

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Ordinances & Administration
Monday, July 26, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Rm. – City Hall

Present: Chair, Councilor Sefatia Theken; Vice Chair, Councilor Ann Mulcahey; Councilor Bruce Tobey

Absent: None

Also Present: Councilor Hardy; Councilor Verga; Linda T. Lowe; Dale Brown; Ruthanne (Rufus) Collinson

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Items were taken out of order. Councilor Theken declared a quorum of the City Council.

1. *Continued Business*

- A) CC2010-024 (Hardy) Request from the Engineering Department of the DPW a copy of the City's Official 'layout of the road' at the intersection of Washington Street, Holly Street, Goose Cove Lane and Vine Street

The matter was continued to September 20, 2010.

- B) CC2010-034 (Hardy) Amend GCO Sec. 22-267 Sec. 22-267 "One way streets-Generally" by deleting Washington Street from Andrews Street to Butman Avenue, and amend Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" by adding Washington Street from Andrews Street

This matter was continued to the August 23, 2010 meeting pending the Traffic Commission's recommendations.

- C) CC2010-033 (Hardy) Amend GCO Sec. 22-292 "Fire Lanes" re: Andrews Street along Lanes Cove Seawall

This matter was continued to the August 23, 2010 meeting pending the Traffic Commission's recommendations.

- D) CC2010-041 (Hardy) Amend GCO Sec. 22-270 "Parking Prohibited at all times" re: Holly Street

This matter was continued to the August 23, 2010 meeting pending the Traffic Commission's recommendations.

- E) CC2010-042 (Hardy) Amend GCO Sec. 22-291 "Tow Away Zones" re: Holly Street

This matter was continued to the August 23, 2010 meeting pending the Traffic Commission's recommendations.

- F) CC2010-043 (Hardy) Set Speed Limit for Holly Street from its intersection with Dennison Street

This matter was continued to the August 23, 2010 meeting pending the Traffic Commission's recommendations.

G) CC2010-023 (Tobey) Amend 22-289 re: Main Street Parking Meter Time Limits (Continued from 07/12/2010)

Councilor Tobey felt there were a couple of categories of folks with whom he'd like to discuss the matter further with the Committee. He would want to have the Administrative Assistant for the Mayor, Jim Duggan, and Nancy Papows, Principal Assessor. He noted the City bought I4-C2 because it was it was an investment that was going to grow the real estate values in that neighborhood and increase the real estate tax revenue from that area. He suggested that the Committee think similarly on how they treat Main Street. He also suggested that Sarah Garcia, Director of Community Development also attend to talk about downtown initiative and how that might fit in. The other category would be the stakeholders, the Downtown Development Commission, the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilor Mulcahey noted that the stakeholders had already been invited to a Committee meeting to express their views, and had attended their last meeting.

Councilor Theken felt there was no need to rush the matter any longer, and that perhaps they could step back on the shuffling. Noting that she and Councilor Ciolino stepped back on the shuffling issue as they are Councilors-at-Large, here is a Ward Councilor involved; and there is the Traffic Commission as well. There has been improvement with regards to parking on Main Street as the word has gotten out. It appeared much of the shuffling has stopped for the time being; use of the loading zones as parking spaces has stopped; the parking scene is quiet downtown now. She didn't wish to imply this was a permanent solution. But there was more time to spend on the issue now.

Councilor Tobey asked to review the data that Ms. Papows produced for the Committee (documentation on file) a listing of all the properties on Main Street where there are meters and how much value there is and how much real estate tax is generated. He noted while not minimizing their contribution, he felt overall it wasn't a lot of money; about \$0.75 million. Some of those valuations were "shockingly" low. Valuations are figured on the basis of the business being done in the building then you capitalize on it. He asked what they could do to increase values by increasing business. Maybe a friendlier Main Street, no meters, will bring more business. They're thinking in terms of real estate valuation growth; and he asked the Committee to do the same in preparation for the next time they take up this matter.

Councilor Theken stated at the last meeting Kathy Cuddyer, of the DDC, told the Committee that the money from the meters funded their being able to do holiday lights on Main Street, put up hanging baskets, and other seasonal decorations to beautify the downtown.

Councilor Tobey responded that money could be made in other ways that is less regressive.

Councilor Theken noted she would not be at the August 23, 2010 meeting of O&A and wanted to be in attendance when the matter was again taken up. She asked that a friendly reminder be sent out to the original representatives of the business groups and that the City department heads also is asked to attend. She also asked that Ms. Lowe see that the ordinance is fully prepared by that time as well.

This matter was continued to September 20, 2010 meeting.

H) CC2010-011 (Hardy) Order that City Council review the current Rules of Procedure in order to bring them up to date (Continued from 06/28/2010)

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Tobey, seconded by Councilor Mulcahey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the adoption of changes to the Gloucester City Council Rules of Procedure as presented.

2. *Report and recommendation from the Gloucester Poet Laureate Selection Panel re: appointment of Ruthanne (Rufus) Collinson as the next Gloucester Poet Laureate pursuant to GCO Sec. 2-514*

Councilor Theken welcomed Dale Brown, Chair of the Selection Committee and the nominee for Gloucester's Poet Laureate, Ruthanne (Rufus) Collinson to the meeting.

Councilor Tobey introduced the Chair of the Selection Committee and was joined by Ruthanne (Rufus) Collinson, the Selection Committee's nominee for Poet Laureate.

Dale Brown stated his year they are pursuing the selection of Gloucester's poet laureate under the newly enacted ordinance. The Committee for the Arts solicited applications and established a selection committee, Eric Schoonover and James Cook. There were four applications; and their Committee unanimously endorsed Ms. Collinson who was strong in the qualities of accomplishment as a poet, having works published, and also demonstrated her commitment and involvement in the community. The Selection Committee believed she would continue the outreach work established by John Ronan. Therefore, the Selection Committee recommended the confirmation of Ruthanne (Rufus) Collinson as the next Gloucester Poet Laureate.

Councilor Tobey noted Ms. Collinson easily met both criteria and willingness to engage the community. When he read some of the pieces she submitted, one in particular evoked so many memories, "water on stones", took him back to his childhood on Wonson's Cove.

Councilor Theken stated they were thrilled as to how the process was handled. She wanted to see the commitment continue with the community outreach and a continuation of the work begun by John Ronan.

Ms. Collinson thanked the Committee for her nomination; and she explained her contact with Mr. Ronan, that she will spend some time with him to hear of his impressions and accomplishments. She lauded his time as the first Gloucester Poet Laureate. She informed the Committee that her first column she writes will be in gratitude to him and his work.

Councilor Mulcahey asked about the four year term.

Ms. Collinson stated Mr. Ronan chose not to continue beyond two years.

Councilor Tobey stated this was the first time for this process to take place under the newly enacted ordinance, feeling it was a nice collaboration with the Committee for the Arts. His sense was they wanted to give someone a body of time to dig in and become established, hence the four year term.

Ms. Brown stated it was a conscious choice to take it to four years.

Councilor Theken told the Committee that Mr. Ronan felt four years was a good length of time also.

Ms. Collinson stated a plan to collect the works of neighborhoods in poetry, and other projects do take some time.

Councilor Theken conferred with Ms. Collinson of some ideas during her upcoming term as Gloucester's Poet Laureate.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Tobey, seconded by Councilor Mulcahey, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the City Council the approval of the appointment of Ruthanne (Rufus) Collinson as Gloucester Poet Laureate, TTE 08/2014.

The Councilors all offered their congratulations to Ms. Collinson.

3. CC2010-049 (Verga) Amend GCO Sec. 22-287 "Disabled veteran, handicapped parking" re: Lexington Avenue

This matter was continued to the August 23, 2010 meeting pending the Traffic Commission's recommendations.

4. CC2010-052 (Mulcahey) Amend GZO Sec. 22-284 "Service or Loading Zones" re: 6 Elm Street

This matter was continued to the August 23, 2010 meeting pending the Traffic Commission's recommendations.

Councilor Theken discussed with the Committee the matter of asking the Traffic Commission to consider meeting twice monthly instead of once a month due to the increasing volume of traffic matters before them. As O&A awaits their recommendations for ordinance changes to be made, it can extend the time it takes to enact these changes, outwards of two months. It was her hope they would be able to see their way clear to accommodate the Committee on this matter.

A motion was made, seconded and voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTATION/ITEMS SUBMITTED DURING MEETING: None.