

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on April 20, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M. by Councilor W. Worthy, Town Council President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M. O. Steere, III; Jonathan E. Burlingame; Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Chief Delprete, Gloucester Police; Gary Treml, Director Public Works; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; John Luszcz, Human Services Director; Ken Johnson, Building and Zoning Official; Melissa Bouvier, Senior Center Director; Robert Shields, Recreation Director (arrived at 7:50 PM)

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to speak on an agenda item can step to the microphone and state your name when called on.

None

V. Public Hearing - Proposed Budget for FY 2023/24 (IF CONTINUED FROM 4/18/2023)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on 3/30 and 4/13/23. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Public Hearing was OPENED on 4/18/2023 and CONTINUED to this evening.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Finance Director was to rework portions of the proposed budget with Council's suggestions and update certain numbers.

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that there was an issue with the FY 23 budget as to revenue and explained how it happened. A. Muccino explained the levy used for current budget calculations was from the wrong workbook. A. Muccino stated he had other recommendations for Council to mitigate the error, such as he is seeking out higher interest checking rates and/or CD options for interest revenue from our banking institutions as well as seeking out savings from Department Heads or deferring expenses to next fiscal year. A. Muccino also suggested a plan to correct the error between the two fund balances by using fund balance. Councilor Burlingame questioned the difference in increase of non business licenses. A. Muccino stated we are on track to hit that higher number. Councilor W. Worthy had the proposed amount to be raised by taxes confirmed by A. Muccino stated the number in total is \$25,093, 923. Councilor W. Steere asked if the proposal to use fund balance for operations had been removed. A. Muccino stated there is no longer a proposal to use fund balance for operations. A. Muccino stated the budget is within the not to exceed 4 % mandated state amount. Councilor W. Steere asked if the proration had increased for the school and how much would be used. A. Muccino stated that all would be used but we may be able to reload that account from unassigned fund balance.

Councilor S. Arnold asked A. Muccino for an estimate as to how much more could be used from the unrestricted fund and still keep the amount to 15% in spite of including the compensation for the error. A. Muccino stated about \$350,000 to \$400,000.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak or ask questions, to please state your name for the record when called to the podium

Discussion:

1. David Laplante, resident, asked if there was a property tax rate yet. A. Muccino stated the proposed property tax rate may fall within the range of \$12.93 to \$13.50. A. Muccino stated that the rate fluctuates as the values of property fluctuate. A. Muccino stated there are many appeals of assessments being conducted and if assessments change that could effect the rate.
2. Walter Steere, resident, stated that A. Muccino gave a range of \$12.93 to \$13.50 for the rate. W. Steere asked if tonight's budget reflects that rate. A. Muccino stated that the rate fluctuates as values fluctuate in order to obtain the amount to be raised by taxes. A. Muccino stated there are swings in values due to the large increase in valuation of property performed by Vision Appraisal which are being challenged. W. Steere asked when that number would be finalized. A. Muccino stated in the next few weeks as the Assessor's office is very busy right now and there are still bugs in the Vision software.
3. Dave Steere, resident, asked when a revised budget would be available for the public. J. Fecteau stated the budget is scheduled to be adopted for referendum on May 4, 2023. D. Steere asked if tonight was the last time the public would have an opportunity to comment on the budget. D. Steere stated that there are a lot of proposed changes which the public does not know about. Councilor W. Steere stated that past Councils have allowed residents to speak at the meeting where they have adopted the budget. A. Muccino stated that he can provide a revised budget with changes tomorrow.
4. W. Steere, resident, discussed the range stated by A. Muccino. Mr. Steere asked what this evenings budget would reflect in a tax rate. W. Steere asked if it will be the \$12.93. A. Muccino stated it will come down to what the Council approves as the amount to be raised by taxes. A. Muccino stated he could not give a final answer. W. Steere between the range given, depending on those valuations, taxes could go up high. Mr. Steere expressed his disappointment.
5. P. Henry, resident and Gloucester School Committee Member, asked if funds were to be taken from the Town's Fund balance to be given to the Gloucester School Department for their fund balance. A. Muccino confirmed the proposal. P. Henry stated her concerns for the future due to the resignation of the finance director who has typically done the school budget. P. Henry stated if Gloucester Schools will be doing their own budget funds will have to be added to the Gloucester Schools budget before it is adopted. P. Henry stated a part time business manager for the school is long over due.

6. K. Bonoyer, resident and Chair of the Budget Board, stated some of the reasons for the Budget Board recommendations that produced the budget and offered to meet with the Council .

K. Bonoyer addressed the following:

Cuts proposed to the Recreation Department.

Police Car request from two to one car.

Police Chief’s salary, agreed to put in half of Chief’s request.

K. Bonoyer referred to this budget not being a wish list.

Council thanked the Budget Board for their hard work on the budget.

7. J. Field, resident , spoke on behalf of the Ponaganset Basketball Association (PBA) . J. Field stated that the PBA is not requesting any money from the town this year.

8. C. Barone, resident and Budget Board member, added several reasons for Budget Board recommendations (in addition to those stated by K. Bonoyer)

9. K. Lamontagne, resident and Parade Chair, stated her hope that the Council would consider level funding the parade request as the money is for the fireworks.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone else wished to speak and, hearing none, Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion:

J. Fecteau explained that the Council may make and consider motions based on their recommendations from the Public Hearing on April 18, 2023.

1) MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to DECREASE (PAGE 1 OF 35) the following line items under “Municipal” as follows:

Public Safety -	\$18,033 for a new total of	\$3,298,607
Department of Public Works -	\$20,000 for a new total of	\$2,402,715
Senior Center -	\$10,000 for a new total of	\$202,811
Other Operational Expenses -	\$5,000 for a new total of	\$727,123
Aid Requests -	\$14,797 for a new total of	\$428,827

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2) MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to DECREASE (PAGE 1 OF 35) the following line item under “Education” as follows:

Glocester Schools Revenue - \$5,392 for a new total of \$3,153,401

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3) MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to DECREASE (PAGE 1 OF 35) the following line item under “Education” as follows:

Net Glocester Schools - \$97,839 for a new total of \$7,192,668

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

4. MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 1 OF 35) the following line item under “Municipal” as follows:

Recreation - \$10,133 for a new total of \$130,394

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

5. MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 1 OF 35) the following line item under “Education” as follows:

Glocester Schools Operations - \$16,769 for a new total of \$10,866,069

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 1 OF 35) the following line item under “Education” as follows:

Prior Year Set Aside for FG proration: - \$115,000 for a new total of \$215,000

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 3 OF 35) the following line item under “ Revenue” as follows:

Non Business Licenses & Fees- \$130,000 for a new total of \$580,000

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to DECREASE (PAGE 3 OF 35) the following line item under “ Revenue” as follows:

Department Receipts- \$104,764 for a new total of \$150,000

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to DECREASE (PAGE 3 OF 35) the following line item under “ Revenue” as follows:

Interest on delinquent taxes- \$50,000 for a new total of \$50,000

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

10. MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 4 OF 35) the following line item under “ Adjustments” as follows:

Transfer from surplus account for Storm/Snow- \$60,000 for a new total of \$60,000

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

11. MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 4 OF 35) the following line item under “ Adjustments” as follows:

Transfer from surplus account for GSD future operations- \$120,000 for a new total of \$520,000

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

12. MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to DECREASE (PAGE 4 OF 35) the following line item under “ Adjustments” as follows:

Transfer from surplus for operations- \$570,000 for a new total of \$0

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

13. MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 4 OF 35) the following line item under “ Adjustments” as follows:

Transfer from surplus account for Town Capital- \$1,000 for a new total of \$137,505

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

14. MOTION was made by Councilor s. Arnold to INCREASE (PAGE 4 OF 35) the following line item under “Adjustments” as follows:

Amount to be raised by Taxes - \$263,428 for a new total of \$25,093,926

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the budget will be adopted by the Town Council on May 4, 2023 and will then be forwarded to the voters for an all day referendum on May 23, 2023.

VI. Proclamations- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that each year Council commemorates Earth Day and Arbor Day with Proclamations. Councilor W. Worthy stated that these proclamations are posted on our bulletin board for all to see and hopefully be inspired. Councilor W. Worthy read the proclamations as follows:

A. #2023-01 Earth Day

Proclamation of the Town of Gloucester
#2023-01 Earth Day

WHEREAS, The Town of Gloucester recognizes that the First Earth Day in 1970 was the beginning of the modern environmental movement which helped shape the values and priorities of an entire generation. As a result of citizen demand, Congress passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, as well as superfund legislation thereby putting a lasting framework for our future in place; and

WHEREAS, Rhode Islanders, and Gloucester residents in particular, have demonstrated leadership in environmental action and awareness, and expect sound environmental action from their leaders; and

WHEREAS, In observation of Earth Day, April 22nd, the Town of Gloucester, through its Conservation Commission, will host the annual Earth Day Celebration Clean-Up, asking for volunteers to meet at the Pavilion at Kent Field at 9:00 a.m. for a town wide clean up; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council supports activities celebrating Earth Day in Gloucester, statewide, nationally, and on a global level, and we encourage our youth and adults alike to take a pledge to help to keep our earth “Clean and Green”; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Town Council and Town Clerk encourage Gloucester residents to participate in neighborhood clean-ups and support all efforts to do our part for the celebration of Earth Day and every day.

Councilor William A. Worthy, Jr., President
Councilor Stephen W. Arnold, Vice-President
Councilor Walter M.O. Steere, III
Councilor Cheryl Greathouse
Councilor Jonathan Burlingame

Jean M Fecteau, CMC , Town Clerk

Dated this 20th day of April 2023

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. #2023-02 Arbor Day

Proclamation of the Town of Gloucester

#2023-02 Arbor Day

WHEREAS, In 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees. This holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska and is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, Trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, clean the air, produce oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife. Trees are also a renewable resource of wood for our homes and fuel for our fires. Trees in our Town enhance our property, beautify our community, and are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Gloucester; its' Conservation Commission; its' Tree Warden; and our Land Trust have and will continue to work towards preserving and improving our green spaces as stewards of our towns' bounty of natural beauty and clean air; and

WHEREAS, There are many events planned statewide for the celebration of Arbor Day this year that will help promote and teach our families the value of preserving our environment while providing a fun family experience; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; That the Town Council and Town Clerk of the Town of Gloucester do hereby proclaim our commitment to Arbor Day on April 28th, 2023 in the Town of Gloucester, and urge all citizens to celebrate by supporting efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and we urge all citizens to plant trees and promote this celebration of nature for future generations.

Councilor William A. Worthy, Jr. President
Councilor Stephen W. Arnold, Vice-President
Councilor Walter M.O. Steere, III
Councilor Cheryl Greathouse
Councilor Jonathan Burlingame

Jean M Fecteau, CMC , Town Clerk

Dated this 20th day of April 2023

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of April 6th, & Special Meetings of April 12th and April 18th, 2023
- B. Tax Assessor's Additions and Abatements - March 2023
- C. Finance Director's Report - March 2023

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPROVE the Town Council minutes of April 6th and April 12th, 2023; to TABLE the minutes of April 18, 2023; APPROVE the ABATEMENT to the 2022 Tax Roll in the amount of \$243.34; NO ADDITIONS to the 2022 Tax Roll; and to APPROVE the Finance Directors Report of March 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

- A. Boards and Commissions
 - 1. Appointments- Terms to run concurrent with the Town Council- Discussion and /or Action
 - a. Affordable Housing Advisory Board- two year term to expire 12/2024- 5 positions

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item was tabled for more preparation.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that he is the liaison for this Board and is waiting to hear from several people so would like to suggest tabling the item.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to TABLE the appointments to the Affordable Housing Advisory Board; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: B. MacArthur, EDC Chair, gave a brief overview of their request regarding a branding and marketing plan in which they are requesting \$25,000 of ARPA money for this project.

A. Sarji, EDC member, gave an explanation with examples of the branding and marketing proposal.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the \$25,000 request is part of this package. A. Sarji stated that the \$25,000 is an estimate she obtained after speaking to a firm that has done projects like these in similar types of towns. Councilor W. Worthy asked about the tangibles items that would come from this project. A. Sarji stated examples would be ones like a slogan, a logo, a sign design but not an actual sign. A. Sarji stated that she spoke to a company and received this estimate but EDC would follow the proper procedure to hire a company. Councilor W. Worthy stated his opinion that it would be beneficial to contact other towns to find out what worked or not. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that this would be a great opportunity to collaborate with the Gloucester Land Trust (GLT).

W. Morin, GLT Chair, stated that this proposal would be a great way to promote all of the land trust properties as open space is a main attraction for people to want to come to Gloucester. W. Morin stated the issue is to determine how to leverage open space to bring people into town to spend money and to bring in other businesses.

Councilor W. Steere agrees that open space is the town's biggest asset and the types of events the town offers also differentiate itself from other towns.

P. Henry, resident, stated her support for what EDC is trying to do. P. Henry stated her opinion that local farmers should be considered in this proposal.

L. Gaddes- Barrett stated her agreement with the comments made by P. Henry.

No action taken

C. Review of Community Solar Program with Power Options- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this item was tabled per A. Muccino's request.

Discussion: A. Muccino stated that the Town Solicitor has reviewed the documents. A. Muccino stated that a meeting was held with a representative from Power Options. A. Muccino stated that the potential savings may be about \$ 17,000 per year but that there is not enough space to accommodate the town's yearly kilowatt usage with the existing project. A. Muccino stated that if another project opened up that the town would be able to purchase kilowatt credits on the project.

A. Muccino also stated that other towns are experiencing incorrect bills from RI Energy which is a concern. J. Fecteau added that other communities expressed billing problems when she was on a call with the League of Cities and Towns earlier today. Councilor W. Steere stated that the savings is good but if there are concerns about billing that it would be a good idea to wait and see. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion to wait. A. Muccino stated he would be happy to reach out to the League and Power Options to find out more information as to the problems other communities are experiencing with billing.

No action taken

D. Authorization of Bid Extension: RFP 2016-02 Fireworks- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated Council has received correspondence from the Finance Director which he read as follows:

To: Honorable Gloucester Town Council; William Worthy, President
From: Adam Muccino, Finance Director
Re: 2023 Town Fireworks Display
Date: April 14, 2023

The Town awarded RFP 2016-02 to Ocean State Pyrotechnics in 2016 to provide a firework display in Town as part of the annual Fourth of July festivities. The contract amount at that time was \$15,000. The vendor is willing to extend the terms of the contract for the 2023 Fourth of July celebration in Town, with the exception of the price. Due to increased costs of materials and transportation the vendor would not be able to produce the same firework display, in terms of length of show and quality/size of the display for \$15,000. In order to produce the same show that the Town is accustomed to for 2023, the vendor has quoted \$20,000, \$5,000 over the base contract price.

The Ancients & Horribles Parade Committee can cover the incremental expense (\$5,000) from previously allocated, Council approved, American Rescue Plan funding and/or from the July 4th Parade Special Revenue fund (page 109 of the FY22 audit). Given that the Fourth of July celebration is only months away I, along with the Ancients and Horribles Committee Chair, humbly request that the Council approve the extension of the terms and conditions associated with the contract under RFP 2016-02 with an additional allocation of \$5,000 for a total contract value not to exceed \$20,000.

Approval will enable Ocean State Pyrotechnics to deliver the same firework display that the Town is accustomed to. The Town in cooperation with the Ancients and Horribles parade committee will go out to bid in the Fall of 2023 to solicit proposals for the Summer 2024 celebration. The Board of Contracts and Purchases will review the responses to the opportunity at that time and will make a recommendation to Council based on the responses received through the bid process.

Respectfully,
Adam Muccino
(end of memo)

Discussion: None

MOTION was y Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the extension, for 2023, of the terms and conditions associated with the contract under RFP 2016-02, Town Fireworks Display, with an additional allocation of \$5,000 for a total contract value not to exceed \$20,000; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel

1. Authorization - temporary “fill in” assistance - Building/Zoning Official-
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Bldg/Zoning Official regarding a temporary fill in while he is out from approximately 4-6 weeks which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members

From: Ken Johnson

Date: April 19, 2023

Re: Temporary Coverage for the Town of Gloucester

I would like to recommend Larry Desormier, Building Official from Scituate, to cover for me while I am out temporarily on a medical leave (approximately 4-6 weeks).

I am asking Council to approve this temporary coverage beginning on April 24, 2023.

I would only expect him to do the building inspections needed to keep projects moving and possible some plan reviews as needed to not hold up any building projects. There will be no zoning issues to deal with. Mr. Desormier's hours will be on an on needed basis not to exceed 10 hours per week.

He will be paid for his services at \$50. 00 per hour.

Will keep you informed if more time is needed.

Thank you,

(end of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that the request has been reviewed by the acting HR Director and is satisfactory, based on Council approval. Councilor W. Steere asked how it would be handled if he needs more than 10 hours per week. A. Muccino stated there is money in the budget, that he has coordinated with the current staff in Building and Zoning office and they can manage and the request can be brought back before Council for changes if needed. W. Steere asked how the hours would be tracked. A. Muccino stated the individual would be checking in and out at the office and keeping track of his hours and he would not be using the town vehicle.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE Larry Desormier to serve as an as needed non-employee independent contractor in the Building/Zoning Office for up to 10 hours of time per week at an hourly rate of \$50. Mr. Desormier will mainly be available for building inspections and occasional plan review. This appointment is contingent upon Mr. Desormier filing credentials with the Town of Gloucester qualifying him as a Building Official in Rhode Island and successful completion of a criminal background check; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Use of funds for a master plan for recreation areas (GMP and Winsor)- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received correspondence from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner
Date: April 17, 2023
Re: Recreation Master Planning – Gloucester Memorial Park and Winsor Park

At the last meeting, we discussed the importance of master planning as a way to plan for the long and short term recreational needs of the Town at both Gloucester Memorial Park and Winsor Park. The Town Council requested more information on the costs.

A realistic cost range to complete a master plan for Winsor Park and the rest of Gloucester Memorial Park is between \$34,500 - \$38,450. This type of effort would include the preparation of base plans for design options, site visits, preparing for and attending public meetings, preparing design options for each park, preparing a preferred design (based on input) for each park, preparing a cost estimate for each park, and finalizing the master plan for each park.

I believe this is a wise investment of funds as it will assist in balancing the recreational needs of all residents, ensure that projects are compatible with future adjacent uses and enable the Town to be very competitive in applying for funding to implement different aspect of the plans.

If funds are allocated to this effort, I will work to draft a full scope of work for the project.

Thank you for your consideration.

(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor S. Arnold stated that he requested this item as he feels it is very important. Councilor S. Arnold stated that the cost is higher than expected so he would like to speak to the Town Planner before any decisions are made. Councilor W. Steere agrees with Councilor S. Arnold. Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that GMP should be finished and then turn to Winsor Park which can become a gem. Councilor W. Steere stated he hopes there is another round of grant money that may be considered in the fall. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion to wait on this proposal until after the budget is finalized.

No action taken

IX. New Business

A. Authorization for signature:

1. R.I. Resource Recovery Solid Waste and Recycling Services Municipal Agreement FY24-25 - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that it is time to sign our municipal agreement with R.I. Resource Recovery. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the DPW Director and Administrative Aid, as well as the Solicitor have reviewed.

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the FY 24-25 Solid Waste and Recycling Services Agreement Between the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation and the Town of Glocester for the disposal of municipal solid waste. The term of this Agreement shall commence on the date of municipal execution or July 1, 2023 whichever is the later and end on June 30, 2025; seconded by Councilor J. Burlingame

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel

1. Finance Department

a. Resignation - Finance Director - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the resignation of the Town's Finance Director, effective end of day April 21, 2023.

MOTION was made by Councilor J. Burlingame to ACCEPT, with regrets, the resignation of Adam Muccino from the position of Finance Director, effective end of day April 21, 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

Discussion: L. Gaddes Barrett , resident, thanked A. Muccino for his accessibility and knowledge. L.Gaddes Barret stated that it is a big job for the Finance Director to handle both the town budget and the school budget. L. Gaddes Barret stated her opinion that she hopes the Council finds a similar replacement. Councilor W. Worthy thanked A. Muccino for his commitment and determination.

b. Vacancy

1. Formation of Finance Director application review committee -
Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Council held a special meeting on April 12th to authorize the acting HR Director to begin the search process for a replacement Finance Director.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received the updated department head hiring policy from the HR Director with his recommendation for filling the committee. Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council also needs to decide how many qualified applicants they wish the committee to bring forward to them for final interview.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPOINT the HR Director; the Council Liaison to Finance, Councilor Arnold and liaison to Human Resources, Councilor Burlingame; the Town Clerk; and the Tax Collector ; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if people could be added to the committee. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, explained that additional people can be added by Council motion at a later time if needed . D. Iglizzi recommended a “no more than” for a number.

J.Dipietro, resident, stated her opinion that an individual with accounting, finance or a municipal finance background should be considered for the committee.

Councilor S. Arnold RESCINDED the MOTION.
Councilor C. Greathouse RESCINDED the SECOND.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to APPOINT the HR Director; the Council Liaison to Finance, Councilor Arnold and liaison to Human Resources, Councilor Burlingame; the Town Clerk; and the Tax Collector as well as any additional members the Council deems appropriate especially those with a financial background; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Temporary oversight - Discussion and/or Action
 - a. Assignment/appointment, as needed

Councilor Arnold stated he had spoken with A. Muccino about staying on and helping the town during this time and he is willing to do so.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE Adam Muccino to assist the Town with Financial oversight on an on call per diem basis until the position is permanently filled at an hourly rate of \$ 50.00 ; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if a certain amount of hours needs to be determined each week. A. Muccino stated it would depend upon the type of project or task but he is willing to help. D. Iglizzi stated the Council may amend the motion to include an amount not to exceed a set amount of hours per week or the Council can just monitor weekly.

P. Henry, School Comm. Member, asked if the proposed position for finance director would include the school and the town or just the town. Councilor J. Burlingame stated that the Council will need to decide. Councilor W. Steere also stated the Council has not decided. L.Gaddes Barret stated her opinion that there is room for discussion to maybe separate the school finance from the town finance.

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Authorization of funds, as needed

Councilor W. Worthy asked if services are utilized in previous item, the use of funds from which accounts should be identified.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked how A. Muccino is paid and the source of the funds. A. Muccino stated it would be a line item as a contractor in the Finance Department.

No action taken

C. Gloucester Memorial Park - Security & Lighting- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Arnold stated that it is great to see the increased use at Gloucester Memorial Park (GMP) but there have been several incidents of vandalism. Councilor W. Steere stated GMP is a wonderful facility with use by lots of people. Councilor S. Arnold stated he wished to brainstorm ideas as to how to handle the vandalism like signs, more drive bys by police , motion lights etc.. Chief Delprete stated the police have increased their patrols in the area and he has spoken to the IT Director for technology ideas to handle the situation. Chief Delprete will keep the Council informed.

No action taken

X. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy Council has received the following correspondence:

1. Council has received a sample resolution from the League of Cities and Towns in support of legislation that, if passed, would allow for tax amnesty periods in FY 24 & 25.

No Action taken

2. Request from the Trust regarding the Dental Pool equity disbursement election form. A. Muccino stated no choice has been made yet.

3. Thank you from the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council thanking Gloucester for their letter of support. They were able to received grant funds to launch a district wide “International Food & Beverage Trail”

4. Correspondence from FEMA thanking Glocester for participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and reminding us of deadlines.
5. FERC (which is the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) errata notice of error on previous abutters notice correcting the location of project to Blackstone River in Providence County.
6. Correspondence from the Parade Committee Chair regarding the effects of cutting their budget by 50% if Council does so.

XI. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department Heads wished to speak and if so to please step to podium when called upon and speak into microphone.

1. J. Luszczyk, Human Services Director, stated that he will be holding a food drive at Navigant Credit Union on May 6, 2023 from 12-3. J. Luszczyk thanked Councilor W. Steere for informing him about a grant opportunity from the RI Foundation. J. Luszczyk stated he is applying for the grant. J. Luszczyk stated he was informed of a grant that Senator J. De la Cruz was putting in as well as one by Representative B. Rea. J. Luszczyk thanked A. Muccino for all he's done. J. Dipietro asked the use of the grants and J. Luszczyk stated the food bank. J. Luszczyk stated he has used a lot of funds for the food bank in response to J. Dipietro's question regarding the amount of funds in the account.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Council members have any questions for Department Heads.

2. Councilor W. Steere asked K. Johnson, Building Official about the two gravel situations in town from last week. K. Johnson stated that the West Glocester issue had the gate locked and no activity. K. Johnson stated that Mr. Colucci met with him on Monday and he has complied with the cease and desist order. K. Johnson stated he will monitor the situation and explained the next step to be taken if necessary. K. Johnson stated that no materials can be brought in and that there is to be no more processing of gravel at that location.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any representatives from our Boards wished to speak.

None

XIII. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone wished to speak and if so to please state your name when you come to the podium.

B. Brown, Glocester Historical Cemeteries, gave an overview of the volunteer group and what they have accomplished since forming in 2019. B. Brown explained that the volunteers are out working on the cemeteries from April through December every Thursday for about 3 hours each time. B. Brown stated that the volunteers also are involved in gravestone repair, gravestone cleaning,

working on tools, documenting details of each cemetery as well as other jobs. B. Brown stated that money being asked for in the budget is important for maintenance in the future . B. Brown stated that 125 of the 128 historical cemeteries are clean and in perpetual care.

Councilor C. Greathouse asked what the money would be used for. B. Brown stated the perpetual care for the 4 large cemeteries that the town gave him money to have professionally cleaned last year. Councilor W. Steere commends B. Brown and all the volunteers.

L. Gaddes Barrett stated her thanks to B. Brown and his group. L.Gaddes Barret stated her opinion that she hopes the Council will support the group.

L. Gaddes Barrett commended J.Luszczyk for the several grants that have been applied for by him or on his behalf.

L. Gaddes Barrett stated her appreciation and thanks for the increased presence of the police at the schools when there was an active shooter incident at the Covenant School in Tenn.

L. Gaddes Barret stated her appreciation for the information she received from the Tax Collector's office and her appreciation for all town employees.

XIV. Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council now needs a motion to convene into executive session:

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

XV. Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure of votes taken in Executive Session & Consideration of the Sealing of Minutes - Discussion and/or Action

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to RECONVENE Open Session; DISCLOSE zero(0) votes were taken in Closed Executive Session; and to SEAL the minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor J. Burlingame- Aye

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

XVI . Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to ADJOURN at 10:20 p.m.; seconded by Councilor C . Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- J. Burlingame, C. Greathouse , W. Steere, S. Arnold , W. Worthy

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED