

**Ordinances & Administration Committee**

Monday, December 2, 2013 – 6:00 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> Fl. Council Committee Rm. – City Hall**-Minutes-****Present: Councilor Sefatia Theken, Chair; Councilor Robert Whycott, Vice-Chair; Councilor Steven LeBlanc****Absent: None.****Also Present: Councilor Cox; Bethann Godhino****The meeting was called to order at 6:11 p.m. Items were taken out of order.****1. Continued Business:**

- A) CC2013-035 (LeBlanc) Amend GCO c. 22 Sec. 22-200-209 “Reserved” and Sec. 22-270 “Parking Prohibited at all times” re: Draw Bridge Tender Parking

**Councilor LeBlanc** advised the Committee of past constituent complaints about the draw bridge tender parking on the sidewalk on the Boulevard. As the bridge tender is a State employee, the State Department of Transportation (MassDOT) had put a sign up designating a parking space for the bridge tender, but that permitting had not been handled locally nor was the space on State highway. The Committee noted that the Traffic Commission did not recommend the creation of a draw bridge tender parking space at their November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. **Councilor LeBlanc** asked the Committee support a creation of a spot on the westerly side of the Boulevard.

**Councilor Whycott** pointed out that the westerly side of the Boulevard roadway is State owned. After a brief discussion, under the advice of **Councilors Theken** and **Whycott**, Councilor LeBlanc would consult with Sen. Tarr’s office and the Traffic Commission Chair, Robert Ryan to investigate possibly having MassDOT designate the parking space on State highway closest to the Blynman Bridge.

**This matter is to be continued to January 6, 2014.**

- B) 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

**Councilor Cox** explained that the Cape Ann Museum is undergoing major renovations at this time. The only way to get the historic objects out safely and for construction materials to be carried in and out is through the front of the museum. The only viable option, she said, is to remove the handicap spot, make it a loading zone and then return it to a handicap spot.

The Committee acknowledged the recommendation of the Traffic Commission from their November 26<sup>th</sup> meeting to remove the handicapped parking space at Pleasant Street #27 and convert it to a loading zone space temporarily. The Cape Ann Museum, **Councilor Cox** noted, is allowing the public use of their Warren Street lot which contains a handicapped space in the interim. It was noted that Pleasant Street is a narrow street already, and that this is a necessary temporary action. **Councilor Whycott** suggested putting a sunset clause into the temporary ordinance; but after Committee discussion with **Councilor Cox** who assured the Committee she would, upon the Cape Ann Museum’s notice 30 days prior to the end of construction, return the loading zone to a handicap parking space by submitting a Council Order at that time, the Committee added no sunset clause to the ordinance amendment.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Whycott, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO c. 22 “Traffic,” Sec. 22-284 “Service or loading zones” by ADDING a loading zone space in front of Pleasant Street #27; AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.**

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor LeBlanc, seconded by Councilor Whycott, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO c. 22 “Traffic,” Sec. 22-291 “Tow away zones” by ADDING a Tow away zone in front of Pleasant Street #27; AND FURTHER TO ADVERTISE FOR PUBLIC HEARING.**

**2. New Appointments:**

Tourism Commission                      Laura Baker                      TTE 02/14/16

Under direct questioning by the Committee, **Laura Baker** confirmed she had submitted her State Ethics Quiz certification to the City Clerk's office. Additionally she reviewed her professional background in the hospitality services sector and touched upon her current professional employment as a managing partner at the Castle Manor Inn on Essex Avenue. She noted she is a new homeowner in the City and has no preconceived notions regarding the Commission and only wants to help the City. The Committee introduced Councilor Cox, the Council's representative to the Tourism Commission to Ms. Baker and also discussed with Ms. Baker some of the O&A Committee members' expectations and goals moving forward for the Commission. The Committee concluded Ms. Baker would be a good addition to the Tourism Commission and endorsed her appointment.

**MOTION: On a 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 Laura Baker to the Tourism Commission, TTEE 02/14/16.**

**3. CC2013-057 (Cox) Request City Council with Mayor's approval to adopt MGL c. 60A, §1 re: exemption of motor vehicle tax for prisoners of war or the surviving spouses of former prisoners of war**

**Councilor Cox** said she was asking the Council to adopt MGL c. 60A, §1 to honor the City's veterans who may have been Prisoners of War (POW), or their surviving spouses, in order that they may receive an abatement/exemption on their vehicle's excise tax locally. There are three registered POW's in Gloucester, with a possibility of a fourth, **Councilor Cox** said. She noted no special license plate is required.

**Bethann Godhino**, Assessor said if a disabled veteran has a Disabled Veteran (DV) plate they are exempted from a vehicle tax. Responding to an inquiry by the Committee, **Ms. Godhino** explained the simple abatement application process pointing out that there is an abatement application on the back of the City's tax bill. A copy of the Veterans' Administration office documentation showing the veteran was a POW would be submitted and placed on file with the Assessor's Department, and that each subsequent year the veteran POW will sign the back of the tax bill renewing their request for the tax abatement/exemption. **Councilor Whynott** noted that Gold Star Mothers are also entitled to receive an abatement/exemption.

**Councilor Cox** said the Council's adoption of State law to assist POW's and their surviving spouses was the right thing to do to help Gloucester's veterans.

**MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Whynott, seconded by Councilor LeBlanc, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend that the City Council accept the provision of Massachusetts General Law c. 60A, §1 which provides that:**

**The motor vehicle tax imposed by MGL c. 60A, §1 shall not apply to a motor vehicle owned and registered by a former prisoner of war defined as any regularly appointed, enrolled, enlisted or inducted member of the military forces of the United States who was captured, separated and incarcerated by an enemy of the United States during an armed conflict; provided however, that the excise tax shall not apply to a motor vehicle owned and registered by the surviving spouse of a deceased former prisoner of war, until such time as the surviving spouse remarries or fails to renew such registration.**

**A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Dana C. Jorgensson,  
Clerk of Committees**

**DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.**