

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 1, 2023

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 6:45 P.M. by Councilor S. Arnold , Town Council Vice - President.

II. Roll Call

Members present: Cheryl A. Greathouse; Walter M. O. Steere, III; Stephen W. Arnold, Vice President; William A. Worthy, Jr., President (arrived at 6:50 PM)

Member absent: Jonathan E. Burlingame

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor (arrived at 7:30 PM) ; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; Jane Steere, Tax Collector; Gary Trembl, Director Public Works; Gerry Mosca, EMA Director; Karen Scott, Town Planner; Chief Joseph Delprete; Jessica Parker Tax Assessor

III. 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) Any discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to Sessions pertaining to potential litigation or work sessions pertaining to litigation - Discussion and/or Action

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

The Clerk explained to those waiting that they would be let back into the room after executive session.

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Clerk invited all waiting back into the meeting.

IV. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session, Disclose zero (0) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Session; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

OPEN SESSION AT 7:30 P.M.

V. Pledge of Allegiance

The Town Council President asked everyone present to please stand and join in the Pledge of Allegiance

VI. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

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

1. L. Dequattro stated his name and introduced Attorney, M. Smith. D. Igliazzi, Town Solicitor, asked if they were present to speak about the proposed cannabis legislation and if so that there was a public hearing on cannabis on tonight's agenda. L. Dequattro stated that he was present to speak on that matter and signed up to speak during open forum on agenda items. D. Igliazzi stated that he could speak now or he could speak at the public hearing when it is called. L. Dequattro stated he would wait and speak at the public hearing when it is called.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone was here tonight to speak about Pineledge Road. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that a motion could be made to add this topic to the agenda but for discussion purposes only if someone on Council wanted to make a motion. D. Igliazzi explained that the Council may amend the agenda to add an item but it can be for discussion only.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to ADD Pineledge Road repairs- Discussion, to the Agenda for discussion only; seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0
MOTION PASSED

Discussion:

Bob Angelo, resident, stated his confusion as to what is going on with Pineledge Road and thought there would be a decision tonight. Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Town Solicitor needed to speak with the Interlocal Trust and asked D. Iglizzi to explain. D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that the Council is not prepared to vote on this matter tonight. D. Iglizzi is hoping this matter will be on the agenda in the next few weeks. B. Angelo stated his opinion that the Council is not doing their job as to this matter. D. Iglizzi interrupted and stated that the Council is doing their job as to this matter by previously voting to fund this project but that there are still legal issues that need to be resolved. D. Iglizzi asked for B. Angelo's patience. D. Iglizzi stated he feels defensive of the Council because he asked for the matter to be continued so he could do legal research with the insurance trust for the town. D. Iglizzi stated that there are serious safety issues that need to be resolved and he expects to have it soon.

No Action Taken by Council

VII. Public Hearings

A. **CONTINUATION from Public Hearing Opened on May 18, 2023:**

1. Chapter 350-VII Special Regulations, Section 58.1 Cannabis, Addition of :
Cannabis Retail Sales- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was opened on May 18, 2023 and continued to this evening.

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated the Town Solicitor can give an update on his research regarding proposed Section b. Site Conditions, 1.a.

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, stated that this matter was continued for a couple of reasons 1) questions among the Councilors as to what policy they wanted to adopt inside the ordinance; and, 2) there was a request and a letter from an attorney who could not be present at the last meeting who D. Iglizzi suggested the opportunity to be heard be given. D. Iglizzi suggested Council listen to Attorney DeQuattro and anyone else who would like to speak and then continue to deliberate as to what policy they would like to enact.

L. Dequattro, attorney representing William Kapanakis, introduced his colleague, Attorney M. Smith. Attorney Dequattro stated that this is a narrow issue in part of the proposed ordinance which conflicts with state law. Attorney DeQuattro stated that state law allows the Cannabis Commission to approve a license if the property at the time of the application is received is not within 500 feet of a pre-existing public or private K through 12 school unless the town adopts by laws that reduces the distance. L. Dequattro stated that the town can only reduce the distance. L. Dequattro stated that, in his opinion, the proposed ordinance goes well beyond state law by requiring a special use permit for a facility located within 500 feet of a pre existing house of worship, school, public or private park, playground, youth center and licensed daycare center. L. Dequattro further stated that he believes the ordinance goes beyond state law because it includes more uses than pre existing public

and private schools grades K through 12. L. Dequattro stated that he had several cases to provide to Council. M. Smith stated he has done research and listed several cites for cases, (not related to cannabis) which he submitted. M. Smith suggested the Council adopt an ordinance that conforms with state law and stated that the newly formed Cannabis Commission has the authority to make regulations but cannot go beyond state law. Councilor S. Arnold asked the role of the Cannabis Commission. L. Dequattro stated his opinion that the role is to handle the applications and also enforcement. Councilor S. Arnold stated that means they primarily oversee awarding of a license . Councilor S. Arnold asked when the Commission would be up and running. M. Smith stated his opinion about 6 months to a year. L. Dequattro suggested Council adopt an ordinance in line with state law or take a chance that the town would end up in a lawsuit.

Councilor W. Steere asked for guidance from D. Iglizzi. Attorney Iglizzi stated that the applicant was asking for Council discretion with regards to his location. D. Iglizzi stated that issues get convoluted when new legislation is enacted. D. Iglizzi stated his opinion that he does not read the state law in the same way as Attorney Dequattro. D. Iglizzi stated he did consult with the town's insurance defense firm. D. Iglizzi recommended that Council focus on the policy they want but Council should also consider the applicant's request in the policy decision.

D. Iglizzi stated his opinion that the statute has limited control because all applicants , in order to qualify before the Board, have to prove they are in compliance with the town's regulations and the town's zoning. D. Iglizzi stated that it was his opinion that it was not that the town had to be in compliance with the state board but the other way around when considering a license application. D. Iglizzi stated that the state legislature exercised their prerogative by stating they do not want these facilities within 500 feet of a K-12 school. D. Iglizzi stated that the state law contains a provision for local control that allows a town to regulate by location and to regulate by ordinance. D. Iglizzi stated that he feels a daycare facility is similar to kindergarten aged children and feels the town would have a strong argument if it were analyzed.

D. Iglizzi stated that the Council was struggling with the distance and how it was to be measured at the last meeting. D. Iglizzi stated the Council can decide the distance. D. Iglizzi also stated that Councilor J. Burlingame had lots of opinions at the last meeting. D. Iglizzi stated he did submit L. Dequattro's letter at the last meeting and asked for consideration of the applicant. Attorney Iglizzi stated that Council could accept Attorney Dequattro's position and limit the ordinance to K-12.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council received correspondence from the owner of The Learning Place Preschool which he read into the record:

June 1, 2023

Dear Gloucester Town Council and Community Members -

I am writing this letter for the public hearing scheduled for June 1, 2023.

I am the Owner of The Learning Place Preschool located at 19-21 Terry Lane in Chepachet.

My business is licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services as a preschool for children ages three to five. The school is licenced to service 40 children a day, Monday through Friday.

I support including preschools and child care centers to the 500-foot restriction rule that is currently applicable to K-12 schools and cannabis retail sales in RI. Preschool students are just as vulnerable as K-12 students. We currently have 58 families with young children enrolled in our program. I have been the sole owner and operator of the preschool for 25 years (opened January 1998). During this time, I have worked hard to provide a safe learning environment to more than 800 Glocester families. I feel that having cannabis retail sales in close proximity to The Learning Place Preschool would have a negative impact on my business.

Thanks for hearing my concerns.

Bethany Brush Zimnoch
Owner and Director
The Learning Place Preschool
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Worthy stated Council has a balancing act to do what the voters approved but also to do due diligence to facilitate.

Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that preschools are similar to kindergarten and that this law is another example of one size fits all zoning that does not apply to every town. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that the town should not cede control to the state . Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that the town should have a say.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the suggestion by Attorney Iglizzi as to measuring the distance from building to building may alleviate the distance issue. Councilor W. Steere also suggested to not include Land Trust properties as parks as that would also alleviate some issues as to areas. Councilor W. Steere stated both of these were questions at the last meeting. Councilor W. Steere stated that smoking and vaping were already prohibited in Land Trust properties.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the proposed applicant, B. Kapanakis , had measured from building to building. B. Kapanakis stated it was about 120 feet from the bar and restaurant.

Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that Council is to make a town wide policy and not one for just one person. Councilor S. Arnold stated that Land Trust properties already have regulations and they are different from playgrounds. Councilor S. Arnold stated that by not including Land Trust properties as parks it lifts the burden but Council should not be so narrow as to make it virtually impossible for a proposed establishment as the residents are in favor. Councilor S. Arnold was open to a discussion on measuring distance.

D. Iglizzi stated that the state law allows the town to reduce the distance and state law says it is property to property. D. Iglizzi stated Council can work with the definition of how to measure. Councilor S. Arnold stated the possible ways to measure as: entrance to entrance, building to building or property line to property line. Councilor W. Worthy suggested that one way to limit the

issues before Council would be by putting ideas on the table as to what they are comfortable with and /or asked if Council wants to separate out the issues.

Councilor W. Steere made a suggestion that as Land Trust has its own regulations and they are not like Acotes Field or Gloucester Memorial Park that they be excluded from consideration as a park. Councilor S. Arnold agreed. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that Land Trust is not in the proposed ordinance but that Council raised the question of whether or not Land Trust properties are considered parks at a prior meeting. D. Igliazzi stated his recommendation that Council may keep the definition and just exclude Land Trust properties. Councilor W. Steere suggested Council not make any motions tonight.

J. Fecteau suggested that Council might make a decision as to parts of the proposed ordinance such as the zones and the special use permit and leave the site conditions for later. J. Fecteau explained why the zones were selected and also that requiring a special use permit would allow the Zoning Board to review applications and required stipulations. Councilor W. Steere and Councilor S. Arnold stated they are comfortable with the Business 2 areas and Industrial Zones. J. Fecteau stated that she had heard from many people that do not want the retail stores in the Historic District, the Center Village, or in an A-3 Zone as it is denser neighborhoods and also includes schools. J. Fecteau explained that left the proposed B2 and I Zones. Councilor C. Greathouse stated she was in favor of eliminating Land Trust from parks definition.

Councilor S. Arnold stated that Councilor J. Burlingame had some very pointed ideas on site specifics. Councilor W. Steere suggested to not vote tonight and discuss only which would allow Councilor J. Burlingame an opportunity to give input. Councilor W. Steere suggested measuring from building to building as that would open things up so the question would be if Council still wants to keep the 500 feet distance.

D. Igliazzi suggested that there is an opportunity to compromise and that Council could consider a compromise that satisfies the two cases heard tonight .

Councilor W. Worthy asked if anyone else wanted to speak.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONTINUE the PUBLIC HEARING for the proposed amendment to Chapter 350-VII Special Regulations, Section 58.1 Cannabis, Addition of : Cannabis Retail Sales TO June 15, 2023; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Chapter 350 Zoning Attachment 1- Table of Use Regulations . Addition of: Cannabis land use- by Special Use permit in Zone B2 (highway commercial) and Zone I (Industrial)- Discussion and/or action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that if and when the previous proposal is passed relative to Zones permitted: B2 Highway Commercial and Industrial and the Council also votes to require a Special Use Permit for the approval of applications, the Table of Use Regulations chart could be amended to reflect that change.

Discussion: J. Fecteau asked if this matter should also be continued. D. Iglizzi , Town Solicitor, stated his recommendation for the Council to continue this matter in order for all of the cannabis regulations to be considered for adopting at the same time. Councilor W. Steere stated that a continuance would also give Councilor J. Burlingame time to give his input.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to CONTINUE the Public Hearing for the consideration of amendments to Chapter 350 - Table of Use Regulations, for the addition of Cannabis, Retail Sales, to June 15, 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Gloucester Board of Licensing - Discussion and/or Action
 1. Special Event License - Chapter 174- Discussion and/or Action
Applicant/Owner: Albert L. Hill, Sr.
Location: 417 Putnam Pike - Hill's Tavern

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Applicant seeks to amend previously approved (Dec. 15, 2022) Special Event's.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on May 18, 2023 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that when called upon to speak please step to the microphone and state your name for the record.

Discussion:

D. D'Agostino, attorney representing Mr. Hill, stated that he had submitted a special event application, a letter dated May 12, 2023 and an abutters list. Attorney D'Agostino stated that the request is not for a net change in the number of events granted to Mr. Hill in December . Mr. D'Agostino stated that for business reasons, Mr. Hill would like to increase the number of car shows and reduce the number of fund raisers and bike runs. Councilor S. Arnold asked if the request was shifting numbers as to the types. Attorney D'Agostino confirmed.

D. Iglizzi , Town Solicitor, stated that Council may want to take into consideration that some of these events , like concerts, are more controversial than others . D. Iglizzi stated that Council was trying to eliminate, controversial events when these were granted but as some are not as controversial as others that Council could consider giving leeway.

J. Fecteau asked if Mr. Hill had already held two (2) concerts and two (2) car shows. Mr. Hill confirmed that was correct. Councilor S. Arnold stated that a concern with Council was being sensitive to outdoor live music events and if leaving that unchanged then it is not part of the request. Councilor W. Steere asked if there had been amplified music at these events. Mr. Hill stated no.

Attorney D’Agostino stated he is confident that Mr. Hill can meet all restrictions in the licensing structure. Attorney D’Agostino stated that the request is based on business reasons as bike runs and fundraisers have not brought in as much business as car shows.

Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the request makes sense; that there is no net change; it is not intrusive to the neighborhood and that Mr. Hill has been doing well with events.

Attorney Iglizzi stated that Council may want to recommend making revisions as to the total types of events in order for Mr. Hill to not have to come back for a public hearing each time he wants to ask for a change as to the number granted originally. Mr. Hill asked if Council could reserve two fundraisers so he could hold those if there was a need.

Attorney Iglizzi asked if the number of events left were: eight (8) motorcycle runs, two (2) car shows, and eight (8) fundraisers. Mr. Hill confirmed. Councilor S. Arnold stated he was okay with the flexibility but added that Council’s concern had been the live events.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that typically a fundraiser has live music. J. Fecteau stated that Mr. Hill did not have one car show due to the Harmony Fire Chief not being willing to sign off as Mr. Hill’s request was a last minute request. J. Fecteau stated that she cannot issue a license if the Fire Chief does not sign off. J. Fecteau stated that both she and Chief Delprete have been willing to work with Mr. Hill when he has made last minute requests. J. Fecteau suggested Mr. Hill be mindful of the time frame when making a request.

Attorney Iglizzi asked how Council wanted to handle all these events and if they wanted to be flexible. J. Fecteau stated that Mr. Hill asked for all these original events and recommended flexibility so he doesn’t have to have a public hearing each time if he wanted to change a number of a previously granted item.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to GRANT the Special Events for 2023 for Hill’s Tavern, location of business: 417 Putnam Pike:

- 6 Motorcycle Runs
- 10 Car shows
- 2 Fundraisers
- 10 Outdoor live music events

including all stipulations previously attached to Special Events for 2023; seconded by Councilor S.

Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Special Event License - Chapter 175 - Discussion and/or Action
Applicant: Nick Guarino
Owner: Sunrise Associates, LLC
Location: 2469 Putnam Pike - Old Volks Haus

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Applicant seeks to conduct a one day Car Show on said property. Councilor W. Worthy stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze on May 18, 2023 and abutters were notified.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Councilor W. Worthy stated that when called upon to speak please step to the microphone and state your name for the record.

Discussion:

Councilor W. Worthy asked the applicant to describe what he was doing. Nick Guarino, applicant, stated that he was putting together a car show with classic cars and (not decipherable). Mr. Guarino stated there will be no burnouts allowed and he has previously done 13-14 car shows but not in Gloucester . N. Guarino stated the location will be on his property and the old State Line property. N. Guarino specifically stated in front of his shop and within the bricked area of the old State Line property. Councilor W. Worthy asked if he has met with the Fire Chief. J. Fecteau stated that the Fire Chief, Chief Labutti, is not able to attend tonight and forwarded this email to the Town Clerk which Councilor W. Worthy read as follows:

Attached please find the signed application for the Volks Haus car show. I will be out of town during the hearing, so if you could please enter into the record that I do not have any issues with this event as long as it is conducted outside, no scheduled activities within the building. He stated that he will follow all the rules on his application, yet there are no rules listed, someone may want to get some clarification. Thank you.

(End of memo)

Councilor W. Worthy asked about the rules. N. Guarino stated there would be no burnouts, no revving engines, that a portojohn would be on the premises as well as an AED device. Councilor W. Worthy asked if any abutters were present and no one spoke. N. Guarino stated he had spoken to some neighbors and they were excited to come.

Councilor W. Steere asked if he had spoken to the Police Chief. Councilor W. Steere asked as to the expectations as to the number of cars. N. Guarino stated normal amount is about 50. Councilor

W. Steere asked if there would be food trucks or amplified music. N. Guarino stated there would not be food trucks or music. N. Guarino stated he has spoken to the owner of Mr. Z's and they have made an arrangement if anyone wants food.

J. Fecteau stated that the Police Chief has signed off with no comments.

Councilor W. Worthy asked if the Police Chief requested where people were to park. N. Guarino stated that he spoke with the Police Chief who told him that as long as there was no parking in the road and the cars did not block ingress or egress he had no problem. N. Guarino stated cars would be parked side by side with enough room between the rows for a fire truck to get through if needed. Councilor S. Arnold stated he had no questions. J. Fecteau stated she listed some stipulations for Council to consider if they wished.

Councilor w. Worthy asked if anyone else wished to speak.

Councilor W. Worthy DECLARED the Public Hearing Closed.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to GRANT the Special Event-One Day Licence to Applicant: Nick Guarino, Owner: Sunrise Associates, LLC, Location: 2469 Putnam Pike - Old Volks Haus for a car show to be held on June 10, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with the following stipulations:

1. No on street parking is allowed.
2. No alcoholic beverages allowed on premises
3. Per, Fire Chief, no indoor activities may be offered.
4. No amplified music

seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

- A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular meeting of May 4, 2023 and May 18, 2023; Special meeting of May 11, 2023

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of May 4th, May 18th, and May 11th, 2023; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. 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- 4 positions

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has not received any additional recommendations, and asked if Council wanted a motion to table.

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

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere recommended that the Town Planner review the charge for this board to make sure it is current with what is expected and needs to be done in today's environment. J. Fecteau stated that there is new affordable housing legislation but she is not sure how it factors in to the town plan which was done some time ago. K. Scott, Town Planner agreed to review the charge.

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. EDC-Position # 2- two year term to expire 12/2024

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Clerk has not received a recommendation at this time. Councilor W. Worthy stated that if Council has a name from Talent Bank listing then you can appoint or table.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the EDC, Position #2; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

X. New Business

A. Economic Development - Town Branding Initiative presentation - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Berni MacArthur, Chair of the EDC, will discuss the EDC's Town Branding Initiative.

Discussion:

A. Sarji , Vice chair of EDC, stated the folks who have given EDC branding information are located in North Carolina . A. Sarji stated that they were hoping for a zoom link to be able to talk to the Council and answer any questions. A. Sarji said that they are unable to attend because zoom is not a possibility.

A. Sarji stated that EDC was approached by the Scarecrow committee to assist in planning the Scarecrow Festival. A. Sarji stated that the Scarecrow committee is coming to the next meeting of EDC to make a presentation.

A. Sarji stated that the Council at their last meeting talked about EDC's budget and she stated that EDC does not currently have a budget. A. Sarji stated that if EDC is going to support the Scarecrow Festival which is very important to the community then she wants to make sure EDC gets at least the budget they requested back if not even more. A. Sarji stated her opinion that B. MacArthur, EDC Chair had great conversations with the branding company that A. Sarji had been working with prior called Destinations by Design.

B. MacArthur stated that Destinations by Design typically speak in person only in response to an existing Request for Purchase (RFP). B. MacArthur stated her contact at Destinations by Design suggested that the RFP process be started and that any funding that might be approved could be contingent upon the results of the RFP process. B. MacArthur stated that if no firm meets the expectations that no contract would be awarded. B. MacArthur stated that EDC has reached the end of what they feel they can present to the Council.

Councilor W. Steere stated that EDC has done a lot of work but it is Council that decides that makes the decision as to if and how branding may get funded. Councilor W. Steere described the RFP process as follows: a decision to fund is made by Council, then an RFP is written which gets sent out and then the applicants are reviewed in order for Council to determine if a commitment may be made. Councilor W. Steere asked if EDC was going to screen all applicants and send to Council for a determination. B. MacArthur stated EDC has an indicative proposal from Destinations by Design where they advised on the \$25,000 that EDC has presented before. Councilor W. Steere stated that Council doesn't know the amount available and that the ask was for \$25,000.

A. Sarji stated that EDC needs to know if the Council believes this is a worthwhile effort or not and if the Council needs more information then EDC needs to move on to the RFP process. A. Sarji stated that EDC can't give more and that they believe strongly in the branding project. Councilor W. Steere stated that he supports the concept but that his concern is the return on investment (ROI). A. Sarji stated that the Council won't get those answers unless an expert is here in front of you. B. MacArthur stated she has reached out to five (5) municipalities who have done this branding but she has not heard back yet.

B. MacArthur stated that she thought the EDC was a number on the ARPA list for \$25,000. Councilor W. Steere stated that \$25,000 was the ask but that the number is not funded until Council votes. Councilor W. Steere stated that the amount could be more, the same or nothing.

A. Sarji stated that EDC has been before the Council multiple times and that they have support from the community. A. Sarji stated EDC needs Council to make a commitment or not.

Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion that branding is a cool concept but he also want to know more about the ROI as well as review the information sent to Councilor J. Burlingame. Councilor S. Arnold stated that he does not want EDC to feel like they are wasting their time but \$25,000 is a lot of money without understanding the ROI. Councilor S. Arnold also stated that there are other budgetary considerations for EDC on top of this initiative. Councilor S. Arnold stated he would like

to see the information that Councilor J. Burlingame has and what the responses are from the contacted municipalities. B. MacArthur stated that the RFP needs to be filled out to get documented information.

Councilor W. Worthy stated he is a big fan of EDC and sometimes government is slow because of the need to check information before Council spends the people's money. Councilor Worthy stated ROI is important. Councilor W. Worthy stated he trusts the EDC leadership to bring forth information but \$25,000 is a lot of money especially when we have been through some crazy years with the budget. Councilor W. Worthy stated he supports the idea but needs back up information.

A. Sarji stated that Council will not get that information unless they move to the RFP process. A. Sarji stated the North Carolina company will travel if they think there is the possibility of a contract. A. Sarji stated the company was ready to go two days ago on zoom and they were very disappointed when they had to cancel. Councilor W. Worthy asked if the company would answer a list of questions. B. MacArthur (inaudible). A. Sarji stated the company would be happy to answer all questions on a video and that they have been phenomenal to work with. A. Sarji stated that EDC wants to do the right thing and they get that they are stewards of town money. Councilor W. Worthy stated that he is hearing on the street that the logo costs \$25,000 and he does know there is that perception so that is why Council needs to answer all questions.

Councilor W. Steere stated a summary of the situation in that : EDC wants the Council to authorize an RFP which will give all information needed for the Council to consider about branding. B. MacArthur stated that a clause would be added that any contract is contingent upon approval and a contract may also not be awarded. Councilor W. Steere stated that EDC needs to make sure Destinations by Design knows they may not get the contract. A. Sarji stated that Destinations by Design knows that nothing is guaranteed.

D. Igliazzi recommended that the RFP for EDC could be on the next agenda but that the agenda item before the Council tonight is a presentation on branding. D. Igliazzi also stated that the Council may not spend any money.

Councilor W. Steere asked if EDC would be able to prepare an RFP for the next Council meeting on June 15, 2023. A. Sarji and B. MacArthur both stated they could prepare an RFP for the next meeting on June 15.

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to authorize EDC to come up with an RFP to present to the Council on June 15 at their regularly scheduled meeting; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Personnel

1. Public Safety - Animal Control

a. Two Part-Time Animal Control Shelter Workers - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has received a request from the Chief which he read as follows:

TO: Don Zimmerman
From: Chief Joseph DelPrete
Date: May 23, 2023
Subject: Part-Time Animal Control Shelter Workers

I would respectfully request to appoint Everett LaMountain age 33, of Smithfield and Amelia Campanella age 21, of Gloucester to shelter worker position at Gloucester Animal Control.

This position is a shelter feed and clean only position with no more than (8) hours a week when needed, and when the ACO and Asst. ACO are on vacation or sick leave. The Assistant ACO will be out on extended sick leave this summer whereas this position will assist in maintaining normal operations at the shelter.

I would request that both candidates be paid \$17.00 per hour, receive no fringe benefits, and start the week of June 1, 2023. This position is further contingent on both applicants successfully passing a police back ground investigation. Amelia Campanella hours will be limited to this summer and when on break from her school schedule.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph DelPrete, Chief of Police
(end of memo)

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Chief has worked with the acting HR Director who is in agreement with appointments pending background checks and required forms (I-9, W-4) being filed.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere asked if these positions would impact the current budget. Chief Delprete stated that they would not impact the current budget. Chief Delprete stated that when the current ACO assistant is not there these people will fill in and it will be at a lower rate than the Assistant ACO would get. Chief Delprete stated they advertised for about a month and received excellent applications. Chief Delprete stated that they would be cleaning only .

MOTION was made by Councilor C. Greathouse to APPOINT Everett LaMountain and Amelia Campanella to the position of part-time Animal Control Shelter Workers at an hourly wage of \$17.00 per hour, no fringe benefits, not to exceed 8 hours per week and starting the week of June 1, 2023. Both appointments are contingent upon successful BCI checks and the necessary paperwork filings; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Bldg/Zoning Dept.
 - a. Consideration/Approval of Vacation Carry Over - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that the Building/Zoning Office has submitted the following request which he read as follows:

May 26, 2023

TO Town Council Members
FROM Denise Cadoret, Building Office Clerk
RE Carry over unused Vacation Hours

I am writing to ask permission to carry over 27 hours of my unused vacation time. Unfortunately it is not the best time in my Department to take time off with Ken's absence.
(End of memo)

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that this matter should be approved. Councilor W. Steere stated that this employee is dedicated and has not used the time as Ken (K.Johnson, Building Official) is out. Councilor w. Steere stated that the Council does not do this very often. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that these matters are typically approved by the department head so she included pending department head approval in Council notes.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to AUTHORIZE the carry over 27 hours of vacation time for Denise Cadoret, Building Office Clerk, pending Department Head written approval; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- C. ARPA Funds: Consideration of use for town park planning - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated this item was previously discussed.

Discussion:

K. Scott, Town Planner, stated that master planning is a way to meet the short and long term needs of the town particularly around recreation. K. Scott stated that many groups have come forward and asked for money (i.e. ARPA funds). K. Scott stated that a master plan is a good way to balance the competing needs but also to realistically look at how all fit together. K. Scott stated that a master plan would also give a third party the responsibility for conceiving the input. K. Scott stated it would take all the information and be able to give the town options to balance all the needs. K. Scott stated that a master plan would give preparation and public input; prepare the design options for each park;

prepare the cost estimate for each park and then finalize the plans. K. Scott recognizes that the money could also just be put into the park so what is the reason for a master plan. K. Scott stated that doing a master plan will save money and time because this type of plan would still have to be done when a decision is made to do the park. K. Scott explained that as long as the state opens the grant application process as they have done then there will be an opportunity to apply for those grants. K. Scott stated that the last grant the town received was for \$400,000 and a smaller one of \$100,000 so every two years the town has an opportunity to apply for \$500,000 in grants. K. Scott stated that one major question in the process from the state is whether the town has plans and a master plan would be very helpful in the grant process to show the town does have plans. K. Scott stated that the town can do each part piece meal but the plans have to be done anyway so it gives the town more leverage in the grant process if there is a master plan.

Councilor W. Steere asked if the town would be in a better position to get grants if there was a master plan. K. Scott stated that it would because every grant application would start with a statement that references the master plan which is something the state likes to see.

Councilor S. Arnold asked if there would be more grant opportunities coming this fall. K. Scott stated that if the state follows the same schedule as they have in the past then every two years the grants have alternated between recreation and open space. K. Scott stated that this fall would be recreation. Councilor S. Arnold asked if the master plan would be for all of Winsor Park and part two of Gloucester Memorial Park (GMP). K. Scott confirmed. Councilor S. Arnold stated that a master plan would also give the DPW a plan to work with and K. Scott agreed.

Councilor W. Steere asked if there were ARPA funds available as this was important for many reasons as K. Scott has stated. Councilor w. Steere stated that the work does need to be done; that the results at GMP are fantastic ; and it would give the town a leg up in the grant process. Councilor S. Arnold asked if there are people on deck who could have something ready when the grant process opens in the fall. K. Scott stated that she would need to prepare a scope of work and would probably reach out to the company used at GMP because they were on the state MPA and were familiar with the project. Councilor S. Arnold asked about the money. K. Scott explained that she contacted the company that did the work at GMP to come out and look at Winsor Park and the remaining work at GMP. K. Scott stated the \$40,000 was the high end of the range given to her by that company.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to set aside an amount not to exceed \$40,000 from ARPA funds to go towards the master planning for our town parks; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

D. Town Council 2023 Summer Meeting Schedule - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor W. Worthy stated that Council has chosen to eliminate one or two meetings each summer. Councilor W. Worthy stated that for the past five years there has been one meeting in July, and one or two in August.

Discussion: Councilor W. Steere stated his opinion that the meeting not be held on July 6th as that is the 4th of July week but that he would not recommending cutting any others. Councilor S. Arnold stated his opinion to have one in July and keep the two regular meetings in August. Councilor S. Arnold also recommended no meeting on the week of July 4th and suggested a date of July 13th. J. Fecteau stated that it is hard to change a regularly scheduled meeting date and that no matter where we advertise some people may not know. Councilor W. Steere stated that a special meeting could also be called if needed.

MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to advertise the annual 2023 meeting calendar amendment to reflect the following: There shall be one (1) Town Council meeting on July 20, 2023 and two (2) regular Town Council meeting(s) in August 2023; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

XI. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Council received a FEMA notice regarding Flood Zone meetings. This has been passed on to the Town Planner.

2. Councilor W. Steere had several items to discuss.

Councilor W. Steere suggested EDC might look at the state master price list for the branding.

Councilor W. Steere stated that the Scarecrow Festival is an amazing event but it is not a town event but it sounds like the people running it want to make it a town event. Councilor W. Steere stated that is an issue because it has not been budgeted and there is the question of does the town even want to take on this responsibility. Councilor W. Steere stated his concern about whether or not a town board has the authority to accept such a responsibility without Town Council approval and if they have the funds to do such a festival. Councilor W. Steere asked M. Wright , EDC member , if she had any information to add.

M. Wright stated that she knows it is a private event. Councilor W. Steere stated that it sounds like EDC wants the town to take it over. M. Wright stated that EDC was approached about the festival. Councilor W. Steere stated that the Scarecrow festival probably should have come to the Council. M. Wright stated it would be sad to lose such an event. Councilor W. Steere stated that need to find out what is going on.

Councilor W. Steere thanked Councilors C. Greathouse and W. Worthy for the Memorial Day Parade. Councilor W. Steere thanked B. Shields for all his work in organizing the Memorial Day parade as well as the chief, Capt. Fague , the veterans and all who helped .

Councilor W. Steere stated that boards and commissions have a regular meeting schedule and he raised a concern about meetings not being held in the summer.

Councilor W. Steere asked how to communicate to the boards and commissions that there is no summer schedule. J. Fecteau stated that if the clerk's office learns there will be no quorum ahead of

time that they post a notice on the doors so the public have notice. J. Fecteau stated that last summer several boards took the summer off. J. Fecteau stated that they can't do that because the annual calendar has to be advertised in January and people rely on it. J. Fecteau stated that her office could send an email to all boards and commissions.

XII. Department Head Reports/Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Department Heads wished to speak or any Councilor wish to speak.

1. Chief Delprete stated that Special Olympics opens tomorrow so the Torch run will be running through town tomorrow morning.

Chief Delprete stated that he and M. Floor , IT Director, have been working with Saccoccio Associates as to a needs assessment for the police. Chief Delprete stated test holes would be the next step. Chief Delprete stated that the estimates were high. Chief Delprete will bring the plans to Council.

Jessica Parker, Tax Assessor, presented the Council with proposed legislation on tangibles and its potential effect. J. Parker stated she included other potential legislation she is tracking. J. Fecteau stated her concern as to why none of our representatives reached out to the town. Councilor W. Worthy stated some of these bills have been talked about or introduced from the RI League of Cities and towns .

XIII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

Councilor W. Worthy asked if any Boards or Commission wished to speak or any Councilor wish to speak.

Councilor W. Worthy thanked B. Shields, Recreation Director, for a great job on the parade.

XIV. Open Forum

Councilor W. Worthy stated that anyone wishing to speak on any item may come to the microphone when called on and state their name for the record.

W. Steere, resident, suggested that EDC contact local high schools, middle schools or colleges schools for branding help and stated his opinion that he does not think the town needs advertising. W. Steere stated the town needs to be careful with money and that branding may not be the best use of ARPA funds.

XV. MOTION was made by Councilor S. Arnold to Seek to Convene to Closed Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(1)“Any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that the person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting”- Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) “Sessions pertaining to potential litigation, or work sessions pertaining to potential litigation”- Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council seconded by Councilor W. Steere

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that the employee was notified.

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

All attendees were reminded that they would be re admitted after executive session.

After Executive Session:

All attendees waiting were invited back into the room.

XVI. MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to Reconvene Open Session - Disclose three (3) votes were taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor S. Arnold

Discussion: Councilor W. Worthy stated that the employee was notified.

VOTE: Councilor Worthy asked the Clerk to Poll the Council

Councilor C. Greathouse- Aye

Councilor W. Steere- Aye

Councilor S. Arnold - Aye

Councilor W . Worthy-Aye

MOTION PASSED

XVII. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor W. Steere to ADJOURN at 11:02 p.m.; seconded by Councilor C. Greathouse

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

