

Ordinances & Administration Committee
Monday, June 4, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Room – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Vice Chair, James O’Hara (entered the meeting at 6:01 p.m.); Councilor Sean Nolan

Absent: None.

Also Present: Councilor Holmgren; Councilor Gilman (entered the meeting at 6:36 p.m.); Joanne M. Senos; Grace Poirier

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Upon the arrival of Councilor Gilman there was a quorum of the City Council.

1. *New Appointments and Reappointments to Boards, Committees & Commissions*

A. New Appointments:

Fisheries Commission

Michael Orlando

TTE 02/14/21

Mr. Orlando explained that he’s worked in the seafood industry in sales and purchasing and is directly connected albeit offering a different perspective than most people on the Commission. He indicated his background will allow him to bring diversity to the Commission. He pointed out he has worked his way up in his company from delivery driver to the position of sales manager. He noted he is connected to the area’s fisheries, and that the fishing industry is something worth fighting for.

Councilors Nolan, LeBlanc and O’Hara expressed the thanks of the Committee for Mr. Orlando’s commitment to volunteer on the Fisheries Commission.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Michael Orlando to the Fisheries Commission, TTE 02/14/21.

Zoning Board of Appeals

Kristopher Howard (fulfilling term of Francis Wright)

TTE 02/14/20

Mr. Howard conveyed that he has been an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for a year and a half, which he advised he appreciated as it takes time to get up to speed with the learning curve. He expressed his desire to continue to serve. He briefly touched on the activities of the Board with the Committee. Councilor LeBlanc expressed he was pleased to see a younger person of Mr. Howard’s experience to move forward into full membership with the ZBA.

Councilor Nolan, noting Mr. Howard’s status as an alternate moving into full membership, and asked that he pay attention to matters that didn’t necessarily need to go before the ZBA; matters that are coming from the Building Department that they don’t seem to know why they need to be taken up which require no action. He asked they keep note of that and let the Committee know. Councilor LeBlanc expressed his agreement with Councilor Nolan’s asked. Mr. Howard advised the Building Inspector has been aware of this matter.

The Committee advised Mr. Howard he didn’t need to attend the June 12 Council meeting as he’d already been before the Council on his appointment as an alternate and is known to them.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Kristopher Howard to the Zoning Board of Appeals, TTE 02/14/20.

The Committee recessed at 6:08 and reconvened at 6:09 p.m.

2. *CC2018-009 (LeBlanc) Request the Traffic Commission review whether the crosswalk at “Tally’s Corner” be removed & make a recommendation to O&A (Cont’d from 04/30/18)*

Councilor LeBlanc reported he attended the Traffic Commission meeting last week and showed the Committee a large scale map of the intersection. He pointed out various aspects of the intersection explaining that the crosswalk that bisects the six street intersection horizontally which is inherently unsafe and ties up traffic. He proposed the crosswalk be removed. He proposed a new crosswalk from the end of Angle Street on the Orlando Building (2 Western Avenue) side to the existing Tally's property, across Western Avenue. This was voted unanimously to remove the crosswalk and add new as he described by the Traffic Commission, he pointed out.

Former Councilor Joseph Orlando, Orlando & Associates, 2 Western Avenue representing his parents as well as himself, was asked by the Committee to view a map of the six-way intersection known as "Tally's Corner," who agreed that the center crosswalk is misplaced and endangers the pedestrians and agreed that moving the crosswalk to agreed that the new location of the crosswalk would solve a great deal of the intersection's problems. He added his support for this effort. **Councilor LeBlanc** pointed out that no busy intersection in this area has a bisecting crosswalk. It was noted that there are proposed sidewalk improvements for this large intersection by the city's DPW in this intersection which was noted to help to create a better safety situation for pedestrians. **Councilor O'Hara** participated in the discussion, expressing his support for pedestrian safety and sidewalk improvements.

Councilor LeBlanc advised that the DPW Director is in favor of removing the current bisecting crosswalk and moving it to cross Western Avenue from Angle Street.

The Committee will make a Request to the Mayor to remove the existing crosswalk and add a new crosswalk from Angle Street across Western Avenue terminating at the former Tally's property.

This Council Order is now closed as no further action is required.

3. *CC2018-011 (LeBlanc) Request the Traffic Commission review whether or not there should be directional pavement markings for the delineation of traffic at "Tally's Corner" and make a written recommendation to the O&A Committee (Cont'd from 4/30/18)*

Councilor LeBlanc explained that it was noted there wasn't enough room on either side of the island in the center of the six-way intersection to make two travel lanes; and so it was recommended that coming out of Angle Street and up Western Avenue from the Boulevard there be no left-hand turn going up towards Washington Street. It is recommended this reconfiguration be tried on a trial basis for 90 days to see how it works. If it doesn't work they can tweak it, he noted. He conveyed his belief this will make traffic move more smoothly. **Former Councilor Orlando** added that he and his parents support this trial change.

Joanne Senos, City Clerk, explained the options to the Committee -- they could either vote an amendment to the Code of Ordinances with a sunset clause or the 90-day trial period could be done at the discretion of the DPW and the Mayor through a Request to the Mayor by the Committee. The Committee, working with the City Clerk chose to take the route of amending the Code of Ordinances for a 90-day period.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-265 "Turning movements-Generally" as follows: No left turn at the end of Angle Street and at the intersection of Washington Street and Western Avenue effective July 27, 2018 and to expire October 27, 2018."

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

4. *CC2018-014 (O'Hara) Amend GCO Ch. 2 "Administration" Art. I "General" by ADDING a new subsection 2-9 re: visible exterior signage on municipal buildings/offices (Cont'd from 4/30/18)*

Councilor LeBlanc noted that the CAO, Jim Destino, advised there are signs at all city buildings. **Councilor O'Hara** pointed out the Police Station doesn't have a sign on its Rogers Street side. **Councilor Nolan** added that there is also no sign at the West Gloucester Fire Station. **Councilor O'Hara** expressed concern that in time of need that these buildings aren't visible enough. **Councilor Nolan** agreed that a sign on the Rogers Street side of the Police Station with directional arrows to get to the station doors would be an appropriate addition. **Councilor LeBlanc** advised that he didn't agree that this effort should be handled by a GCO amendment but is more of a Request to the Mayor, and conveyed he wouldn't support the amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 2 in favor, 1 (LeBlanc) opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 2 "Administration, Art. I "General" by ADDING a new subsection 2-9 "Signage on Municipal Property/Offices" as follows: "Exterior signage must be posted in all City of Gloucester buildings which house offices of city employees that are clearly visible in size which can be seen by the public when passing the buildings.

Sec. 2-10 - 2-19. Reserved"

This matter will be advertised for public hearing for July 10, 2018.

The O&A Committee also will submit a Request to the Mayor for a sign to be placed on the Rogers Street side of the Gloucester Police Station with indicating arrows for the public to way find to the station's doorway as well as a sign be placed at the West Gloucester Fire Station.

5. *CC2018-023 (Cox) Amend GCO Ch. 22, "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-279 "Thirty-minute parking" by DELETING "Western Avenue, northerly side from Centennial Avenue to Perkins Road" and amend Sec. 22-280 "Fifteen-minute parking" by ADDING "Western Avenue, northerly side from Centennial Avenue to Perkins Road" (Cont'd from 05/14/18)*

Councilor LeBlanc noted this is located in front of Poseidon's Restaurant. The owners had asked that the parking in front of their restaurant be reduced to 15 minutes as they are primarily a take-out restaurant, he advised, noting that the Traffic Commission voted unanimously in favor of this amendment.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O'Hara, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-279 "Thirty-minute parking" by DELETING "Western Avenue, northerly side from Centennial Avenue to Perkins Road." and Amend Sec. 22-280 "Fifteen-minute parking" by ADDING "Western Avenue, northerly side from Centennial Avenue to Perkins Road."

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

6. *CC2018-024(Cox): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-220 "Deposit to extend parking time beyond maximum legal time prohibited" AND Sec. 22-229 "Parking control device" re: shuffling at parking meters and parking meter bags"*

Councilor LeBlanc explained that Councilor Cox was asking that this matter be continued to the next regularly schedule O&A meeting.

This matter is continued to June 18, 2018.

7. *CC2018-025 (Hecht): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" re: Prospect Street, northerly side, from its intersection with Friend Street in a westerly direction (TBC 06/18/18)*
8. *CC2018-026 (Hecht): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" re: Prospect Street, westerly side beginning at its intersection with Spring Street (TBC06/18/18)*
9. *CC2018-027 (Hecht): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles" Sec. 22-270 "Parking prohibited at all times" re: Pleasant Street, westerly side, beginning at a point 130 feet from its intersection with Warren Street in a northerly direction for a distance of 25 feet (TBC 06/18/18)*

Councilor LeBlanc announced that these three matters will continue to July 16, 2018 as the Traffic Commission won't meet until June 21, and the O&A Committee will not meet during the first week of July.

10. *CC2018-018 (Gilman/Memhard/O'Hara) Placement of question on ballot for a special election to be held in 2018 which would state, "Shall this city adopt the following ordinance? Consistent with MGL c. 94G, sec. 3(a)(2) non-medical marijuana retailers as defined in MGL c. 94G, sec. 1 shall be limited to one (1) within the City of Gloucester (Cont'd from 4/30/18)*

This matter was inadvertently placed on the June 4, 2018 agenda but in fact had been continued to the June 18, 2018 O&A Committee meeting.

This matter is continued to June 18, 2018.

11. *Memorandum from Mayor re: recreational marijuana recommendations: That the Council vote to limit the number of marijuana retail establishments in Gloucester to three (3); and that the Council adopt an ordinance governing marijuana accessories as well as an ordinance authorizing Board of Health to inspect edible marijuana products to be drafted by General Counsel (Cont'd from 4/30/18)*

Councilor LeBlanc advised that General Counsel would be meeting Dr. Richard Sagall of the Board of Health at the next Board of Health meeting about this matter; therefore, this agenda item will be continued to June 18.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgenson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.