

Ordinances & Administration Committee

Monday, November 18, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

1st Fl. Council Committee Rm. – City Hall**-Minutes-**

Present: Councilor Sefatia Theken, Chair; Councilor Robert Whynott, Vice-Chair; Councilor Steven LeBlanc
Absent: None.

Also Present: Police Chief Leonard Campanello

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Whynott entered the meeting at 6:03 p.m. Items were taken out of order.

1. Continued Business:

- A) CC2013-034 (LeBlanc) Amend GCO c. 22, Sec. 22-287 (Disabled veteran, handicapped parking) re: Riggs Street #6

Councilor LeBlanc explained that his Council Order, CC2013-034 needs to be amended because in GCO Sec. 22-287 there is listed a handicapped space at #7A Riggs Street. Based upon that amendment, the Traffic Commission Chair, Bob Ryan, had informed the Councilor it would be able to endorse the ordinance amendment for a handicapped space to be created at #6 Riggs Street.

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 CC2013-034 by adding as follows:

“...and to delete in GCO Sec. 22-287 (Disabled veteran, handicapped parking) Riggs Street #7A.”

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 c. 22, Sec. 22-287 (Disabled veteran, handicapped parking) by DELETING one handicapped parking space at Riggs Street #7A and ADDING one handicapped parking space at Riggs Street #6; AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.

2. New Appointments: Clean Energy Commission TTE 02/14/14 Tom Kiely

The Committee confirmed that Mr. Kiely had taken and turned in his State Ethics Test. Mr. Kiely established that he is retired and able to now devote his time to serve the City, and that clean energy was something he had a passion for.

On inquiry by **Councilor LeBlanc**, **Mr. Kiely** said that members of the Clean Energy Commission have great backgrounds and that he would listen to them and add a few new ideas then. He suggested ways to think about climate change and clean energy and how to initiate public interest in effecting change.

Councilor Theken said fishermen asked she inquire about Mr. Kiely’s opinion about turbines on the City’s waterfront. **Mr. Kiely** said wind turbines need a lot of area to be effective, and that the waterfront is too limited. Turbines also require a lot of maintenance, he pointed out, and turbines out at sea would be difficult to maintain. **Councilor Theken** added that she would like to see more clean energy programs and projects into the classrooms in the City to which **Mr. Kiely** agreed. She said that Mr. Kiely will be a great addition to the Clean Energy Commission.

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 appoint Tom Kiely to the Clean Energy Commission, TTE 02/14/14.

Gloucester Cultural Council

TTE 02/14/16 Rose Sheehan

Ms. Sheehan confirmed submitting her State Ethics Test certification to the City Clerk. She said she has been involved in producing City arts project and is interested in community events and wanted to be further involved in the City. She said that the purpose of the Cultural Council is to distribute State funds; and that she was interested in taking

a proactive role involved in this resource in order to fund the humanities and sciences as well as for the arts. It is a grant resource that people must apply for, she noted.

Councilor Theken and Ms. Sheehan discussed the art program at the Rose Baker Senior Center and **Councilor Theken** encouraged Ms. Sheehan to contact the Senior Center's Director in order to work with her to assist their applying for program grant funding through the Cultural Council.

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 appoint Rose Sheehan to the Gloucester Cultural Council, TTE 02/14/16.

3. *Group Free Petition under City Charter Sec. 9-1(b) re: Leash Free Gloucester Beaches Petition*

Councilor Theken advised the Committee that she would appoint Councilor LeBlanc as the Committee's liaison to an ad hoc committee to review the Dog Ordinances/Leash Law to be established. She advised that anyone interested in being on the ad hoc committee should send a letter or email in care of the City Clerk with their name, address, email address and telephone number advising their interest and why they wish to serve on this review committee. **Councilor Theken** added this would not be a large committee but would represent dog owners and non-dog owners in a balanced way. **Councilor LeBlanc** accepted the appointment to serve as the O&A Committee's liaison to an ad hoc committee that will be formed.

Police Chief Campanello pointed out that the only reason enforcement of the leash law was stepped up was due to an increase in complaints. He said his department doesn't have the resources to patrol and enforce every City ordinance, and added that unless there are complaints his department is not out to get anyone. He said he would be pleased to be a member of the ad hoc committee as a public safety representative. The Committee asked and Chief Campanello agreed that either he or his designee from the department's command staff in his absence, to participate on the ad hoc committee.

Councilor Theken said the Police Chief did not bring up the matter of the leash law to the Council; rather, there was some controversy about dogs off leashes on City beaches with pictures submitted to Councilors. It was Councilor Verga who had asked for the ordinance review, and as a result an increase of the fine for dogs running at large had been recommended. She advised that this leash law has been in place since 1977. **Councilor Theken** said it was no one complaint that prompted this ordinance review. Many aspects of the law will be looked; and compromise will be a byword of both the ad hoc committee and O&A, she pointed out, adding that public safety will be considered as well. **Councilor Theken** also suggested that the ad hoc committee might have several listening posts to gain further public input on the leash law.

Councilor Whynott assured the public present that the leash law will not go away but that it could be revised after careful review.

Flavia Stanley, 9 Highland Street, an advocate for off season, off leash beaches noted that the Police Chief won everybody over at the November 12th City Council meeting's public hearing with his views on the dog ordinance.

Lorraine Law, 7 Jacque Lane noted she was a former dog owner, although attacked by a dog, said she still loves dogs. She suggested that dogs should be able to run on the beaches in off season and suggested two beaches, or Stage Fort Park could be non-dog beaches but that the other City beaches could be dog off leash areas in the off season.

Councilor Theken reminded those present that it is not just dog owners who use the City beaches in the off season; that joggers, walkers, families, artists and others without dogs also enjoy the use of the beaches. She said she was sure a compromise could be reached that satisfied most dog owners and non-dog owners and that also protects public safety, adding that she was looking forward to the New Year to start the review process.

This matter is to be continued to January 6, 2013 when the O&A Committee will fully establish by appointment an ad hoc committee to study and review the City's leash law.

4. ***CC2013-051 (LeBlanc) Amend GCO c. 22 Sec. 22-200-209 "Reserved" by adding new Sec. 22-200 and to renumber "Reserved" to "22-201 to 22-209"; and to amend Sec. 22-270 "Parking Prohibited at all times" re: Draw Bridge Tender Parking (TBC 12/02/13)***
5. ***CC2013-056 (Cox) Amend GCO Chapter 22, Sec. 22-284 "Service or loading zones" and Sec. 22-291 "Tow away zones" Re: Pleasant Street #27 (TBC 12/02/13)***

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees**

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.