

Ordinances & Administration Committee
Monday, November 19, 2018 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Room – City Hall
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Steven LeBlanc; Vice Chair, James O’Hara; Councilor Paul Lundberg (Alternate)

Absent: Councilor Nolan

Also Present: Councilor Hecht; Jim Destino

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. New Appointments to Boards, Committees & Commissions

Council on Aging Anthony J. D’Antonio (Cont’d from 11/05/18) TTE 02/14/21

Mr. D’Antonio explained that he left Gloucester about 30 years ago and is now returned home. He conveyed he’s worked in health care, particularly in post-acute care, market development, both provider of care through hospice, homecare and care for the elderly. He suggested that Massachusetts has the best system in the United States for care of elderly and disabled persons. He advised his affinity for seniors and the disabled, those with dementia and those who are shut in which drew him to the Council on Aging. **Councilors O’Hara and Lundberg** thanked Mr. D’Antonio for his stepping forward to work with the city’s seniors. **Councilor Lundberg** added that the Rose Baker Senior Center and the Council on Aging are very important to Gloucester.

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 Anthony J. D’Antonio to the Council on Aging, TTE 02/14/21.

Historic District Commission

Barbara Lambert (Alternate Member)

TTE 02/14/22

Ms. Lambert conveyed that she “loves” old houses and Gloucester, noting she owns one of the city’s oldest homes, the Thomas Riggs House on Vine Street. She’s worked with museums, professional architects and in decorative arts. She pointed out she was head of the Historical Commission for five years but stepped down to work at Oberlin College. Now that she’s returned she was seeking an appointment suited to her background, she indicated. **Councilor LeBlanc** recounted his professional experiences in some of the city’s old homes briefly and how much he admired the craftsmanship of these homes. **Councilor Lundberg** thanked Ms. Lambert for volunteering to return to civic duty.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Lundberg, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Barbara Lambert to the Historic District Commission (Alternate), TTE 02/14/22, with an effective date of 02/14/19.

2. CC2018-040 (LeBlanc/Holmgren): Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles”, Sec. 22-283 “Bus stops and taxi stands” by ADDING Lincoln Avenue, westerly side, in a southerly direction from a point 150’ from Emerson Avenue for a distance of 40’ (Cont’d from 11/05/18)

Councilor LeBlanc explained that he and Councilor Holmgren reached out to several residents at Lincoln Park about this matter. There is a covered bus stop on Lincoln Avenue with no signage or markings on the roadway indicating that this is a bus stop, and people parking around it blocking access to the bus stop. By making this change, it will allow free access to the bus shelter. He noted that the Traffic Commission approved the order as written. He confirmed for **Councilor Lundberg** that residents are okay with losing parking spaces at this location.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Lundberg, 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. 22-283 “Bus stops and taxi stands” by ADDING: “Lincoln Avenue, westerly side in a southerly direction from a point 150 feet from Emerson Avenue for a distance of 40 feet.”

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

3. *CC2018-041 (Hecht): Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles”, Sec. 22-270 “Prohibited parking at all times” by ADDING Chestnut Street between 6 Chestnut Street and 212 Main Street (Cont’d from 11/05/18)*

Councilor Hecht reported that this is a parking space less than a legitimate city parking space, which sees cars parking in it at all times. This is where the laundromat is located with a taxi company operating out of the Chestnut Street side of the laundromat building, and adjacent to that separated by a driveway is a multi-family home. Every time someone parks in this space it blocks the next property’s driveway. **Councilor LeBlanc** advised he attended the Traffic Commission meeting where this matter was taken up and it was voted unanimously by the Commission to support the parking prohibition. He recounted he’d been working on a building in the immediate area and was approached by residents to do something about this situation advising he then reached out to Councilor Hecht. He confirmed there is a 10” curb that runs down between the two properties which is the divider, and people are parking at the end of it blocking both sides of two driveways. He added his agreement the situation needs remedying.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Lundberg, 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. 22-270 “Prohibited parking at all times” by ADDING: “Chestnut Street, westerly side, from its intersection with Main Street for 150 feet in a northerly direction (to #6 Chestnut Street).”

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

4. *CC2018-043 (Gilman): Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-269 “Stop Intersection” by ADDING Vulcan Street at its intersection with Emerald Street*

Councilor LeBlanc explained that Councilor Gilman attended the most recent Traffic Commission meeting and presented this matter and to express her concern. He pointed out that there had been an accident at the intersection, and there is no stop sign which residents have now asked for., and that the Commission approved the Order unanimously.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Lundberg, 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. 22-269 “Stop Intersection” as follows: “Vulcan Street at its intersection with Emerald Street.

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

5. *CC2018-045 (LeBlanc): Amend GCO Ch. 22, Sec. 22-269 “Stop Intersection” by ADDING Lookout Street at its intersection with Commonwealth Avenue; Lookout Street at its intersection with Beacon Street & Beacon Street at its intersection with Washington Street*

Councilor LeBlanc advised that there were a couple of people on Lookout Street that reached out to him. He explained that one of the people who had spoken to him was in a “severe” car accident last year when a car rolled through the intersection. She is asked that there be stop signs be placed in the neighborhood. **Jim Destino**, CAO, commented he couldn’t believe there weren’t stop signs at these two intersections, pointing out he’d been in an accident in the same area, was blindsided by another vehicle which totaled his truck.

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. 22-269 “Stop Intersection” as follows:

“Lookout Street at its intersection with Commonwealth Avenue

Lookout Street at its intersection with Beacon Street”**and****“Beacon Street at its intersection with Washington Street”**

This matter will be advertised for public hearing.

6. CC2018-044 (O’Hara): Amend City Council Rules of Procedure “Rule 2: Order of Business” by placing “Councillors’ Requests to the Mayor” before and/or after the Consent Agenda

Councilor O’Hara explained that he put this Council Order forward as it was brought to his attention that in the past Councilor Requests were brought forward versus at the end as it is now when Administration representatives have left the meeting.

Councilor Lundberg confirmed these are the same Requests to the Mayor each week put forward to the Administration in writing giving the Administration time to do their due diligence, and now Councilor O’Hara is suggesting that during a City Council meeting the Council engage representatives of the Administration in a discussion about their Requests to the Mayor. He asked what would moving the Councilor Requests forward accomplish. **Councilor O’Hara** advised that they could give the Council updates, in light of repetitive requests so that there could be comments made, some interaction between a Councilor and someone from the Administration. **Councilor Lundberg**, highlighting a matrix kept of all Councilor Requests by the Clerk of Committees to track the requests which clearly shows a Request’s disposition asked why that isn’t enough. **Councilor O’Hara** pointed out there is no public forum at a public meeting for interaction with the Administration. Since the requests generally come from constituents, by moving the Councilors’ Requests up on the Council agenda, constituents could see their Councilors questioning the Administration in public. He pointed out past Council have done this.

Councilor LeBlanc offered his preference for the order of the Council agenda as is. There are two other opportunities for the public to speak at meetings, he pointed out, through Oral Communications and Public Hearings during a Council meeting. He conveyed that with Councilors’ Requests at the end of the meeting, it gives Councilors time to hear public concerns and formulate what they want to put forward as a Request in assisting those members of the public who offered a particular insight earlier in the evening. He advised that interaction, particularly if there were disagreements with members of the Administration, would be a concern.

Mr. Destino recounted that when he was on the Council, Requests were taken up earlier on the agenda because they were made orally. He recounted that there was a Councilor who had two to three pages worth of Requests at every meeting with commentary that took up to a half hour. He pointed out that there is an efficient system in place to submit Councilors’ Requests to the Mayor each week which is well documented. He added that not all requests can be honored because of lack of resources or funding. Councilors Requests were submitted in writing during his tenure as Council President, he added, and if there were emergent requests, those came forward verbally. It has never been where the Administration responds to a Councilor Request during a Council meeting, and would be counterproductive, he conveyed. He highlighted the methods of communication between the Councilors and himself through calls and texts as well.

Councilor O’Hara reiterated that Councilors’ Requests come at the end of the Council meeting and he hears that people want to be able to see that their representative as acting on their requests because they’re not watching at the end of the Council meetings. He conveyed that this change in the Rules of Procedure is not to create “interactional bantering” between the Council and the Administration. **Mr. Destino** highlighted that any Requests to the Mayor offered by a Councilor at any Council meeting are captured in writing by the Clerk of Committees and forwarded to the Mayor promptly for the Administration’s review and consideration.

Councilor LeBlanc offered that the Council is fortunate to have such a responsive Administration working with them. He reiterated his appreciation having Councilors’ Requests at the end of the meeting. He also touched briefly on the Councilors’ Requests portion of the meeting which he suggested should only take several minutes per Councilor as they have the ability to email or call the Clerk of Committees with their Requests during the week. If a Councilor wished to make several short announcements about community events it would come at this time, but that is all that time intended to be used for at the close of any Council meeting. **Mr. Destino** added that SeeClickFix is still the best way to make a request, have it followed up and notice sent to the member of the public that their concern is on a list to be addressed, pointing out that most of what goes through the Councilors’ Requests to the Mayor falls upon the DPW to follow up.

Councilor Lundberg pointed out that all Requests made at the meeting do go forward to the Administration promptly in writing. He expressed he liked the order of the Council agenda as it is now.

Councilor LeBlanc stated he would not support this change in the Council Rules of Procedure.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor O’Hara, seconded by Councilor Lundberg, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 1 (O’Hara) in favor, 2 opposed, to recommend that the City Council Amend its Rules of Procedure “Rule 2: Order of Business” by placing “Councilors’ Requests to the Mayor” after the Consent Agenda and renumber Rule 2 accordingly.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING: None.