

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on June 2, 2022;

I. Call to Order

The meeting was Called to Order at 7:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members present: William E. Reichert , President; Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President; Stephen Arnold; William A. Worthy, Jr.; David Laplante

Also Present: Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk; David Iglizzi, Town Solicitor; Christine Mathieu, Deputy Town Clerk; Adam Muccino, Finance Director; Robert Shields, Recreation Director; K. Johnson, Building and Zoning Official; and J. Luszcz, Human Services Director

III. Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Open Forum - For Agenda Items

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone present wished to speak on agenda items.

None

V. Public Hearings

A. SPECIAL EVENT LICENSE -To include live outdoor amplified music- Discussion and/or Action

Applicant: Mulberry Vineyards

Location: 95 Pound Road

Councilor Reichert stated this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on May 19, 2022 and abutters were notified.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN, and stated the following:

The application for Special Events asks for:

Outdoor amplified music

(Two to three musicians with guitars and/or singing)

14 events

June 12th & 26th

July 10th & 31st

August 7th & 21st

Sept. 4th & 18th

October 2nd & 16th

and there is a note on the application that there may be two food truck events.

Councilor Reichert stated that anyone wishing to speak shall come to the microphone when called and state their name and address for the record.

Councilor Reichert asked if the applicant was present to explain the request before the Council.

Discussion: David Wright, applicant/owner of Mulberry Vineyard, addressed the Council. D. Wright stated that the winery added a single guitar with a singer in the past few years. Councilor Reichert asked if there would be food trucks. D. Wright stated that once in a while they would have a food truck but not often.

Councilor Laplante asked if the music was amplified or acoustic. D. Wright explained that the music is an acoustic guitar plugged into an amplifier so it is amplified. Councilor Arnold stated that he has spoken to several neighbors and it seems that the initial music was not a problem but as time has gone on the music has gotten louder. D. Wright stated that it is two musicians- one singer and a guitar and the singer does have a large following who attend the winery. Councilor Worthy asked K. Johnson, Building and Zoning Official, if the property is in compliance with town regulations. K. Johnson stated that the property is in A-4 which is farming district and that there are latitudes within that district that are allowed. J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that the applicant came before Planning and Zoning in 2012 and they needed to apply for and obtain a special use permit which did not specify music as part of the application. J. Fecteau stated they did obtain the land use approvals and that whatever is stated in the approval, as to events, would still need to have an application. Councilor Reichert asked if anyone present wished to speak and the following individuals came forward and spoke.

R. Dietzel, resident and president of the Homeowners Association at Country Meadows of Gloucester, stated that the music was louder last year. R. Dietzel stated that he has lived in town for about 35 years and moved here for the peace and quiet. R. Dietzel stated that he is against amplified music of any sort at the winery.

R. Batiste, resident of Country Meadows, stated that the volume is so strong that even if he shuts the windows he can still hear the music. R. Batiste stated that he moved to Gloucester two years ago from Cranston to be able to enjoy the quiet.

M. Sullivan, Gloucester resident, stated that he is the primary musician at Mulberry Vineyards, and the music is amplified acoustic guitar from 1 to 4 pm on Sunday. M. Sullivan stated that the female singer does have a more piercing and louder voice. M. Sullivan stated that no one is trying to upset anyone. M. Sullivan stated that applicant is just trying to conduct business and that the winery is a secondary business and not a large commercial winery. M. Sullivan stated that it is one person using an amplified guitar and that decibels would be a different conversation. M. Sullivan stated his opinion that the owners be granted the license as they are family oriented and trying to do the right thing by applying for the license. Councilor Arnold stated that what he has heard is that the volume is much louder than a few years ago. M. Sullivan stated that a decibel reader would be an objective way to measure the sound.

C. Depetrillo, resident, stated that he recognizes the hard work of applicant and that he agrees with M. Sullivan. C. Depetrillo stated that he has never been disturbed by the decibel levels; and, his son caddies a lot of the customers so he is supportive of the business which enables his son to learn about hard work. C. Depetrillo stated that the crowds do vary but the issue tonight seems to be one day and

they also have a right to enjoy their property so he hopes the council grants the license.

R. Rogers, Country Meadows resident, stated that he was not able to enjoy his property last year because of the loud amplified music. R. Rogers stated that he recognizes the hard work of the owner/applicant but he does not want amplified music.

K. Lavoie, resident, stated that there was never an issue with the music until last year when the music changed from acoustical to amplified. K. Lavoie stated the music is too loud. K. Lavoie stated his opinion that the winery seems to be changing to an event destination venue. K. Lavoie stated that parking is also an issue especially when there are events and cars are lined up on the road.

D. Colantonio, resident, stated that he and the owners had a prior close relationship. D. Colantonio stated that he tried on numerous times to have the owner turn the loud music down but it did not happen. D. Colantonio stated that he is fine with acoustic music but not any amplified outside music and that traffic is an issue. D. Colantonio stated that when one singer is present that the number of people is very large; parking and garbage on the roadside is also an issue. D. Colantonio stated that he is okay with amplified music inside and acoustic outside.

R. Batiste , resident, stated that he is a working musician and explained that acoustic means no amplification whereas acoustic amplified means an acoustic electric guitar that uses amplification as well as the P.A. system used by the singer. R. Baptiste stated that the sound can be controlled through decibels.

M. Sullivan, resident, stated he agrees with R. Batiste as to the term acoustic, amplified and controlling the sound. M. Sullivan stated that outside it has always been amplified and he has never used drum machines. M . Sullivan stated his opinion that there needs to be an objective measure using decibels and would like the permit with amplified music granted .

B. Guthrie, resident, stated his concerns about the parking on Pound Road and asked if there was a parking plan so there would be no parking on Pound Road.

D. Wright, applicant and owner, stated that the parking lot is used but that parking does occur on the street, only on one side . D. Wright stated that it is a family place. D. Wright stated that they have owned the business for nine (9) years without any problems or citations. D. Wright stated that the customers asked for music and it is on Sunday from 1-4 PM and that he is requesting only 9-14 events for the entire year. Councilor Reichert asked if D. Wright sold tickets. D. Wright stated that no tickets are sold. D. Wright stated that it is a family oriented place where families come with food and spend the afternoon and that having outside music is a nice addition.

Councilor Laplante asked if there is an inside venue and the size. D. Wright stated that they do not do music inside anymore and that the building is 30 feet by 40 feet. D. Wright stated that the music is outside to accommodate the customers who set up picnics outside. Councilor Laplante asked if there was room to expand the parking lot. D. Wright stated that he currently can have 120 cars and there is room to expand. Councilor Laplante asked where D. Wright sells . D. Wright stated that he sells to the liquor store in town, the Tavern on Main and at his winery.

Councilor Worthy asked the acreage at the winery. D. Wright stated 35-42 acres. Councilor Worthy asked if the stage could be relocated and D. Wright stated he would consider moving the stage. Councilor Worthy stated his opinion that all involved should work together to reach a middle compromise.

Councilor Laplante stated the example of another location in town that had an issue with the neighbors that was worked out between all the parties but it took time and work and the establishment catered to the neighbors to solve the issue. Councilor Laplante stated that a change was needed.

D. Wright described where he could move the stage to change the direction of the sound; that he wants to make everyone happy ; that he only wants to do the music 1-4 PM; that he could have the stage moved by the first requested event; and, that he is open to other options.

D. Colantonio stated his frustration with asking for the sound to be turned down over the years and it has not been done. D. Colantonio stated his opinion that this winery has become a concert venue and that he has the right , as do all, to use and enjoy his property.

C. Depretillo, resident, stated that he is an engineer and offered to work with the applicant as to a layout to help solve the parking issue and the location of the stage.

T. Gendron, resident, stated that in his opinion these are good people but that the music is loud and he can hear it from a quarter mile away. T. Gendron stated that 1/4 of a mile away he can hear the music and voices over the amplifier. T. Gendron also raised the issue that parking on the road is a hazard for the neighborhood. T. Gendron stated there is a lot of traffic, including boat trailer, trucks, etc. and that neighborhood road narrows quite a bit. T. Gendron stated that residents have a right to peace and quiet in the neighborhood. Mr. Gendron suggested they get a business location on Route 44 and not in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

Councilor Steere also spoke of another establishment in town that had issues with the neighbors about music and that a compromise was worked out between all parties. Councilor Steere stated that the establishment talked to the neighbors and communicated with them to solve the problem. Councilor Steere asked if any of the neighbors present tonight have spoken to applicant and a few had. Councilor Steere asked if the applicant has spoken to any of the neighbors across the street and the applicant's wife stated that she walks through the neighborhood regularly and speaks to the residents.

Captain Fague, Gloucester Police, stated that he was not aware of any complaints except as to parking. Captain Fague stated that communication was an issue and that there needs to be a middle ground. Captain Fague described the issues with parking on the road as it is narrow , curvy and used as an access to get to the other side of town. Captain Fague recognized that what is being described as a potential problem with the number of people. Captain Fague asked about servers and the requirements necessary for an establishment which applicant stated he was complying with all state laws relative to wineries.

Councilor Steere stated that there needs to be a common ground which both parties should try to work towards as they both have certain rights regarding their property.

Councilor Steere stated the applicant has said he is willing to work on sound ,parking and the siting of the stage. Councilor Steere stated that as the licensing board the Council has options if there is a verified complaint.

R. Batiste stated that sound is subjective and it is hard to verify the sound. R. Batiste stated that as a musician if someone complains about the loud sound that the simplest solution is to just turn it down.

Councilor Laplante stated that having a decibel level doesn't solve the problem but turning the sound down does. Councilor Laplante stated that the neighbors are the ones who need to complain to the police when the sound is too loud. Councilor Laplante gave the example of an establishment in town that he had issues with previously as to noise by calling the police for verification and documentation. Councilor Laplante described how it is now worked out because a reasonable conclusion was reached . Councilor Laplante stated that the sound stops when it is supposed to and they don't turn the music up. Councilor Laplante stated that a solution can be reached but the that parties all need to compromise and that it will be an ongoing process. Councilor Laplante stated that everyone needs to be treated fairly. Councilor Laplante stated the purpose of this business was to drink/purchase some wine and maybe listen to a little music not to be a music venue and the wine is secondary, which isn't what a winery is all about.

Captain Fague is concerned about public safety and stated that the neighbors need to contact the central desk each time they have an issue and ask for an officer to come.

R. Batiste suggested that if the sound is too loud for the two closest neighbors they should complain, ask applicant to turn it down, use the decibel reader keep it there any time there is music. D. Colantonio stated he has tried that approach in the past and it did not work.

Councilor Worthy stated we are here now trying to come to a conclusion that makes everyone happy.

J. Fecteau, Town Clerk, stated that other venues in town do have a capacity and she clarified that a food truck requires a separate permit from the clerk's office.

Unknown speaker , asked how this individual could use the property this way. J. Fecteau stated that the applicant was granted permission by the Planning and Zoning offices and that she could send the speaker a copy of the minutes describing what was authorized.

Councilor Steere stated that each location for these types of establishments is different and must be considered . D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor, confirmed that a property owner has the right to use their property in a reasonable way so long as it complies with regulations.

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone else would like to speak.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

Discussion: Councilor Steere suggested the Council may consider limiting the number of events. Councilor Laplante stated that applicant lists ten events and applicant is asking for 10-14 events. Councilor Arnold stated that the issue is noise. Councilor Arnold stated that if the volume is addressed then there should not be an issue and that the parking issue can be solved. Councilor Steere stated parking can be addressed on site and it can not be on the street. J. Fecteau suggested the motion be specific especially as to any conditions. Councilor Steere stated that perhaps June 12th can be a trial run to see how it goes and if there is a problem then the Council, as the licensing body, can look at it again. Councilor Arnold suggested maybe two dates in June. Councilor Laplante asked if Council could grant the ten events can the Council let the other events go. Councilor Steere stated that there would need to be another public hearing. D. Igliazzi stated that the Council could limit the number of events but then applicant would need to follow the same process of applying to the Council all over again including a public hearing and filing fees. D. Igliazzi reminded the Council that in this matter they are the licensing board which mandates due process. D. Igliazzi stated that if Council grants the ten requested events and there is a problem then Council can only remove the number of events by a show cause hearing with the presentation of evidence. Captain Fague stated that there could be no parking on the road and no cones in the road. D. Igliazzi stated that Council may consider the safety issues of capacity and parking. J. Fecteau stated that each time an event is to be held the applicant would have to come to the clerk's office and fill out an application which is sent each time to the police and fire departments. Councilor Worthy asked if June 12 and June 26 were test events would we have time to apply in full for the next meeting. J. Fecteau stated that a public hearing would be required and there needs to be enough time to advertise and she reminded Council that the summer calendar is on tonight's agenda. Councilor Laplante suggested doing four possible events and that applicant could apply for the other six events. Councilor Arnold likes the idea of two or three events as the issues are volume and public safety. Councilor Laplante stated that if applicant receives three events and there is a problem, the applicant should recognize that he would not recommend granting anymore licenses. D. Igliazzi stated that a show cause hearing requires notice to applicant, police and fire department and must be posted but not advertised. Councilor Reichert suggested the police give the applicant some no parking signs. Captain Fague described how a show cause hearing would be prepared and run with a decision that night. Councilor Reichert stated that the key is for the neighbors to be happy. Councilor Laplante asked applicant if he was planning any other events on any other dates besides the three potential one. Applicant stated that he was not. Councilor Laplante stated that these are the only three dates that can occur. Councilor Steere asked if it was amplified. J. Fecteau stated that we allow non plugged in music without a license. D. Igliazzi stated that the motion should be clear as to amplified or not. Councilor Worthy stated that this matter is about trying to find a middle ground between all parties.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to GRANT the request for Special Event Licenses for 2022 by Applicant: Mulberry Vineyards; Location: 95 Pound Road; pursuant to Code of Ordinance, Chapter 174:

3 outdoor events with the following stipulations:

1. The filing of an application 6 business days prior to each event.

2. Crowd management and parking plan filed with each application.
3. No on-street parking allowed on Pound Road.
4. The approval of the Chief of Police and the Fire Chief.
5. This approval may be rescinded by the Town Council for just cause.
6. Compliance with the Special Event Ordinance.
7. Outdoor amplified music is allowed June 12th, June 26th, and July 10th 2022, from 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Councilor Worthy questioned whether the neighbors would come together to talk prior to the first event. (Resident spoke, not at microphone)

VOTE: Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
 Councilor Worthy -Aye
 Councilor Laplante -Aye
 Councilor Steere -Aye
 Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

B. ISSUANCE OF A NEW VICTUALING LICENSE- Discussion and/or Action
 Applicant: Chepachet Gas & Market , LLC by Tarek Yatim
 Location: 1163 Putnam Pike

Councilor Reichert stated that this public hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on May 19th, May 26th, and June 2nd, 2022.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN

Councilor Reichert stated that the applicant states on their application that they would like to provide “food service”. Councilor Reichert asked if the applicant is present to explain their intentions.

Discussion: D. Dorval spoke on behalf of the applicant (applicant not able to attend). D. Dorval stated that applicant would like to sell food such as hot dogs, nachos, slushies etc . Councilor Steere asked if there were any other plans and D. Dorval stated no.

Councilor Reichert asked if anyone else would like to speak regarding the application for food service.

Hearing none, Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to GRANT the request for a Victualing License for Applicant: Chepachet Gas & Market, LLC; Location: 1163 Putnam Pike; contingent upon:

1) payment of all Town taxes; 2) Building/Zoning approval as needed; 3). Fire and/or Police approval as needed; 4) current Health Department approval; 5) current Food Manager Certificate; and 6) current Rhode Island Permit to Make Sales; this license shall be for the interior of the premise only and is valid to November 30, 2022; seconded by; Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VI. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes : Regular Meeting of May 19th, 2022; Emergency Meeting of May 25th, 2022.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to APPROVE the Town Council Minutes of May 19th, 2022 and the Emergency Meeting minutes of May 25, 2022; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

a. Recreation Commission

1. Position # 1- One unexpired term to expire 12/31/22

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation, Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to APPOINT Andrew Dunn to the Recreation Commission, Position #1 for a term to expire 12/31/2022 ; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Economic Development Commission

1. Position #2 - Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic

Development Commission, Position #2; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Position # 4- Two year term to expire 12/31/2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment to the Economic Development Commission, Position #4; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

c. Budget Board

1. Position # 3- One unexpired term to end 12/31/2023

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation at this time and unless a Councilor has a recommendation Council can table.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the appointment to the Budget Board, Position #3; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

d. Parade Committee

1. Alternate #1
2. Alternate #2
3. Position # 8
4. Position # 9

Councilor Reichert stated that there is no recommendation from Chair, Council can refer to talent bank listing.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante TO TABLE the open positions: Alternate 1 & 2; and Positions 8 & 9 on the Parade Committee; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. American Rescue Plan Act Funds

1. INTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action

a. Land Acquisition

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE Land Acquisition Internal Program; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Internal Request: Accounting Information System software for Finance Dept. - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this item was tabled for more information.

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated that the amount of \$76,000 is the sufficient starting point of funding based on his research. Councilor Laplante stated his concern that a proposal he would like to make may take money from others so maybe we should wait. J. Fecteau stated that she knows Council is still hearing requests and suggested that Council may want to listen to all requests and come back at another time after having an opportunity to study and think about each before making final decisions. Councilor Laplante stated that he has a concern which he requested to be on the agenda regarding school security and that request may involve ARPA funding which may result in other requests not being filled. A. Muccino verified that the Council has three years to spend ARPA funding and that his request is not an urgent one. Councilor Laplante stated his opinion that the school safety issue for funding is important. Councilor Worthy agrees with Councilor Laplante.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to TABLE the internal request : accounting information system software for the Finance Department; seconded by Councilor Reichert

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. EXTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action

a. Economic Development Commission – Marketing Materials.

Councilor Reichert stated that this item was tabled pending more information on the oversight of the branding program.

Discussion: A. Sarje, EDC Chair, stated that this matter is about branding and marketing of

Glocester using ARPA funds and that K. Scott, Town Planner , has spoken to both Councilor Laplante and Councilor Arnold. A. Sarje stated that she understands the need for priorities with the ARPA funds and she respectfully feels that this matter is an important for the town.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the Economic Development Commission – Marketing Materials; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

b. Gloucester Little League - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that no action was taken at last meeting. Councilor Reichert stated that Little League stated they would seek out a commitment from the Cemetery Association.

Discussion: Councilor Arnold commented on the fact that A. Sarje has been before the council four times and the matter has been tabled each time so he is asking Council to study the proposed potential ARPA requests so the matter may be settled.

P. McKenney, Gloucester Little League (GLL) , stated that the last time he was before the Council the GLL was requesting \$50,000 and that Council asked the GLL to correspond with the Cemetery Association as the land belongs to the Association and not the town. P. McKenny stated that he received correspondence from the Cemetery Association stating that they have no plans to end the lease with GLL for the next 20-25 years . P. McKenney explained his request for money to fix the fields. Councilor Steere stated that every year GLL has the opportunity to come before the town’s budget board and request funds. Councilor Steere stated that GLL is not a town program and that requests have been granted in the past from the town’s Budget Board. Councilor Steere asked if the GLL has considered using other fields like Gloucester Memorial Park (GMP). P. McKenney stated that GMP would have to be flipped due to the issue of the sun and he feels it would be costly. Councilor Arnold stated his opinion that it would be less costly to update Acotes than GMP. Councilor Laplante stated that his concern is that Acotes is not town owned. Councilor Arnold clarified that part of the grant for GMP required a diverse use and not a single use. Councilor Steere stated that Winsor Field may be a future field to use. Councilor Worthy added that the field would need to be usable and safe for adults too as Winsor Park is like running through sand. J. Fecteau stated that the matter can be tabled if Council chooses.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE Gloucester Little League, ARPA funds; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

VIII. New Business

A. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

1. Senior Center- Meal site kitchen aide

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from Don Zimmerman, acting HR Director, which he read as follows:

TO: Honorable Members of the Gloucester Town Council
FROM: Don Zimmerman, Acting Director Of Human Resources
SUBJECT: Appointment of Suzanne Brouilliard as Part-time Kitchen Aide at Gloucester Senior Center
DATE: May 31, 2022

I am recommending the appointment of Suzanne Brouillard of Woonsocket as the part-time (27.5 hours per week) Kitchen Aide at the Gloucester Senior Center at the rate of \$14 per hour effective June 23, 2022, pending successful completion of a criminal background check.

Ms. Brouillard will fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Jacqueline Aelig who is retiring July 1.

Interviews were conducted by Senior Center Director Melissa Bouvier and me on May 25 and 31, 2022.

Ms. Brouillard has more than eight years of experience with the food service vendor in the North Smithfield school system.

(End of request)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPOINT Suzanne Brouillard to the position of part time Kitchen Aide at the Gloucester Senior Center at the rate of \$14 per hour, effective June 23, 2022 , pending successful completion of a criminal background check; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Public Works - Driver/Laborer 1

Councilor Reichert stated that this item is a request from the Public Works Director. Currently, the Public Works Director and acting HR Director are coordinating internal interviews for the position of foreman. Councilor Reichert stated that the Director is seeking permission to begin the search process for a Driver/Laborer 1 if one of the internal candidates is successful in filling the foreman position. Councilor Reichert stated that if this occurs, the Public Works Director will bring a recommendation back to Council for their consideration.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Public Works Director and acting

HR Director to begin the search process, if needed, within the next three month period, for a potential vacancy in Public Works, Driver/Laborer 1; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked for clarification in that no action will be taken unless the internal person accepted the position of foreman. J. Fecteau clarified that was the case.

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Town Clerk's Office - Clerk II

Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk is asking Council to table this appointment.

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to TABLE an appointment in the Town Clerk's Office; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

B. Purchasing Goods and/or Services-Discussion and/or Action

1. Bid award recommendation from Board of Contracts & Purchases
 - a. IFB 2022-03 Hot Mix Asphalt

Councilor Reichert stated that the Public Works Director has forwarded a request to be considered by the Board of Contracts & Purchase but that meeting had to be cancelled.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the recommendation for action of IFB 2022-03 Hot Mix Asphalt; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. Gloucester Memorial Park - Signs

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request to approve the purchase of signs for GMP which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members
From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: May 27, 2022

Re: Gloucester Memorial Park - Signage

As part of the site work bid process, we included signage as Alternative #1. The bids for signage included very large price differences; therefore, the Board of Contracts decided to not award the alternative and get prices for signage separately.

The sign specifications were sent to three (3) sign companies – Farrell Signs, Poyant Signs (former Dion Signs) and Forge Signs. The prices came back as following:

Farrell Signs- \$6,750

Poyant Signs - \$16,009

Forge Signs – Declined in writing to submit a price (too busy)

All price quotes are attached. The Board of Contracts met on Monday May 23, 2022 and recommended awarding the sign contract to Farrell Signs, the low bidder, provided the Finance Director approve the purchasing process. The Finance Director has approved the purchasing process and therefore I request approval to purchase the signs for GMP from Farrell Signs. The cost of the signage is within the allotted budget for GMP.

Thank you.

(End of request)

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Planner to purchase signage for Gloucester Memorial Park from Farrell Signs for the price of \$6,750; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Request for Extension: IFB 2001-10 Gas/Diesel

Councilor Reichert asked Councilor Steere, Vice President, to take over the meeting and further that he will recuse himself from this conversation.

Councilor Steere stated that the Public Works Director has submitted the following extension request which he read as follows:

May 20, 2022

To: Honorable Town Council

From: Gary Trembl

Public Works Director

Re: IFB 2001-10

The existing bid IFB 2001-10 for gas and diesel from Reichert and Sons expires on May 31, 2022. Reichert and Sons Fuel Oil Co., Inc. has agreed to extend the bid, with pricing, terms and conditions remaining the same until May 31, 2023. (See attached bid extension agreement)

I am requesting that the IFB 2001-10 extension be approved

Thank you,

Gary Trembl

(end of request)

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the extension of IFB 2001-10 Gas and Diesel to Reichert & Sons to May 31, 2023 with pricing, terms, and conditions remaining the same as current contract; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, and Steere

NAYS-0

RECUSAL- Reichert

MOTION PASSED

C. School Security Discussion and/or Future Plans

1. Discussion and/or action to consider actions necessary for the protection of Gloucester schools.

Councilor Reichert stated that at the Emergency Meeting of the Town Council held on May 25th, Council agreed to request a police presence at our schools in effect until June 2nd.

Discussion: Captain Fague described how well the security presence was received by the staff, students and parents during this time period at the schools. Captain Fague asked what the Council would like the police to do going forward. Captain Fague suggested making the elementary schools a priority and for the School Resource Officer already at the Regional High School to cover both the high school and the middle school. Captain Fague described how the police covered the security for the elementary schools and the two regional schools after the tragic shooting in Texas. Captain Fague described the recent inspections completed at the two elementary schools and that recommendations were made. Councilor Reichert asked how the police staffing was going considering the extra work at the schools. Captain Fague stated that staff has been very supportive and have stepped up so it has not been a problem. Councilor Reichert stated that summer school may be held at one of the schools and that would be something that would need attention. Councilor Laplante stated he would like to see a police officer at the schools for the rest of the school year including a police officer at the middle school instead of the Resource Officer covering both regional schools. Councilor Steere asked if the School Committee has reached out to the police to see what their thoughts are towards the police presence in the school. Captain Fague stated that they are happy with the presence. Captain Fague stated that the department does a lot of training and having an officer in the school is good. Councilor Steere asked if any of the schools have

offered to contribute money to pay for the officers . Captain Fague stated that he has not heard . Councilor Steere stated that his concern in the future is a topic for the School Committee. Councilor Steere asked if the police have heard from Foster as to help at the Regional School. Captain Fague stated that Foster stated they could not help during the first days and he has not heard from Foster about future plans. Captain Fague confirmed that officers are trying to use their vacation time before the end of the fiscal year in order not to lose the time . Councilor Reichert stated that would be a matter that Council could consider to waive at another meeting if needed.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to keep the calendar “as is” regarding the police presence at the schools, including summer school; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere , and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. American Rescue Plan Act Funds - Discussion and/or Action of possible reassignment of funds for startup program for permanent security officers for Gloucester Elementary Schools.

Councilor Laplante stated that he has reached out to Chief Delprete for his views and that it is his opinion that as a town the Council needs to do something regarding security in the schools. Councilor Laplante suggested forming a committee this summer to form a plan for security people to be present at the schools starting in the fall. Councilor Laplante suggested the potential members of the committee could be members from the Council, police and school administrators. Councilor Laplante suggested the security officers could be employees of the school department, be qualified by and train with the police, but their sole job would be the safety and security in the building and on the grounds. Councilor Steere stated that he agrees with Councilor Laplante but asked if the School Committee has spoken on this matter as they have the final say including as to budget. Councilor Laplante stated he wanted it on record that Council tried to formulate a plan if the School Committee says they do not want security in the building. Councilor Steere suggested sending a letter to the school committees of the elementary and regional school to find out if they would be interested in this proposal or the Council would be open to listening to the School Committees options. Councilor Laplante stated the Council and police should be involved in this issue. Councilor Reichert stated that he spoke with M. Carroll, attorney for the Regional School system. Councilor Laplante described the type of individual who may fill the position of the security officers and the training he would like them to have. Captain Fague stated that the administrators were receptive to the safety suggestions .

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante for a letter to be drafted to send to the Gloucester School Committee and the Regional School committee to convey the concerns about school security and to discuss a plan for next year about school security; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere , and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

3. Discussion and/or Action, of same, for the Regional schools to formulate a plan to meet with Foster and Regional School Committee

Councilor Reichert stated motion already completed in item 2.

- D. FM Global Taxation- Discussion and/or action necessary for the valuation of Assets/tangibles

Councilor Reichert stated that item is not needed at this time and could be removed from the table if Solicitor agrees.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to REMOVE “D. FM Global Taxation - Discussion and/or action necessary for the valuation of Assets/tangibles” from the agenda at this time; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere , and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

- E. Authorization for signature

1. R.I.D.E.M. RIPDES MS4 Annual Report - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Town Planner which he read as follows:

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: May 27, 2022

Re: RIPDES Annual Report – 2021

In accordance with the Rhode Island Pollution Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) program general permit for Storm Water discharges from small municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and from industrial activities at eligible facilities operated by regulated small MS4s, I have drafted the required Phase II Storm Water Annual Report for submission to RIDEM. This Annual Report is available on the Town’s website and in the Planning Department for public comment through June 9, 2022.

I am requesting authorization for the Town Council President to sign the report prior to submission to RIDEM after the close of the public comment period. Thank you.

(End of request)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the RIPDES Annual Report for 2021 to be submitted to RIDEM at the close of the public comment period ; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. R.I. Infrastructure Bank Municipal Infrastructure Program Grant Applications- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request from the Town Planner which he read as follows

To: Town Council Members

From: Karen Scott, Town Planner

Date: May 27, 2022

Re: Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program Requests - 2022

The RI Infrastructure Bank has announced the Municipal Infrastructure Grant Program.

This competitive grant program will award a total of \$1 million in capital funds for municipalities, and other public entities, to make improvements to public infrastructure.

The overall goal is to support projects that can achieve economic development and growth by accelerating housing production, spurring private development, and creating jobs across Rhode Island.

I am proposing to submit two (2) applications to this program on behalf of the Town:

1. Roadway and Drainage – requesting \$500,000 using already allocated ARPA funds as a match. This is an attempt to leverage the ARPA funds previously allocated to roadway and drainage projects to off-set funds requested in the capital budget for roadway and drainage projects.

2. Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet – requesting \$85,000 using the recently awarded \$40,000 from the RI Commerce Site Readiness grant as a match. This is an attempt to obtain the balance of the necessary funding for the full study. As previously discussed when applying for the RI Commerce Site Readiness grant in December 2021, this study will examine existing conditions and assess alternatives capable of delivering potable water to Chepachet Village by analyzing several alternatives for providing potable water. The study will evaluate the options and determine which option provides the most fiscally and environmentally responsible path in the near and long term that solves the issue of providing potable water in the village.

The full grant applications are available upon request. I am requesting authorization for the Town

Council President to sign these two (2) grant applications. Thank you
(end of request)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to RATIFY the AUTHORIZATION of the Council Presidents signature on two grant applications to the RIIB Municipal Infrastructure Program: 1. Roadway and Drainage – requesting \$500,000 and 2. Public Water Feasibility Study for Chepachet – requesting \$85,000; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

F. Financial Town Referendum Dates for FY 2022/23 - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Reichert stated that the Clerk and Deputy have worked out a new calendar for the holding of the Financial Town Referendum in conjunction with the Board of Canvassers which he read as follows:

The proposed dates would be:

Council receives budget: JUNE 16th.
Public hearing: JULY 21ST,
Adoption of budget to send for ballots to be printed: AUGUST 4th
Financial Town Referendum: TUESDAY, AUGUST 16th.

Councilor Reichert stated that Council approves the Financial Town Referendum date and all other dates listed would automatically fall into place.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to SET the Financial Town Referendum for 2022 for Tuesday, August 16, 2022; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Laplante, Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

G. Summer Meeting Schedule - Discussion and/or Action
Councilor Reichert stated that this year summer meetings fall on July 7th, July 21st, August 4th, and August 18th. Councilor Reichert asked if Council wished to hold all four meetings or amend the annual meeting calendar and hold one meeting each month as was done last year.

Discussion: Councilor Steere stated his opinion is to keep both July meetings and perhaps an August

meeting could be missed. Councilor Laplante and Reichert stated they have no plans to go anywhere. J. Fecteau , Town Clerk ,stated that the annual calendar may be amended and requires advertising. J. Fecteau stated that a meeting may be canceled for lack of a quorum but if they decide to not have a meeting then the annual calendar must be amended and advertised.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AMEND the 2022 Summer Meeting Schedule to eliminate the meeting of July 7th ; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Steere and Reichert
NAYS- Laplante

MOTION PASSED

IX. Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

1. Council has received DEM Freshwater Wetland Regulations information.

Councilor Reichert asked K. Johnson, Building Official, if he had anything to add. K. Johnson stated that the DEM regulations will be going into effect on July 1st and the regulations have doubled the distance allowed as to wetlands.

K. Johnson brought up the proposed changes to the accessory dwelling laws and the effect it could have on our community. Councilor Laplante stated he spoke with Rep. Chippendale about the bill and that it is actually several bills included. Councilor Laplante stated that it is a proposed bill that helps developers. K. Johnson explained the aspects of the proposal.

2. Report from State Fire Marshals regarding property in town

Councilor Reichert asked about the Ventetoulo property. K. Johnson explained the issues on the property as to safety violations which have not been addressed after the last inspection so the property will be shut down until the violations are addressed.

X. Department Head Reports/Discussion

None

XI. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

None

XII. Open Forum

Councilor Steere thanked all who made the Memorial Day parade a success.

J. Luszcz, Human Services Director, stated that he has located a dealer for the Crossover vehicle and it is \$5000 less than budgeted.

XIII. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation - Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to CONVENE to Executive Session pursuant to R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation, discussion, vote of other action; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk to poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

AFTER EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XIV. 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 Reichert to Reconvene Open Session; Disclose one (1) vote was taken in Closed Session; and to SEAL the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

Councilor Reichert requested the Clerk to poll the Council:

Councilor Arnold -Aye
Councilor Worthy -Aye
Councilor Laplante -Aye
Councilor Steere -Aye
Councilor Reichert -Aye

MOTION PASSED

XV. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Laplante to ADJOURN at 11:30 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

VOTE: AYES- Arnold, Worthy, Laplante , Steere ,and Reichert

NAYS- 0

MOTION PASSED