

At a meeting of the Town Council holden in and for the Town of Gloucester on August 4, 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; William A. Worthy, Jr.; David Laplante and Stephen W. Arnold

Also Present: David Igliazzi, Town Solicitor; Adam Muccino, Finance 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. Resolution - Discussion and/or Action

A. #2022-07 Legalization of Adult Recreation Use of Marijuana

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has a Resolution to move the process of a General Election ballot question forward: which he read as follows

TOWN OF GLOCESTER  
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

LEGALIZATION OF ADULT RECREATION USE OF MARIJUANA

**WHEREAS;** House Bill 7593A as amended and Senate Bill 2430A as amended, known as the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, were approved by the Rhode Island General Assembly on May 24, 2022; and

**WHEREAS;** Governor Daniel McKee signed the Rhode Island Cannabis Act into law on May 25, 2022; and

**WHEREAS;** the Rhode Island Cannabis Act legalizes recreational marijuana for adults 21 years of age or older; and

**WHEREAS;** if Rhode Island legalizes recreational marijuana, our cities and towns will bear most of the direct burden to pay for and deal with implementation and public consequences.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Town of Gloucester hereby memorializes the General Assembly's authorization in §21-28.11-15(a) of Rhode Island General Laws that any city or town council, with the approval of the qualified electors, by resolution of the city or

town council to be printed on the ballot in an election held on or before November 8, 2022, the following question: "**Shall new cannabis related licenses for businesses involved in the cultivation, manufacture, laboratory testing and for the retail sale of adult recreational use cannabis be issued in the Town of Gloucester?**"

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Gloucester Town Council, upon the adoption of a resolution by the town council pursuant to the provisions of §21-28.1 l-15(a), will forward a copy of the resolution to the Department of Business Regulation's Office of Cannabis Regulation to ensure that no new cannabis-related licenses are issued unless and until the electors of the city or town vote to approve the issuance of new cannabis-related licenses within the city or town.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, If Gloucester voters authorize new cannabis-related licenses for businesses involved in the cultivation, manufacture, laboratory testing and for the retail sale of adult recreational use cannabis, the Rhode Island Cannabis Act enables cities and towns to adopt ordinances that ban or impose restrictions on the smoking or vaporizing of marijuana in public places.

The undersigned the duly elected Town Council of the Town of Gloucester have hereunto set their hands and caused this resolution to be adopted.

This resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Passed by the Town Council on August 4, 2022

Jean Fecteau, Town Clerk

Approved as to form: David V. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor

GLOCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

William E. Reichert, President  
Walter M.O. Steere, III, Vice President  
Stephen Arnold, Councilor  
William Worthy, Jr., Councilor  
David LaPlante, Councilor

Seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

B. #2022-08 Tax Stabilization Agreement Authorization

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has agreed to place a question on the ballot that, if passed would give the Council the authority, per Rhode Island General Law, to establish a Tax Stabilization program for business entities. Councilor Reichert read the Resolution as follows:

Town of Glocester  
Resolution #2022-08  
Tax Stabilization Agreement Authorization

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws § 44-3-9 the qualified electors of the towns of the State of Rhode Island are empowered, by majority vote, to authorize the Town Council for a period not exceeding twenty (20) years, and subject to the conditions as provided in § 44-3-9, to exempt from payment, in whole or in part, real and personal property which has undergone environmental remediation, is historically preserved, or is used for affordable housing, manufacturing, commercial, or residential purposes, or, in the alternative, to determine a stabilized amount of taxes to be paid on account of the property, notwithstanding the valuation of the property or the rate of tax; and

**WHEREAS,** since the grant of any tax incentives as contemplated by this Resolution is to be negotiated and entered into on a case-by-case basis, as the circumstances may require, the means of establishing a tax stabilization or exemption program as contemplated by this RESOLUTION is by means of a broad, general grant of authority by the qualified electors, a so-called "omnibus grant"; and

**WHEREAS,** the tax stabilization program, if authorized by the electors, will apply in whole or in part, to real property and personal property and the means and methods of enacting any such local exemption or stabilization are limited and controlled by the provisions of § 44-3-9; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Glocester Town Council Resolves to:

Authorize the Town Clerk to place an appropriate Ballot question on the Financial Town Referendum Ballot, of August 16, 2022, after Town Council approval of the ballot question.

Further, said Ballot question shall seek a vote from the qualified electors authorizing the Town Council to enact appropriate local legislation for the purpose of enacting a town-wide Tax Stabilization Program consistent with the objectives and parameters contained in Rhode Island General Law and the Glocester Code of Ordinance

This Resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Passed as a Resolution of the Glocester Town Council this 4th day of August 2022.

William E. Reichert, President  
Glocester Town Council

ATTEST: Jean M. Fecteau, Glocester Town Clerk

Seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

VI. Public Hearing

A. New Victualing License - Discussion and/or Action

Applicant: Aegean Pizza Chepachet LLC d/b/a Aegean Pizza

By: Suzanne Gagnon

Location: 1195 Putnam Pike , Chepachet RI

Councilor Reichert stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on July 21, 28<sup>th</sup>, and August 4<sup>th</sup>.

Councilor Reichert asked if the applicant is present to answer questions. Councilor Reichert stated that if anyone has questions or comments please step to the microphone and state your name for the record.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN

Discussion:

Suzanne Gagnon, applicant, stated that she has worked at Aegean Pizza for twenty years and is before the Council seeking this license as the owner.

Councilor Reichert asked again if anyone wished to be heard.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing CLOSED

Discussion: None

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to GRANT a Victualing License to Applicant: Aegean Pizza Chepachet LLC d/b/a Aegean Pizza, By: Suzanne Gagnon, Location: 1195 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 Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- B. Special Events License - Discussion and/or Action
  - Applicant: Mulberry Vineyards
  - Location: 95 Pound Road, Glocester, RI
  - Request for **Additional** 2022 Outdoor Special Events To Include Live Outdoor Amplified Music

Councilor Reichert stated that this Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Breeze Observer on July 21<sup>st</sup>.

Councilor Reichert stated from application the events being requested are: August 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28; September 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25; October 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23<sup>rd</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Councilor Reichert stated that the application states the following: Parking on grounds/secondary driveway for staff and emergencies. Parking/Security attendants will be present to aid guests, police, fire, and medical.

Additional parking diagram attached.  
(End of information)

Councilor Reichert asked if the applicant is present to answer questions. Councilor Reichert stated that if anyone has questions or comments to please step to the microphone and state your name for the record.

Councilor Reichert DECLARED the Public Hearing OPEN.

Discussion:

David Wright, owner and applicant of Mulberry Vineyards stated he is seeking fourteen days(14) of special use events. D. Wright stated that he asked for all of these dates but that music would not be performed at every event as it is difficult to hire musicians at this point in the summer. D. Wright stated he was asking for all of these dates but would only have music at some and would notify the Clerk's office when he hires musicians. Councilor Arnold questioned how many licenses they expected to use. Mr. Wright stated they typically had music once every three weeks. Councilor Steere asked how often would he have music. D. Wright stated about once every three weeks. Councilor Reichert asked how many music events D. Wright was looking to have. D. Wright stated probably no music until September. Councilor Arnold asked how the three test events for music went. D. Wright stated his opinion that the events went well and explained the parking lot was

changed. Mr. Wright stated that during music events he had checked the decibels of the music several times during the event using an app he had on his phone. D. Wright stated that the decibel level was a 57 which he stated is the equivalent of soft speaking. D. Wright stated that the family fun day also went , even without music. Councilor Arnold asked if D. Wright had spoken with any of the neighbors. D. Wright stated he had not and also added that he had been on a family vacation. Councilor Laplante stated that if the Council were to approve amplified music he would like it to be for a set number of events. Councilor Steere stated he agrees with a set number of events. Mr. Wright stated he would be happy with ten events being approved. Councilor Worthy asked about the type of instruments because he had received a complain that the music did not end at the agreed upon time of 4 pm but rather ended at 4:30 pm. D. Wright stated that there was a private wedding event scheduled this weekend at the vineyard. Councilor Worthy stated there is a wedding planned for the upcoming weekend that puts the Council in a position that they would have to weigh in on something already booked. Mr. Wright stated he previously received approval for certain uses and could show the minutes. Discussion followed on what Mr. Wright believed he was entitled to and Councilor Worthy reminded him that they are located in a residential neighborhood. When asked for clarification, Solicitor Iglizzi stated approval granted in 2012 may not include music. Mr. Iglizzi stated he would have to see the minutes in question. Councilor Steere asked the Chief if any complaints have been filed. The Chief responded (not audible).

Harold Winstanley, Country Meadow Lane, asked that certain decibels levels on amplification of music be set. Mr. Winstanley stated music volume increases as the day goes on. Mr. Winstanley stated last year there was mellow music and now the music is louder at times.

Robert Rogers, Country Meadow Lane, questioned why previously music events were approved on Sunday afternoons and now the applicant is asking for every weekend and weddings are being approved until 10:00 p.m. Mr. Rogers reminded the Council this is a residential neighborhood and Council should pinpoint exactly what dates and what events are being requested.

Robert Dietzel, Country Meadow Lane, stated he has no complaints with last three events and going forward he was told it would be similar events. Mr. Dietzel stated he has a problem with weddings that will go on with music and/or a DJ until 10:00 p.m. and further that none of the neighbors would support this idea.

Kevin Lavoie questioned the business turning into an event center instead of a winery.

David Wright stated the wedding event will have speakers facing towards the woods so it should be the same level as the “jazz” event. Mr. Wright stated they will keep an eye on it.

Councilor Laplante asked when the wedding was booked. Mr. Wright stated early spring. Councilor Laplante asked why Mr. Wright didn’t bring up this wedding the last time he was present. Mr. Wright stated it is a private event and, in his opinion, he has the right to play music for private events. Councilor Laplante stated you are charging people to use that property and that makes a difference. Councilor Laplante compared this to renting his yard out every weekend to the detriment

of his neighbors.

Mr. Wright stated he has had many previous “private” events with no complaints on record.

David Colantonio, Pound Road, stated that it was said this was the first wedding and stated it was not the first wedding. Mr. Colantonio stated it is just getting worse and he questioned what this business is as there are no grapes being grown for this vineyard.

Councilor Steere stated there are some uses allowed on a farm property.

Councilor Reichert stated a good point is made and referred back to when outdoor drinking was not allowed in our town.

Mr. Colantonio stated he is not clear what they are applying for. Mr. Colantonio described an event with music until 10:30 p.m. recently. Councilor Steere questioned why Mr. Colantonio did not contact the police department.

Mr. Wright described the operation of the winery. Mr. Wright explained they make most of the wine but not all. Mr. Wright stated they are allowed to bring in some wine.

Discussion, not audible, (speaker not at microphone)

Robert Dietzel asked if the applicant goes forward with weddings and djs what action can the neighbors take.

Councilor Steere explained that if licenses are issued and rules are not followed the applicant can be called for a show cause hearing.

Mr. Dietzel again stated he has no issues with the last three events but is concerned going forward.

Councilor Reichert stated if there is a problem Council will address it.

Mr. Winstanley asked if the Council can set a decibel level.

Councilor Reichert asked the Chief of Police if he can read decibel levels. The Chief stated he did not have a reader and further that checking decibels does not coincide with our ordinance.

Councilor Laplante asked the Chief if the key to enforcement of the Town Ordinance is the people need to call. The Chief agreed.

Councilor Worthy spoke regarding decibel levels.

D. Wright stated we don't want to be a bother to our neighbors and that is the goal.

Mr. Colantonio again questioned whether what is before the Council is what is being voted on.

Mr. Wright stated he believes the license is for live public music. Councilor Worthy stated a wedding may be allowed, but the Council is talking about music.

Discussion followed on letting this wedding go on and move forward from that. Discussion followed on the differences between the application before the Council.

After all discussion, Councilor Reichert **DECLARED** the Public Hearing **CLOSED**

Discussion:

Councilor Arnold stated he has checked in with neighbors after the last three events and received positive feedback. Councilor Arnold stated music from one to four every few weeks on a Sunday is not unreasonable. Councilor Arnold also stated he wouldn't stand in the way of a wedding already planned but Council can look at the planning of events going forward.

Councilor Reichert asked for the applicants assurance that they will keep the decibel level down to 57 decibels. Mr. Wright agreed.

Councilor Worthy stated his disapproval of the way this hearing has gone relative to the wedding and hopes it was an "oversight".

A resident questioned whether there were any more weddings planned so that no one would be "blind sided".

Councilor Reichert stated the owner of the establishment will need to come back to Council for any future weddings.

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

7 Outdoor events on 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 from 1:00 P.M. and 4:00 P.M. on Saturday or Sunday on non consecutive nights and non consecutive weekends through November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 ; not to include a wedding to be held on August 5, 2022;

seconded by Councilor Steere



Discussion: none

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

MOTION PASSED

Discussion followed on the wedding event scheduled for August 5, 2022 which Mr. Wright stated was booked in early spring.

The Solicitor stated the Council for the record was just made aware of this wedding, scheduled for August 5<sup>th</sup> which is outside the scope of the application. The Solicitor stated it is too late to take action: to approve, to stop or take negative consequence to this event. The Solicitor stated that it shall be noted that any weddings with music, or any special event, with outdoor music, per Chapter 175 of the Gloucester Code of Ordinance, shall require the applicant to make an application and come back to the Town Council for consideration of a Special Event license;

Said statement so moved by Councilor Reichert; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Worthy noted that he was a nay vote at the previous motion for all special events because he was not ready to vote on that item. Councilor Worthy agreed the wedding should take place but hopes there are no more “bumps” in the road going forward.

Councilor Laplante stated to applicant when they return in the fall for Special Event approval they will be approved for a certain number of events, with stipulations, but if there is a wedding scheduled outside of the hours, the applicant will have to come back to the Council. Councilor Laplante stated if any neighbors have a problem with the level of sound at the wedding they can contact the police department.

Councilor Laplante stated unfortunately when you combine business in a residential neighborhood these are the challenges.

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

MOTION PASSED

VII. Consent Items - Discussion and/or Action

A. Approval of Town Council Minutes: Regular Meeting of July 21, 2022

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to TABLE the approval of the Town Council minutes of July 21, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

RECUSAL- Steere (due to absence)

MOTION PASSED

VIII. Unfinished Business

A. Boards and Commissions

1. Appointments- Discussion and/or Action

a. Economic Development Commission

1. Position #4 - 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 #4; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: Councilor Worthy stated he spoke to the Chair and anticipates a recommendation by the next Council meeting.

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

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has been working on the possible acquisition of properties for the Town of Gloucester. Councilor Reichert stated that if successful, the use of these properties would have to meet with the approval of our taxpayers, either by vote or hearing, before Council proceeds with potential uses. Councilor Reichert stated that when appropriate the information regarding these properties will be shared with the public.

Discussion: A. Muccino, Finance Director, suggested Council may want to earmark an additional \$5,000 for inspections and/or closing costs.

Councilor Reichert stated that Council needs to earmark \$125,000 of ARPA funds for a second piece of property.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE a set aside of up to \$ 130,000 for the potential purchase of property and fees; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

2. EXTERNAL PROGRAMS - Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Gloucester Little League - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that this matter was tabled last meeting. Councilor Reichert stated that at the last meeting on July 21<sup>st</sup>, Councilor Arnold stated that this matter should be tabled procedurally because two Councilors will have to recuse.

Discussion: Paul McKenney, from Gloucester Little League, addressed the Council and stated they would be willing to lower their request from \$50,000 to \$25,000.

Mr. McKenney stated timing is important to get the work done by the fall.

Councilor Steere reiterated that Council needs to review all requests carefully going forward.

Councilor Steere asked for the cost estimates in writing for the work being done for the reporting process of the ARPA Funds. Councilor Reichert asked Mr. McKenney to submit to the Finance Director.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to set aside \$25,000 of ARPA funds for Gloucester Little League to do improvements to Acotes ballfield contingent upon the receipt of cost estimates for reporting purposes; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Fire Department - Mobile Repeaters- Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated this item was Tabled until more information is obtained. (From the minutes of 7/21/2022: Councilor Laplante questioned viability of the tower at Willie Woodhead Road (as it can't be raised) and/or the viability of leasing tower space at Jeremoth Hill

Discussion: Chief Waterman and Chief Huestis was present to discuss. The Chiefs expressed their problem not being able to communicate in certain areas of town. Chief Waterman explained the options they currently have to improve their ability to communicate. There was discussion on the use of existing towers. Chief Waterman reviewed some of the situations shown by the study given to Council. The Chief stated the intent was to make their existing systems better even if it means using funds for upgrades. Councilor Reichert questioned this would be beneficial to all three fire districts. The Chiefs answered in the affirmative. Councilor Laplante questioned if the request is being modified. Discussion followed on upgrades to the system, to include possibly decreasing

repeaters and portables to make the funds work. Councilor Steere asked if the funds requested would cover the costs of the improvements to the town wide system. The Chief's discussed monthly tower fees. The final costs for repairs, equipment and monthly fees is still fully unknown until quotes are received. Councilor Steere stated funds were allocated previously in April 2022 and how best to use those funds is currently being determined. Councilor Arnold asked if the fire companies have any of their own funds towards this project. Chiefs indicated they have been spending funds right along to maintain their systems. Councilor Laplante stated the Chiefs can get the quotes and bring them back to Council, for input and per reporting requirements of using these funds. Councilor Reichert stated the set aside previously granted was for \$190,983.37. The Chiefs stated they will return to Council with quotes.

C. Personnel

1. Public Works- Discussion and/or Action
  - a. Appointment- Driver/Laborer I

Councilor Reichert stated there is no recommendation at this time.

MOTION was made by to TABLE the appointment of a Dept. of Public Works, Driver/Laborer 1; seconded by

Discussion: none

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Senior Center
  - a. Part Time Kitchen Aide- Discussion and/or Action  
(See Item IX. B.1.)

Councilor Reichert stated the Council has rec'd a new request, later on agenda, this item can be removed from the table.

MOTION was made by to REMOVE from the table, Part Time Kitchen Aide; seconded by

Discussion:

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

MOTION PASSED

IX. New Business

- A. School Security- Authorization to proceed with development of Job description/specifications - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Laplante updated the Council on the meeting he had with Chief DelPrete, Captain Fague,

A. Muccino, and M. Floor regarding developing a plan for consideration. Councilor Laplante discussed the changes to state law, which created tight parameters, regarding the certification of retired police officers. Councilor Laplante state that currently the law states that certification terminates on the date a police officer retires, however, Police Officer Standard in Training program can certify retirees under certain criteria. Councilor Laplante stated that under these criteria they would be covered under the Trust.

Councilor Laplante stated that the Chief and himself are seeking legislative amendments/exemptions through our legislators.

Councilor Laplante stated he is currently looking for approval for HR Director, with this group, to put together a job description, with full scope of the job, for further consideration. Discussion followed on the potential funding of a program. Councilor Steere questioned if the School Committee was on board. Councilor Reichert and Councilor Laplante stated the School Committee did vote to go forward with the exploration. Councilor Laplante stated if we can fund little league we can fund the safety of our children. Discussion followed on the details of the concept.

MOTION was made Councilor Worthy by to AUTHORIZE the Acting HR Director to proceed with the development of Job descriptions/specifications for School Security Personnel with input, as needed, from Councilor Laplante, Chief Delprete, and the Finance Director; when complete job descriptions can be presented to the Town Council for approval; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Worthy asked that the next time the group met with School representatives the subject of funds is discussed.

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

MOTION PASSED

B. Office Staffing - Discussion and/or Action to ensure sufficient staffing

Councilor Laplante has questions regarding cross training, and the need for full coverage during peak times for tax payer needs in all of our offices.

Discussion: Councilor Laplante stated he brought up this question because of a current shortage in the Tax Assessor's office. A. Muccino stated existing staff in that room are covering the office. Councilor Laplante questioned if there is sufficient cross training to hand the questions and problems of tax bill season. A. Muccino stated he has the situation covered. Councilor Reichert stated if there is to be an extended absence Council would have to consider temporary staffing. Councilor Steere spoke highly of the staff that assisted him recently. A. Muccino will keep the Council informed on the absence.

C. Adoption of 2022/2023 Budget - Discussion and/or Action

1. Final amendments to proposed budget prior to adoption

Councilor Reichert asked if there were any further changes Councilors would like to propose.

Councilor Reichert stated that the Finance Director has asked for amendments to the budget proposed at the Public Hearing which he read as follows:

From the Public Hearing of July 21, 2022: A. Muccino, Finance Director, stated four changes which included the following: an increase to the meal site coordinator position wages in order to attract a better candidate; a \$13,000 increase to the Recreation Dept. For temporary positions budgeted to coordinate to the current minimum wage rates; an increase amount to be taken from surplus in the amount of \$576,572 to the unrestricted fund balance; and, and increase to the Gloucester School Department for future operations in the amount of \$181,108.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJUST the Senior Center budget, with an increase to wage and fringe line item of \$5,813 and a decrease to the Purchased Services line item of \$5,813; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADJUST with an increase of \$13,000 to the Recreation Department Seasonal positions to reflect minimum wage rates; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADD to the “Adjustments to the Amount to be raised by taxes” an amount to be taken from surplus in the of \$576,572 and moved to the unrestricted fund balance; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Reichert to ADD to the “Adjustments to the Amount to be raised by taxes” an amount to be taken from surplus in the amount of \$181,108 for Gloucester School Department/Future operations; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: Councilor Laplante asked what these changes would mean to an increase to the tax roll. A. Muccino stated that these changes and values assessed would reflect in an increase to the tax rate from \$18.44 to \$18.64.

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

MOTION PASSED

Councilor Reichert stated that any other changes at this point would have to be reflected in the ballot questions below. Councilor Reichert stated that Council can propose additional changes and the Finance Director would have to recalculate final budget numbers for the final ballot questions to be adopted next.

None

2. Adoption of 2022/2023 Budget to present to voters

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADOPT the 2022/2023 budget, as amended by Town Council, for presentation to the Financial Town Referendum to be held on August 16, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Adoption of 2022/23 Referendum Ballot Questions

Councilor Reichert stated that Council now needs to adopt the Referendum Ballot questions in their final format.

Councilor Reichert stated the Clerk has prepared the Ballot Questions in final format for the Financial Town Referendum with the information she received.

Councilor Reichert stated that after tonight, the adopted questions will go to the Board of Elections and be printed for the Referendum.

Councilor Reichert stated that Question #1 is the result of the entire budget as amended and approved by Council:

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADOPT the language for Question #1: Shall the Town Budget for fiscal year 2022/23 appropriate a sum of \$ **\$32,830,685** which includes Municipal Services & Capital Expenses; Gloucester School Dept. Operating & Capital Expenses; Gloucester's share of the Foster/Glocester Regional Operating & Capital Expenses; and includes a Levy of Property Tax (not including Motor Vehicle taxes) of not less than **\$23,857,050** or more than

**\$23,985,039 ?**; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADOPT the language for Question #2: Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of **\$807,276** from the surplus for capital expenses; this appropriation will come from existing surplus and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: Councilor Steere asked for clarification as to the term surplus and if it was the same as unrestricted fund balance. A. Muccino Finance Director, stated that the terms surplus and unrestricted fund balance mean the same. Councilor Steere stated his suggestion to change the word surplus to unrestricted fund balance. Councilor Arnold agreed with Councilor Steere's suggestion.

Councilor Steere WITHDREW his MOTION and Councilor Arnold WITHDREW his SECOND

AN AMENDED MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADOPT the language for Question #2: Shall the Town Budget include an appropriation of **\$807,276** from the unrestricted fund balance for capital expenses; this appropriation will come from the existing unrestricted fund balance and will not increase the amount to be raised by taxes?; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADOPT the language for Question #3: Shall the Town Council be authorized to enact appropriate local legislation for the purpose of enacting a town-wide tax stabilization program consistent with the objectives and parameters contained in Rhode Island General Law and Gloucester Code of Ordinance ; **subject to any editorial changes necessary for legal reasons?**; seconded by: Councilor Worthy

Discussion: D. Iglizzi, Town Solicitor , explained that this objective could be achieved by either special legislation or by authorization by the voters. Councilor Steere stated his opinion that the voters should decide. D. Iglizzi stated that if Council were to vote to approve of the plan that he would recommend adding language allowing for editorial changes to be made if necessary for legal reasons. Councilor Steere asked if there were now two motions or just additional language in the original motion. D. Iglizzi stated adding language to original motion.



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

MOTION PASSED

D. Adoption/Certification of 2022 General Election Ballot Local Referendum  
Councilor Reichert stated that the Council has adopted a Resolution to forward local referendum to the State for inclusion on the General Election Ballot, November 8, 2022. Councilor Reichert stated that Council may now approve the language for the ballot.

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to ADOPT and Certify to the Department of State, Elections Division the Town of Gloucester's language for placement on the General Election 2022 ballot:

"Shall new cannabis related licenses for businesses involved in the cultivation, manufacture, laboratory testing and for the retail sale of adult recreational use cannabis be issued in the Town of Gloucester?"; seconded by

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

E. Personnel

1. Senior Center

- a. Request to change job position from Part Time Kitchen Aide to Senior Center - Meal Site Coordinator - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that Council has received a request form the Senior Center Director which he read as follows:

DATE: 7-28-2022  
TO: The Honorable Town Council  
FROM: Melissa Bouvier  
RE: Kitchen Aide position

I am writing you this memo to request a change in the title for the part time Kitchen Aide position at the Senior Center. We have found that it does not accurately represent the job given that this position is working alone in the kitchen, they don't "aide", they are solely responsible.

I propose changing the title of the position to Meal Site Coordinator.

We are also requesting to increase the hourly wage range from \$13-\$14 per hour, to \$15- \$18 per hour based on experience. We are trying to attract not only more applicants, but also more qualified applicants to fill this position in a rather difficult job market. The Finance Director and I have met and reviewed the fiscal 2023 budget together to see how we might fund this proposed increase in the fiscal 2023 budget. There are several areas of opportunity where this increased cost could be absorbed into the current fiscal 2023

budget proposal.  
Respectfully,  
Melissa Bouvier  
(end of request)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the change of position of Senior Center, Part time kitchen aide to Senior Center, Meal Site Coordinator; and to increase the hourly wage range from \$15 - \$18; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: Councilor Laplante asked for clarification as to whether the range was what was being raised to \$15-18 and how it was being covered in the budget. A. Muccino stated that a prior motion made the change as a net zero change and that it was a range between \$15-18.

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

MOTION PASSED

- b. Appointment - Discussion and/or Action -  
Discussion and/or Action  
Senior Center -Meal Site Coordinator

Councilor Reichert stated that the Senior Center Director has asked that this appointment be tabled.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to TABLE the appointment of the Senior Center- Meal Site Coordinator; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

- F. Authorization To Sign
  - 1. Budget to Actual report, as of 06/30/2022 - Municipal Finance - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Finance Director is requesting the signing of this report which is required to be submitted to the Department of Municipal Finance.

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to AUTHORIZE the Town Council President to sign the "Budget to Actual Report, as of 6/30/2022, to be submitted to the RI Dept. of Municipal Finance; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

2. Chepachet Village National Register District Historic Revitalization Subgrant, Amendment 1, Project at 1191 Putnam Pike - 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: August 1, 2022  
Re: Chepachet Village National Register District Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program

Back in late 2019, the National Park Service (NPS) announced a \$250,000 grant to the Town of Glocester from the Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program to launch a local grant program for contributing structures to the Chepachet Village National Register District. In 2021, after a competitive subgrant process, three (3) grant awards were made. A contingency of \$20,006 was held to cover the cost of additional repairs that were discovered over the course of the work.

Construction is now underway at two (2) of the property location. The location of 1191 Putnam Pike (Jeremiah Sheldon Tavern and Barn) was originally awarded \$50,926. Significant wood rot was uncovered over the course of construction. The additional cost for these necessary repairs totals \$7,449.54. I am requesting authorization for the Town Council President to sign a contract amendment to allow for these expenses. All expenses will be covered by the federal grant funds. There are no expenses to the Town.

Thank you.

(End of memo)

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to AUTHORIZE for the Town Council President to sign a Historic Revitalization Subgrant Program contract amendment for an additional expense of \$7,449.54 for the project underway at 1191 Putnam Pike; seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

3. Police Department Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement/Resolution - Discussion and/or Action

Councilor Reichert stated that the Chief has asked for approval of the Police Department Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement. Councilor Reichert stated that if Council agrees to the terms of the

agreement, the Chief will sign and forward.

MOTION was made by Councilor Arnold to APPROVE the Police Department Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement and **AUTHORIZE** the Chief of Police to sign the Agreement presented to Council on August 4, 2022; seconded by Councilor Laplante

Discussion: None

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

MOTION PASSED

X.     Town Council Correspondence/ Discussion

Councilor Reichert reviewed correspondence in their packets. The Solicitor advised that Council would have to add items to their next agenda to consider action. Councilor Laplante stated the request for reconsideration of a denied claim for vehicle damage should be on the next agenda.

XI.    Department Head Reports/Discussion

1.     Councilor Reichert stated he has spoken with Senator Reed regarding a funding earmark available to Gloucester and read a memo from Karen Scott:

Hi all

Exciting developments on the earmark front. Had a great conversation with Senator Reed's office today. The Senate Appropriations Committee has included \$1 million dollars in their final budget bill to establish an emergency operations center at the police station which would accommodate significant upgrades that are needed to the building AND \$499,000 for police equipment including most of what is on the list below! The House Appropriations Committee included \$750,000 for an emergency operations center upgrades to the police station in their final bill.

The bills still need to pass the full house and full senate and go through budget reconciliation BUT the senators office was optimistic so I will be too! It is an incredibly big deal to have made it this far in the process, especially for a smaller town like Gloucester so a big thank you to Jean, Gerry, Matt and the Chief who worked with me behind the scenes to pull these applications together. Everyone cross their fingers!!

Additionally, the senator and his staff would like to come for a tour of Gloucester to see what types of projects we have going on and understand some of our other needs for other funding opportunities. I'm coordinating dates with his office now. So we don't run into a quorum, his office has requested that we include two Town Council members on the tour.

Just reply directly to me if you are interested in joining us!

Have a great day!

Karen

(End of memo)

2. A. Muccino discussed changes in staff at the school relative to Building/Maintenance division. A. Muccino discussed a plan to have DPW assume the responsibility of building and grounds for the local schools. A. Muccino stated he believes the town will see some savings. A. Muccino stated he is waiting to discuss with the DPW Director.  
Councilor Steere questioned whether that department was already spread to thin.

XII. Bds. and Commissions Reports/ Discussion

1. Councilor Steere and Councilor Reichert discussed expressing Council's thanks, through Citations, for those that contributed to the work done at the historic Town Pound.

XIII. Open Forum

None

XIV. Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
  1. Discussion by Town Council, Vote, or Other Action: Roger N. Phillips, Patricia Phillips and Paul Phillip V. Jessica Parker, in Her Capacity as Tax Assessor for the Town of Gloucester - C.a. No. Pc-2022-02739
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5) Any discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public:
  1. Potential Acquisition of several parcels of land
- C. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation- Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council
  1. Bargaining Units - Negotiations updates

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Seek to Convene to Executive Session Pursuant to:

- A. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5(A)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation:
  1. Discussion by Town Council, Vote, or Other Action: Roger N. Phillips, Patricia Phillips and Paul Phillip V. Jessica Parker, in Her Capacity as Tax Assessor for the Town of Gloucester - C.a. No. Pc-2022-02739
- B. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(5) Any discussions , considerations, vote or other actions by Town Council related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public:
  1. Potential Acquisition of several parcels of land

C. R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation- Discussion, vote or other action by Town Council

1. Bargaining Units - Negotiations updates

seconded by Councilor Worthy

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

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

MOTION was made by Councilor Steere to Reconvene Open Session - Disclosure one (1) vote was taken in Executive Session & to Seal the Minutes of Closed Executive Session; seconded by Councilor Arnold

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

XVI. Adjourn

MOTION was made by Councilor Worthy to ADJOURN at 11:14 p.m.; seconded by Councilor Steere

Discussion: None

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

NAYS-0

MOTION PASSED

