Councilor Theken** asked about businesses downtown; if the business owner doesn't own property they are not entitled to a resident parking sticker unless they are a City resident which **Mr. Towne** and **Ms. Lowe** confirmed. **Councilor Verga** pointed out the areas that are restricted is for the most part residential. **Mr. Towne** discussed with the Committee some areas near parking areas where beach stickers are used that are private and the confusion that ensues. **Councilor Theken** wanted it made clear what the parameters of a resident parking sticker are and what it is good for. **Councilor Verga** asked if a fee is attached would it not need to be referred for consideration by the B&F Committee.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to AMEND GCO Sec. 22-270.1 (Resident Sticker Parking Only) by DELETING: "The following parking areas require resident stickers;" and ADDING: "The following parking areas require either a RESIDENT BEACH STICKER or a RESIDENT PARKING STICKER with a nominal fee associated with the purchase of a "resident parking sticker: good for a period of five years beginning in 2012 and every five years thereafter;" AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

By unanimous consent this matter is referred to the B&F Committee for their consideration of a fee for a "Resident Parking Sticker".

D) CC2012-013 (McGeary) Amend GCO Sec. 22-159 "Parking prohibited between certain hours and on certain days" re: Davis Street Extension

The Traffic Commission at their March 15th meeting heard from Councilor McGeary and concerned residents that there have been problems in the area of the East Gloucester Elementary School of buses having passage issues, cars parking on crosswalks, cars parking next to fire hydrants, blocking driveways, using residents' driveways; cars driving over cones placed to restrict parking). Parking problems are also caused by staff parking all day beginning at 7:00 a.m. Notices sent by the school are being ignored. It was the determination of the Traffic Commission that the order as submitted should be approved with the area on the southern side of the Davis Street extension to be covered by the ordinance change is 60 ft., not 75 ft. as originally proposed in the Council Order. The Commission also commented in their minutes that there was a need for better police attention and enforcement whenever possible to impress upon parents the necessity of prioritizing the safety of the students. Councilor McGeary, who was unable to attend the O&A meeting, sent an email (on file) to the Committee expressing his support of the ordinance amendment as passed by the Traffic Commission.

Mary Ann Albert Boucher, part owner of #6 Davis Street Extension, and a resident of 93Mt. Pleasant Street stated she is for the recommendation of the Traffic Commission but there are even further concerns. She read a letter for the Committee (placed on file) regarding the parking issues on the Davis Street Extension noting it is a dead end street at the East Gloucester School. This is the same letter she read at the March 15th Traffic Commission meeting. Her comments included how difficult the parking is on the street before school starts in the morning and upon the release of students in the afternoon calling it a "nightmare" and "unsafe". She also noted on a map she presented to the Committee along with three color photographs (placed on file) pointing to key areas such as where crossing guards are stationed. She contended that safety is at risk for all children walking this area before and after school. **Councilor Verga** participated in the conversation with Ms. Boucher as well as with the Committee. **Ms. Lowe** stated the School Committee went through O&A and did an ordinance amendment that was temporary for a trial period of no parking on Chapel Street during the drop off and pick up hours for the elementary school. It is working its way through the Council to be made permanent but noted it does not extend to the Davis Street Extension. It will be working through to be made permanent but does not make a difference for the Davis Street Extension. **Jay Albert**, 4 Davis Street added that with more classrooms added several years ago, with no consideration for traffic and parking in the neighborhood that added even more students and faculty. There was no neighborhood input on that. For years the buses and parents would drop the children off at the intersection of Chapel Street and Davis Street Extension which worked very well. The other concern is lack of traffic/parking enforcement during drop off and pick up hours. There are vehicles in their driveways \making it impossible for them to leave or enter their own properties. **Ms. Boucher** felt that what the Traffic Commission endorsed was not in the neighborhood's best interest. She wished to see parking prohibited; although **Mr. Albert** stated they did agree with the Traffic Commission to a degree. **Councilor LeBlanc** stated he had first hand experience with the parking and traffic situation at East Gloucester School as his wife worked there. She had to park on Highland Street because of vehicle congestion. **Councilor Theken** asked that the principal of East Gloucester Elementary School, the Chair of the School Committee, Lt. Aiello and the Traffic Commission Chair, Robert Ryan, along with Councilor McGeary be advised that this matter would be continued to the Committee's April 30th meeting. At that time they would seek those gentlemen's input.

This matter is continued to April 30, 2012.

E) CC2012-014 (Verga) Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-269 "Stop intersections" re: Castle View Drive at the intersection of Sea Fox Lane

Councilor Theken noted the Traffic Commission minutes for this Council Order from their March 15th meeting (on file) on this matter. They approved two amendments to Sec. 22-269 "Stop Intersections". **Councilor Verga** stated even though these are "private" streets, they still have to amend the ordinances regardless of it being a private road and have to be government stop signs. The DPW would have to erect the signage. **Ms. Lowe** pointed out they looked into it and it is not restricted to signs for public streets (see GCO Sec. 22-1 Definition of "Street": "every way open to the use of the public for purposes of travel."). Although private, this subdivision is not gated and anyone can drive through it. **Larry Partridge, 9 Schooner Ridge** stated the City plows the street. **Councilor Theken** wanted a recommendation from Mr. Hale and Ms. Egan on the matter of whether the City may be ordinance place stop signs on "private" streets. **Councilor Verga** stated he was confident they have covered this situation.

Councilor Theken endorsed the fine work of the Traffic Commission but wished to receive Ms. Egan's and Mr. Hale's recommendations on the matter to inform the Council in time for the public hearing. There were two Google maps previously submitted by Ms. Lowe to the Committee which Mr. Partridge marked with an "X" where the two stop signs would be.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Whynott, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to AMEND GCO Sec. 22-269 (Stop Intersections) BY ADDING: "Sea Fox Lane at its intersection with Castle View Drive; sign to be placed at the northeast corner of Sea Fox Lane in a northerly direction;" AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Whynott, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council to AMEND GCO Sec. 22-269 (Stop Intersections) BY ADDING: "Castle View Drive at its intersection with Sea Fox Lane; sign to be placed in the southwest corner of Castle View Drive in a southerly direction"; AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

2. *New Appointments:*

Councilor Theken and the Committee asked questions to Mr. Wolsfelt and Ms. Charpentier as to their qualifications; professional background, whether they'd taken their Ethics Test, and as to why they wished to step forward and commit to volunteer in their respective Commission and Board roles, to the satisfaction of the Committee.

Historic District Commission

(TTE 02/14/15)

Robert Wolsfelt

Mr. Wolsfelt was on the Board of Directors for the Historic Commission for Charlestown and has been involved in design and architectural work for 35 years; and has an interest in maintaining the historic integrity of the City. He lives in Lanesville. **Councilor Theken** discussed some of the issues previously dealt by the Commission and asked that the Commission work to help folks through the process rather than acting to obstruct projects; to help blend them into the fabric of the community. She noted his great professional experience.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Robert Wolsfelt to the Historic District Commission , TTE 02/14/15.

Planning Board

(TTE 02/14/17)

Linda Charpentier

Ms. Charpentier noted she had attended the Planning Board public hearings on the Hotel Overlay District the previous week. She had filed her appropriate State Ethics quiz with the City Clerk. Her professional experience has been in aerospace and chemical industries and now construction. **Councilor Theken** expressed the Committee's thanks for her volunteering for the Planning Board. **Ms. Charpentier** stated she came to the City in 2001 after having 34 addresses over her lifetime; and wishes to give back to a community she has come to love. **Councilor Theken** commented changes are made in moderation. This community is about family, home and respect. The Planning Board has to make hard decisions facing them in the coming months. She hoped Ms. Charpentier would look to see where compromises can be made by viewing both sides of an issue.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whynott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the appointment of Linda Charpentier to the Planning Board, TTE 02/14/17.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson

Clerk of Committees

ITEMS/DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:

- Letter signed by Mary Ann Albert Boucher; Kailey & Seth Mione and Jay Albert regarding concerns for access, safety and traffic flow at the Davis Street Extension;
- Hand drawn map of the Davis Street Extension and notations with three color photographs of various locations on the Extension.