

GLOUCESTER CITY COUNCIL MEETING**Tuesday, September 22, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.****Gloucester City Hall - Kyrouz Auditorium****9 Dale Avenue, Gloucester, MA 01930****and****Remotely via Zoom****-Minutes-**

Councilors Present: Council President, Councilor Tony Gross; Councilor Scott Memhard; Councilor Patti-Ann Page; Councilor Hannah Kimberley; Councilor Francesco Margiotta; Councilor Dylan Benson; Councilor Marjorie Grace

Absent: Council Vice President, Councilor Sean Nolan; Councilor Jason Grow

Also Present: CAO Kelly Dolan (remote); City Clerk, Grace Poirier; Auditor, Kenny Costa (remote); General Counsel, Suzanne Egan; School CFO, Cody Marshall (remote); Interim Police Chief Michael Williams; Traffic Commission Chair Bob Ryan

*This meeting was conducted with the City Council in person
and the public participating in person and remotely via Zoom.*

Meeting called to order at 6:32 p.m.

Councilor Gross stated the following:

“This public meeting of the City Council is recorded on zoom with a link that is posted on the agenda. If you are calling in on a phone, you can press Star 9 to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device, there is a “raised hand” button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications and public hearings to be recognized to speak.

If technical difficulties arise and the Zoom link is interrupted during an in-person hybrid meeting of the City Council and a quorum is present, the meeting may continue after efforts have been made to reestablish the link. The minutes shall note the interruption.

It is the finding of the City of Gloucester that no individual should be denied equal treatment or opportunity because of their age, ancestry, color, disability, including intellectual and developmental mental disability, family status, immigration status, gender identity or expression, military status, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual orientation.”

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE: Councilor Kimberley led the flag salute.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: Mary Ann Boucher, 93 Mount Pleasant Avenue, stated her concerns regarding the former site of the East Gloucester Elementary School. She requested that the site be fully deed restricted to stay as open space.

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS: None.

CONFIRMATION OF NEW APPOINTMENTS:

Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee Philip Schwarz (fulfilling an unexpired term) TTE 2/15/2027

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council appoint Philip Schwarz to the Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee, TTE 2/15/2027.

Summary of Discussion: Philip Schwarz stated that that he had been leading hikes throughout the City for many years and looked forward to serving on the Committee.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to appoint Philip Schwarz to the Open Space & Recreation Advisory Committee, TTE 2/15/2027.

CONSENT AGENDA ACTION

- **CONFIRMATION OF REAPPOINTMENTS**
- **MAYOR'S REPORT**

1. Memorandum from the Archives Committee requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$185 (refer B&F)
2. Memorandum from the Cape Ann Veterans Services Director requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$2,785 (refer B&F)
3. Memorandum from the Director of Elder Services requesting acceptance of donations in the amount of \$10,050 (refer B&F)
4. Memorandum from the Interim Police Chief requesting approval to utilize funds for the Recovery Coach Academy (refer B&F)
5. Memorandum from the Interim Police Chief requesting acceptance of the FY27 State 911 Training Grant in the amount of \$95,636.25 (refer B&F)
6. Memorandum from the Interim Police Chief requesting acceptance of the FY27 Support and Incentive Grant in the amount of \$102,983 (refer B&F)
7. Memorandum from the Principal Assessor regarding tax classification (refer B&F)
8. Memorandum from the City Clerk & #2027-SBT-1 in the amount of \$9,922.24 & #2027-SBT-2 in the amount of \$401.33 to reimburse the Police Department for the police details at all polling places for the September 1, 2026 State Primary (refer B&F)
9. Memorandum from the City Auditor & #2027-SA-3 in the amount of \$12,000 to install a portion of the Wayfinding Signs Project (refer B&F)

- **COMMUNICATIONS/INVITATIONS**
- **INFORMATION ONLY**

1. Gloucester Open Space and Recreation Committee Semiannual Report ~~April~~ September 2026 (info only)

- **APPLICATIONS/PETITIONS**
- **COUNCIL ORS ORDERS**

1. CC#2026-018 (Gross): Amend Ch. 2 "Administration," Art. 2 "City Council," Sec. 28 "Fees" by DELETING "and published in a local newspaper whenever fee changes or new fees are approved by the City Council." (refer O&A & B&F)

- **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

1. City Council Meeting: 9/8/2026
(Approve/File)

2. Standing Committee Meetings: B&F 9/17/2026 (under separate cover), O&A 9/14/2026, P&D 9/16/2026
(under separate cover)

(Approve/File)

ITEMS TO BE ADDED/REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA: Councilor Page removed item #9 under the Mayor's Report

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grace, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to accept the consent agenda as amended.

1. **Memorandum from the City Auditor & #2027-SA-3 in the amount of \$12,000 to install a portion of the Wayfinding Signs Project**

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Page stated that these funds were in addition to funds that City Council had already approved.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to refer the matter to the Budget & Finance Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

• Budget & Finance – September 17, 2026

1. **Memorandum from the Gloucester Public Schools CFO requesting payment of prior year invoice with FY27 funds in the amount of \$51,317.23**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Page, the Budget & Finance Committee voted, 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve, in accordance with MGL c. 44, §64, payment of prior year invoices and obligations as presented in the memo from the School CFO dated August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$51,317.23 to be paid with the current year FY2027 General Fund, School Department budgeted funds.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Page asked if there was a lawsuit that had been mediated that caused this settlement. Councilor Gross stated that there had been a union grievance.

Councilor Page asked if there would be more grievances. School CFO, Cody Marshall stated that this was a unique situation as the grievance had been filed later than expected, and there should be no more grievances due to the strike.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Page, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to approve, in accordance with MGL c. 44, §64, payment of prior year invoices and obligations as presented in the memo from the School CFO dated August 31, 2026, in the amount of \$51,317.23 to be paid with the current year FY2027 General Fund, School Department budgeted funds.

2. **Memorandum from the Acting Police Chief requesting to pay an FY27 invoice without a PO in place, in the amount of \$440.94**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Page, the Budget & Finance Committee voted, 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve, in accordance with MGL c. 44, §64, payment of prior year invoices in the amount of \$440.94 for West Marine Pro at 1 East Broward Blvd Ste 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, for marine equipment received in Fiscal Year 2026 with invoice #4841388, invoice dated July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$367.45, and invoice #4839637, invoice

dated July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$73.49 to be paid with the current year FY2027 General Fund, Police Department – Ordinary Maintenance budgeted funds.

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Page, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to approve, in accordance with MGL c. 44, §64, payment of prior year invoices in the amount of \$440.94 for West Marine Pro at 1 East Broward Blvd Ste 200, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301, for marine equipment received in Fiscal Year 2026 with invoice #4841388, invoice dated July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$367.45, and invoice #4839637, invoice dated July 1, 2026, in the amount of \$73.49 to be paid with the current year FY2027 General Fund, Police Department – Ordinary Maintenance budgeted funds.

3. Memorandum from the Acting Police Chief requesting acceptance of FY27 State 911 EMD Grant in the amount of \$42,628.96

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Page, the Budget & Finance Committee voted, 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, a FY2027 State 911 Department Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant Program for \$42,528.96. The grant period is from September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and there is no local match for this grant.

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Memhard, seconded by Councilor Page, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, a FY2027 State 911 Department Emergency Medical Dispatch Grant Program for \$42,528.96. The grant period is from September 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, and there is no local match for this grant.

• Ordinances & Administration – September 14, 2026 Meeting

No items under this heading.

• Planning & Development – September 16, 2026 Meeting

- 1. PP#2026-004: Petition by National Grid to install 1 JO pole on Bellevue Avenue beginning at a point approximately 37 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Bellevue Avenue and Conant Avenue. National Grid is petitioning to install 1 new JO pole 3006 with sidewalk anchor on public way at 17 Conant Avenue. Gloucester, MA.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Benson, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council permit Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the public way, National Grid to install one JO pole on Bellevue Ave beginning at a point approximately 37 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Bellevue Ave and Conant Ave. National Grid is petitioning to install one new JO pole 3006 with sidewalk anchor on public way at 17 Conant Ave. Gloucester MA - as shown on a plan included in the application dated June 9, 2026 – with the following conditions:

1. Notification to the Department of Public Works 72 hours in advance of the proposed work. A construction schedule will be prepared by the applicant for review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.
2. In the absence of a detailed construction plan, the Department of Public Works requests: all proposed conduits and appurtenances shall be placed so as to cause minimum conflict with existing underground utility services.
3. All excavations must be secured at all times.
4. All excavated trenches shall be patched flush with the surrounding asphalt using hot mix asphalt binder at the end of each work day, to minimize pedestrian hazards. Asphalt shall be applied in two lifts of 2-inches, totaling 4- inches.
5. Sidewalks must be restored with like material immediately after pole set.
6. Paving conditions must be approved by Public Works prior to issuance of road opening permit.

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Benson stated that there had been a lengthy discussion with residents at the Planning & Development Committee public hearing.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Kimberley, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to permit Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid, to locate poles, wires and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, along and across the public way, National Grid to install one JO pole on Bellevue Ave beginning at a point approximately 37 feet East of the centerline of the intersection of Bellevue Ave and Conant Ave. National Grid is petitioning to install one new JO pole 3006 with sidewalk anchor on public way at 17 Conant Ave. Gloucester MA - as shown on a plan included in the application dated June 9, 2026 – with the following conditions:

1. Notification to the Department of Public Works 72 hours in advance of the proposed work. A construction schedule will be prepared by the applicant for review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.
2. In the absence of a detailed construction plan, the Department of Public Works requests: all proposed conduits and appurtenances shall be placed so as to cause minimum conflict with existing underground utility services.
3. All excavations must be secured at all times.
4. All excavated trenches shall be patched flush with the surrounding asphalt using hot mix asphalt binder at the end of each work day, to minimize pedestrian hazards. Asphalt shall be applied in two lifts of 2-inches, totaling 4- inches.
5. Sidewalks must be restored with like material immediately after pole set.
6. Paving conditions must be approved by Public Works prior to issuance of road opening permit.

2. **Memorandum from General Counsel re: Request from Historic New England for preservation restrictions for the Haskell House, 11 Lincoln Street and the Temple-Hayden Cottage, Eastern Point Boulevard.**

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Kimberley, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve the Preservation Restriction Agreement as defined in G.L. c. 184, secs. 31, 32, and 33 between the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities dba Historic New England and Richard B. Samuelson and Natalie Tresha Samuelson preserving a portion of the property located at 11 Lincoln Street, Gloucester, Map 236, Lot 37, specifically a portion of the site and the building known as the William and Mary Haskell House (the “Haskell House”), as described in Exhibit A of the agreement, as it is in the public’s interest to preserve this historic resource.

Summary of Discussion: Elizabeth Paliga, Senior Preservation Services Manager, Historic New England, stated that the property was currently privately owned and would be going to market, and the preservation restriction needed to be put in place before its sale.

Councilor Page asked if the Haskell House would it remain on the tax rolls after the sale. **Elizabeth Paliga** stated that it would.

Councilor Memhard stated his support for the matter.

Councilor Page stated her support for the matter.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Kimberley, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to approve the Preservation Restriction Agreement as defined in G.L. c. 184, secs. 31, 32, and 33 between the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities dba Historic New England and Richard B. Samuelson and Natalie Tresha Samuelson preserving a portion of the property located at 11 Lincoln Street, Gloucester, Map 236, Lot 37, specifically a portion of the site and the building known as the William and Mary Haskell House (the “Haskell House”), as described in Exhibit A of the agreement, as it is in the public’s interest to preserve this historic resource.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Benson, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council approve the Preservation Restriction Agreement as defined in G.L. c. 184, secs. 31, 32, and 33 between the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities dba Historic New England and a private purchaser to be identified at the time of execution preserving the properties located at 62, 62R, 64, and 66 Eastern point Boulevard, Gloucester, Map 135, Lots 20, 21, 22, and 23, specifically a portion of the site and the buildings known as the Temple-Hayden Cottage and the Barn, as described in Exhibit A of the agreement, as it is in the public’s interest to preserve this historic resource.

Summary of Discussion: Elizabeth Paliga stated that the Temple-Hayden Cottage had been erected in 1924, after the owners had moved the circa 1750 Stowbridge House from Canton. She stated that the cottage was significant for its origins as an 18th Century half-house but also its association with the development of Eastern Point. She stated that Ruth Anderson was an acclaimed painter and studied under Eastern Point resident Cecilia Beaux, and Samuel Temple, was a well-known lighting designer. She stated that the Hayden family had owned the property from 1944 to 2020, when they sold the property to Historic New England, as development would negatively impact the neighborhood and the adjacent Historic New England property of Beauport. She stated that Historic New England had decided to sell the property into private ownership with a preservation restriction in place. She stated that only the exterior would be protected by the restrictions, and interior alterations and upgrades would be allowed.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Kimberley, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to approve the Preservation Restriction Agreement as defined in G.L. c. 184, secs. 31, 32, and 33 between the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities dba Historic New England and a private purchaser to be identified at the time of execution preserving the properties located at 62, 62R, 64, and 66 Eastern Point Boulevard, Gloucester, Map 135, Lots 20, 21, 22, and 23, specifically a portion of the site and the buildings known as the Temple-Hayden Cottage and the Barn, as described in Exhibit A of the agreement, as it is in the public’s interest to preserve this historic resource.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. PH2026-024: SCP#2026-008: The application of 187 Atlantic Ave Holdings, LLC, Map #255, Lot #1: GZO Sec. 5.2 “Earth Fill and Removal Regulations,” 5.2.2 “Permit from the City Council,” to permit

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Benson, the Planning & Development Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept the withdrawal of the Special Council Permit application of 187 Atlantic Ave Holdings, without prejudice.

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Kimberley, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to accept the withdrawal of the Special Council Permit application of 187 Atlantic Ave Holdings, without prejudice.

2. PH2026-025: Memorandum from the General Council regarding proposed amendments to Chapter 9, Article I, Trash

•**Public Hearing Opened:** 7:06 p.m.

•**Speaking in Favor: General Counsel, Suzanne Egan** stated that the proposed ordinance amendment was to reflect the new trash service program.

•**Speaking in Opposition:** None.

•**Communications:** None.

•**Questions from Councilors to Applicants/Staff: Councilor Page** stated that there was an error under Sec. 9-2 (c), as it should read “five or more units.” She stated she would propose an amendment.

Councilor Page stated that under the new trash program there may be residents who were paying for the trash service who did not need to use it.

Councilor Benson asked if residents would be required to store their trash barrels on their property. **Suzanne Egan** stated that they would.

•**Public Hearing Closed:** 7:13 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grace, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 9 “TRASH, RECYCLING AND LITTER” as follows:

**Chapter 9 TRASH, RECYCLING AND LITTER
ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL**

Sec. 9-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

[ADD] *Acceptable Recyclables* means emptied and rinsed: metal food and beverage cans; plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs; glass bottles and jars, and emptied and flattened mixed paper, newspaper, magazines and boxes, the definition shall be expanded and modified from time to time by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Waste Disposal Ban requirements set forth in 310 CMR 19.07.

Appliances means refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, water heaters, freezers, air conditioners, washing machines, dryers, dehumidifiers, and trash compactors, which were originally intended for residential dwelling application.

Automotive recyclables means:

- (1) Tires, not including large truck tires;
- (2) Motor oil, not contaminated with any other liquid, dirt or leaves;
- (3) Oil filters;
- (4) Car and boat batteries.

Bulk item means [ADD] large trash items that will not fit in the Container, such as furniture. Construction debris is not a bulk item. [DELETE] furniture predominantly non-metallic, weighing over 50 pounds not fitting into official PAYT bag.

[DELETE] *Bulk item sticker* means the sticker required for curbside bulky item pick-up.

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) means the leaded glass picture tubes found in televisions, computer monitors and video games.

Commingled collection means the collection program in which residents are required to place glass, metal, and plastic containers in recycling receptacles.

Composting means the recovery of discarded organic materials for processing into a soil amendment, fertilizer and/or mulch.

Corrugated cardboard means paper in which a portion has been made to have wavy surface (ridges and grooves) and is placed between two flat surfaces for the sake of strength and is commonly used to form cartons.

[ADD] *Eligible Household* means a single-family home or a residential dwelling unit contained in a multi-family or mixed-use development containing four or less units.

Glass means unbroken clean jars and bottles, but not including: dishes, ceramics, plate glass and flat glass (commonly known as window glass), Pyrex, lightbulbs, drinking glasses, crystal and mirrored glass.

Household means the single residential unit within a single or multi-family dwelling.

Litter means any waste material, including but not limited to tobacco, marijuana and marijuana products or parts thereof (other than the ashes), and waste material deposited on or near a waste receptacle which cannot accommodate more waste, and which waste material, if thrown or deposited in a manner prohibited by this article I, tends to create a danger to the public health, safety or welfare, or tends to create a danger to the quality of life including an unsightly appearance that would reasonably discourage others from using the property for its intended purpose.

[ADD] *Metal* [DELETE] *Tin/steel* cans means tin and steel food cans, cleaned and flattened or nested if desired, but not included are paint cans or any product with a hazardous chemical residue.

Municipal collection program means the program that collects solid waste and recyclable materials including yard waste, white goods (Freon and non-Freon bearing), all televisions and all computer displays from all eligible residents [ADD], eligible [DELETE] all mixed use buildings, all municipal facilities or locations and city schools.

Newspapers, magazines and junk mail means advertisements, newspapers, and comics. The term "magazines" includes all periodicals and catalogs. The term "junk mail," as used herein, includes materials received in the mail which are made of paper.

Park means and includes park, a reservation, playground, beach, recreation center or other public area in the city, owned or used by the city and devoted to active or passive recreation.

~~[DELETE] PAYT (pay as you throw) program means the city pay as you throw trash collection program whereby residential trash must be contained in an official PAYT trash bag or bear a bulky item sticker.~~

Plastic containers means polyethylene terephthalate (PET), high-density Polyethylene (HDPE), plastic #1 through #7 only. The term "plastic containers" includes containers used for packaging soda, milk, juices, drinks and water, but not including oil or any other hazardous materials with a chemical residue.

Private premises means and includes any yards, grounds, walks, driveways, porches, steps, docks, wharves or mailboxes belonging to or appurtenant to any dwelling, house, building or other structure.

Public place means and includes any and all streets, sidewalks, boulevards, alleys, or other public ways and any and all public parks, squares, spaces, grounds and buildings.

Recyclables shall mean glass containers, plastics #1 through #7, "junk mail," newspapers, clean corrugated cardboard, and tin/steel containers.

Recycling means any method, technique or system authorized to process or treat discarded materials so that its components, materials or substances may be beneficially used or reused.

Residential unit or dwelling means a dwelling within the corporate limits of the city occupied by a person or group of persons and comprised of not more than four units.

Solid waste means household trash generated within the home and bulky items such as furniture, not including recyclable material, construction materials, or hazardous waste material or construction and demolition materials from remodeling.

Trash means material considered worthless, unnecessary or offensive that is usually thrown away. The term "trash" is generally defined as dry waste material, but in common usage it is a synonym for garbage, rubbish or refuse, but not to include recyclables or yard waste.

~~[ADD] Trash Collection Container (Container) eligible households shall use official municipal collection trash collection containers. [DELETE] or a bulky item sticker for their residential trash.~~

~~[DELETE] Vehicle means every device in, or upon which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, or public way.~~

Yard waste means vegetation that includes: grass clippings, leaves, twigs, branches, brush (including Christmas trees), weeds and all organic material that can be composted, but not including, railroad ties or other yard related materials that ~~[DELETE] has~~ ~~[ADD] have~~ been treated with chemical preservatives.

[ADD] Sec. 9-2. - Trash Collection

- (a) All households, businesses, non-profit organizations, private schools and other commercial enterprises shall have trash collection.
- (b) Eligible Households shall use municipal trash collection or a private trash collection service.
- (c) Any owner of a building with four or more residential units, any business, nonprofit, and any private or charter school shall provide private trash collection.

Sec. 9-3. - Municipal Trash Collection Fees

- (a) The city hereby establishes an annual municipal trash collection fee relative to the cost of providing municipal trash collection services. The annual trash collection fee shall be considered a utility fee for all residential units, whether owner occupied or rented and no additional private servicing or administrative charges shall be applied to the fee as an additional fee by a private individual, business or organization.

- (b) The trash collection fee shall be assessed to all Eligible Households on the basis of the fee structure established by the city.
- (c) The city may establish and modify from time to time the service fees for municipal trash collection so that the funds generated correspond to the cost of the management and provision of municipal trash collection service.
- (d) The Director of Public Works shall promulgate regulations implementing the fee. The fee shall be referred to the mayor and City Council for approval as required by section 7-16 of the city charter.

Sec. ~~[DELETE] 9-2. PAYT~~ [ADD] 9-4. - Gloucester Trash Collection Containers.

~~[DELETE] (a) All households who are eligible for the municipal collection program are required to place solid waste in official PAYT (pay as you throw) bags, either in or out of barrels. Any bag and/or barrel weighing more than 50 pounds will not be picked up by the contractor who holds a permit for the collection of trash from the board of health. Any owner of a building with five or more residential units, any business, nonprofit, and any private or charter school shall provide private trash collection. Official Gloucester PAYT bags, either in or out of a barrel shall be placed at the curb not later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection.~~

[ADD] (a) All Eligible Households who use the municipal collection program shall place solid waste in an official Trash Collection Container. Containers shall be placed at the curb not later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection.

- (b) Homeowners and tenants [ADD] shall immediately ~~[DELETE] will be required to~~ clean ~~[DELETE] up immediately~~ all trash/recyclables spilled on the ground. ~~[DELETE] due to torn bags or overturned Containers.~~
- (c) [ADD] Containers ~~[DELETE] Trash/recycling receptacles~~ shall not be put out for collection before 4:00 p.m. the day ~~[DELETE] preceding~~ [ADD] before the day of collection and shall be removed from curbside location and returned to their proper place on the same day of collection.
- (d) ~~[DELETE] The City of Gloucester shall provide~~ [ADD] Each Eligible Household ~~[DELETE] resident~~ [ADD] using municipal trash collection shall receive an official municipal trash ~~[DELETE] with one~~ [ADD] Container and a Recycling Container ~~[DELETE] recycling container~~ from the City of Gloucester, through the Department of Public Works business office: ~~[DELETE] Per residential unit which receives municipal trash pick-up. Residents of each premises shall:~~
 - (1) ~~[DELETE] Take~~ Proper care [ADD] shall be exercised to protect such Container from misuse, loss or damage.
 - (2) [ADD] Trash and Recycling Containers [ADD] shall ~~[DELETE] must~~ remain with the premises for use by subsequent [ADD] residents when unit is vacated.

~~[DELETE] (3) Residents are responsible for the replacement of containers which are lost, or damaged beyond normal wear and tear. The City of Gloucester is not obligated to replace lost, stolen, or damaged containers. Residents may purchase a replacement or additional bin from the DPW business office.~~

[ADD] (3) Each Eligible Household is responsible for replacing a lost or damaged Container from the City of Gloucester.

Sec. ~~[DELETE] 9-11~~ [ADD] 9-12. - Regulations for curbside collection of recyclable material; mandatory.

- (a) *Purpose and goal.* The goal of this chapter is to promote recycling in the city and to comply with state mandated waste bans, and to assist in cost reduction for residential waste collection.
- (b) *Separation of recyclable material from trash.* Each [ADD] Eligible Household ~~[DELETE] residential unit~~ which receives municipal waste disposal services shall separate recyclables from their trash. The term "recyclables" is defined in section 9-1, ~~[DELETE] which~~ includes, but is not limited to: newspaper, magazines, junk mail, glass, plastics, tin/steel, corrugated cardboard, CRTs, appliances and automotive recyclables. No recyclables shall be placed in the same container as trash. All trash and recyclables shall be set out for collection in accordance with section 9-2. If it is determined that there are more than negligible quantities of recyclable materials in trash set out for collection, the trash may be deemed rejected for collection and left uncollected. Trash that has not been separated for recyclable material and deemed rejected for collection shall be considered litter and subject the owner to a fine of not more than \$300.00 if it is not removed from the curbside within 24 hours.

FURTHER ORDERED to renumber the corresponding sections from Section 9-1 throughout Chapter 9.

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: A motion was made by Councilor Margiotta and seconded by Councilor Grace, to amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 9 "TRASH, RECYCLING AND LITTER" as follows:

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Appliances means refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, water heaters, freezers, air conditioners, washing machines, dryers, dehumidifiers, and trash compactors, which were originally intended for residential dwelling application.

Automotive recyclables means:

- (1) Tires, not including large truck tires;
- (2) Motor oil, not contaminated with any other liquid, dirt or leaves;
- (3) Oil filters;
- (4) Car and boat batteries.

Bulk item means [ADD] large trash items that will not fit in the Container, such as furniture. Construction debris is not a bulk item. ~~[DELETE] furniture predominantly non-metallic, weighing over 50 pounds not fitting into official PAYT bag.~~

~~[DELETE] Bulk item sticker means the sticker required for curbside bulky item pick-up.~~

Cathode ray tubes (CRTs) means the leaded glass picture tubes found in televisions, computer monitors and video games.

Commingled collection means the collection program in which residents are required to place glass, metal, and plastic containers in recycling receptacles.

Composting means the recovery of discarded organic materials for processing into a soil amendment, fertilizer and/or mulch.

Corrugated cardboard means paper in which a portion has been made to have wavy surface (ridges and grooves) and is placed between two flat surfaces for the sake of strength and is commonly used to form cartons.

[ADD] Eligible Household means a single-family home or a residential dwelling unit contained in a multi-family or mixed-use development containing four or less units.

Glass means unbroken clean jars and bottles, but not including: dishes, ceramics, plate glass and flat glass (commonly known as window glass), Pyrex, lightbulbs, drinking glasses, crystal and mirrored glass.

Household means the single residential unit within a single or multi-family dwelling.

Litter means any waste material, including but not limited to tobacco, marijuana and marijuana products or parts thereof (other than the ashes), and waste material deposited on or near a waste receptacle which cannot accommodate more waste, and which waste material, if thrown or deposited in a manner prohibited by this article I, tends to create a danger to the public health, safety or welfare, or tends to create a danger to the quality of life including an unsightly appearance that would reasonably discourage others from using the property for its intended purpose.

[ADD] Metal [DELETE] Tin/steel cans means tin and steel food cans, cleaned and flattened or nested if desired, but not included are paint cans or any product with a hazardous chemical residue.

Municipal collection program means the program that collects solid waste and recyclable materials including yard waste, white goods (Freon and non-Freon bearing), all televisions and all computer displays from all eligible residents **[ADD], eligible [DELETE] all** mixed use buildings, all municipal facilities or locations and city schools.

Newspapers, magazines and junk mail means advertisements, newspapers, and comics. The term "magazines" includes all periodicals and catalogs. The term "junk mail," as used herein, includes materials received in the mail which are made of paper.

Park means and includes park, a reservation, playground, beach, recreation center or other public area in the city, owned or used by the city and devoted to active or passive recreation.

~~**[DELETE]-PAYT (pay as you throw) program means the city pay as you throw trash collection program whereby residential trash must be contained in an official PAYT trash bag or bear a bulky item sticker.**~~

Plastic containers means polyethylene terephthalate (PET), high-density Polyethylene (HDPE), plastic #1 through #7 only. The term "plastic containers" includes containers used for packaging soda, milk, juices, drinks and water, but not including oil or any other hazardous materials with a chemical residue.

Private premises means and includes any yards, grounds, walks, driveways, porches, steps, docks, wharves or mailboxes belonging to or appurtenant to any dwelling, house, building or other structure.

Public place means and includes any and all streets, sidewalks, boulevards, alleys, or other public ways and any and all public parks, squares, spaces, grounds and buildings.

Recyclables shall mean glass containers, plastics #1 through #7, "junk mail," newspapers, clean corrugated cardboard, and tin/steel containers.

Recycling means any method, technique or system authorized to process or treat discarded materials so that its components, materials or substances may be beneficially used or reused.

Residential unit or dwelling means a dwelling within the corporate limits of the city occupied by a person or group of persons and comprised of not more than four units.

Solid waste means household trash generated within the home and bulky items such as furniture, not including recyclable material, construction materials, or hazardous waste material or construction and demolition materials from remodeling.

Trash means material considered worthless, unnecessary or offensive that is usually thrown away. The term "trash" is generally defined as dry waste material, but in common usage it is a synonym for garbage, rubbish or refuse, but not to include recyclables or yard waste.

[ADD] **Trash Collection Container (Container) eligible households shall use official municipal collection trash collection containers. [DELETE] or a bulky item sticker for their residential trash.**

~~[DELETE] **Vehicle means every device in, or upon which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, or public way.**~~

Yard waste means vegetation that includes: grass clippings, leaves, twigs, branches, brush (including Christmas trees), weeds and all organic material that can be composted, but not including, railroad ties or other yard related materials that ~~[DELETE] has~~ [ADD] **have** been treated with chemical preservatives.

[ADD] Sec. 9-2. - Trash Collection

- (a) All households, businesses, non-profit organizations, private schools and other commercial enterprises shall have trash collection.
- (b) Eligible Households shall use municipal trash collection or a private trash collection service.
- (c) Any owner of a building with four or more residential units, any business, nonprofit, and any private or charter school shall provide private trash collection.

Sec. 9-3. - Municipal Trash Collection Fees

- (a) The city hereby establishes an annual municipal trash collection fee relative to the cost of providing municipal trash collection services. The annual trash collection fee shall be considered a utility fee for all residential units, whether owner occupied or rented and no additional private servicing or administrative charges shall be applied to the fee as an additional fee by a private individual, business or organization.
- (b) The trash collection fee shall be assessed to all Eligible Households on the basis of the fee structure established by the city.
- (c) The city may establish and modify from time to time the service fees for municipal trash collection so that the funds generated correspond to the cost of the management and provision of municipal trash collection service.

(d) The Director of Public Works shall promulgate regulations implementing the fee. The fee shall be referred to the mayor and City Council for approval as required by section 7-16 of the city charter.

Sec. ~~[DELETE] 9-2. PAYT~~ [ADD] 9-4. - Gloucester Trash Collection Containers.

~~[DELETE] (a) All households who are eligible for the municipal collection program are required to place solid waste in official PAYT (pay as you throw) bags, either in or out of barrels. Any bag and/or barrel weighing more than 50 pounds will not be picked up by the contractor who holds a permit for the collection of trash from the board of health. Any owner of a building with five or more residential units, any business, nonprofit, and any private or charter school shall provide private trash collection. Official Gloucester PAYT bags, either in or out of a barrel shall be placed at the curb not later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection.~~

[ADD] (a) All Eligible Households who use the municipal collection program shall place solid waste in an official Trash Collection Container. Containers shall be placed at the curb not later than 7:00 a.m. on the day of collection.

- (b) Homeowners and tenants [ADD] shall immediately ~~[DELETE] will be required to~~ clean ~~[DELETE] up immediately~~ all trash/recyclables spilled on the ground. ~~[DELETE] due to torn bags or overturned Containers.~~
- (c) [ADD] Containers ~~[DELETE] Trash/recycling receptacles~~ shall not be put out for collection before 4:00 p.m. the day ~~[DELETE] preceding~~ [ADD] before the day of collection and shall be removed from curbside location and returned to their proper place on the same day of collection.
- (d) ~~[DELETE] The City of Gloucester shall provide~~ [ADD] Each Eligible Household ~~[DELETE] resident~~ [ADD] using municipal trash collection shall receive an official municipal trash ~~[DELETE] with one~~ [ADD] Container and a Recycling Container ~~[DELETE] recycling container~~ from the City of Gloucester, through the Department of Public Works business office: ~~[DELETE] Per residential unit which receives municipal trash pick-up. Residents of each premises shall:~~
- (1) ~~[DELETE] Take~~ Proper care [ADD] shall be exercised to protect such Container from misuse, loss or damage.
 - (2) [ADD] Trash and Recycling Containers [ADD] shall ~~[DELETE] must~~ remain with the premises for use by subsequent [ADD] residents when unit is vacated.

~~[DELETE] (3) Residents are responsible for the replacement of containers which are lost, or damaged beyond normal wear and tear. The City of Gloucester is not obligated to replace lost, stolen, or damaged containers. Residents may purchase a replacement or additional bin from the DPW business office.~~

[ADD] (3) Each Eligible Household is responsible for replacing a lost or damaged Container from the City of Gloucester.

Sec. ~~[DELETE] 9-11~~ [ADD] 9-12. - Regulations for curbside collection of recyclable material; mandatory.

- (a) *Purpose and goal.* The goal of this chapter is to promote recycling in the city and to comply with state mandated waste bans, and to assist in cost reduction for residential waste collection.
- (b) *Separation of recyclable material from trash.* Each [ADD] Eligible Household ~~[DELETE] residential unit~~ which receives municipal waste disposal services shall separate recyclables from their trash. The term "recyclables" is defined in section 9-1, ~~[DELETE] which~~ includes, but is not limited to: newspaper, magazines, junk mail, glass, plastics, tin/steel, corrugated cardboard, CRTs, appliances and automotive recyclables. No recyclables shall be placed in the same container as trash. All trash and recyclables shall be set out for collection in accordance with section 9-2. If it is determined that

there are more than negligible quantities of recyclable materials in trash set out for collection, the trash may be deemed rejected for collection and left uncollected. Trash that has not been separated for recyclable material and deemed rejected for collection shall be considered litter and subject the owner to a fine of not more than \$300.00 if it is not removed from the curbside within 24 hours.

FURTHER ORDERED to renumber the corresponding sections from Section 9-1 throughout Chapter 9.

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION TO AMEND: On a motion by Councilor Page, seconded by Councilor Grace, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to amend Sec. 9-2, Trash Collection, (c) “(c) “Any owner of a building with four or more residential units” and replace four with five.

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION AS AMENDED: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 9 “TRASH, RECYCLING AND LITTER” as follows:

**Chapter 9 TRASH, RECYCLING AND LITTER
ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL**

Sec. 9-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

[ADD] *Acceptable Recyclables* means emptied and rinsed: metal food and beverage cans; plastic bottles, jars, jugs and tubs; glass bottles and jars, and emptied and flattened mixed paper, newspaper, magazines and boxes, the definition shall be expanded and modified from time to time by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Waste Disposal Ban requirements set forth in 310 CMR 19.07.

***Appliances* means refrigerators, ranges, dishwashers, water heaters, freezers, air conditioners, washing machines, dryers, dehumidifiers, and trash compactors, which were originally intended for residential dwelling application.**

***Automotive recyclables* means:**

- (1) Tires, not including large truck tires;**
- (2) Motor oil, not contaminated with any other liquid, dirt or leaves;**
- (3) Oil filters;**
- (4) Car and boat batteries.**

***Bulk item* means [ADD] large trash items that will not fit in the Container, such as furniture. Construction debris is not a bulk item. [DELETE] furniture predominantly non-metallic, weighing over 50 pounds not fitting into official PAYT bag.**

[DELETE] *Bulk item sticker* means the sticker required for curbside bulky item pick-up.

***Cathode ray tubes (CRTs)* means the leaded glass picture tubes found in televisions, computer monitors and video games.**

Commingled collection means the collection program in which residents are required to place glass, metal, and plastic containers in recycling receptacles.

Composting means the recovery of discarded organic materials for processing into a soil amendment, fertilizer and/or mulch.

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[ADD] Eligible Household means a single-family home or a residential dwelling unit contained in a multi-family or mixed-use development containing four or less units.

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Litter means any waste material, including but not limited to tobacco, marijuana and marijuana products or parts thereof (other than the ashes), and waste material deposited on or near a waste receptacle which cannot accommodate more waste, and which waste material, if thrown or deposited in a manner prohibited by this article I, tends to create a danger to the public health, safety or welfare, or tends to create a danger to the quality of life including an unsightly appearance that would reasonably discourage others from using the property for its intended purpose.

[ADD] Metal [DELETE] Tin/steel cans means tin and steel food cans, cleaned and flattened or nested if desired, but not included are paint cans or any product with a hazardous chemical residue.

Municipal collection program means the program that collects solid waste and recyclable materials including yard waste, white goods (Freon and non-Freon bearing), all televisions and all computer displays from all eligible residents **[ADD], eligible [DELETE] all** mixed use buildings, all municipal facilities or locations and city schools.

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~~**[DELETE] PAYT (pay as you throw) program means the city pay as you throw trash collection program whereby residential trash must be contained in an official PAYT trash bag or bear a bulky item sticker.**~~

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- (c) [ADD] Containers ~~[DELETE] Trash/recycling receptacles~~ shall not be put out for collection before 4:00 p.m. the day ~~[DELETE] preceding~~ [ADD] before the day of collection and shall be removed from curbside location and returned to their proper place on the same day of collection.
- (d) ~~[DELETE] The City of Gloucester shall provide~~ [ADD] Each Eligible Household ~~[DELETE] resident~~ [ADD] using municipal trash collection shall receive an official municipal trash ~~[DELETE] with one~~ [ADD] Container and a Recycling Container ~~[DELETE] recycling container~~ from the City of Gloucester, through the Department of Public Works business office: ~~[DELETE] Per residential unit which receives municipal trash pick-up. Residents of each premises shall:~~
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[ADD] (3) Each Eligible Household is responsible for replacing a lost or damaged Container from the City of Gloucester.

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- (a) *Purpose and goal.* The goal of this chapter is to promote recycling in the city and to comply with state mandated waste bans, and to assist in cost reduction for residential waste collection.
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FURTHER ORDERED to renumber the corresponding sections from Section 9-1 throughout Chapter 9.

3. **PH2026-021: CC#2026-006 (Grace/Nolan): Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-285 “Parking of trucks, trailer trucks and other commercial vehicles” subsection (b) by ADDING “Washington Square, for its entirety, from 10:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m.”**

•**Public Hearing Opened:** 7:16 p.m.

•**Speaking in Favor: Councilor Grace** stated that commercial vehicles had been parking on Washington Square making it difficult for emergency vehicles to pass through and creating parking issues. She stated that this was a safety issue.

•**Speaking in Opposition:** None.

•**Communications:** Communication from Sarah Doherty in favor of the ordinance amendment.

•**Questions from Councilors to Applicants/Staff: Councilor Page** asked what were the rules surrounding commercial vehicles parking on City streets. **Traffic Commission Chair Bob Ryan** stated that it depended on the street and it was outlined in the City ordinance.

•**Public Hearing Closed:** 7:21 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grace, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-285 “Parking of trucks, trailer trucks and other commercial vehicles” subsection (b) by **ADDING “Washington Square, for its entirety, from 10:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m.”**

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-285 “Parking of trucks, trailer trucks and other commercial vehicles” subsection (b) by **ADDING “Washington Square, for its entirety, from 10:00 p.m. through 6:00 a.m.”**

4. **PH2026-026: CC#2026-014 (Memhard): Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-292 “Fire Lanes” by DELETING “Rackliffe Street, westerly side from its intersection with Fremont Street in a southerly direction for its entire length to dead end” and ADDING “Rackliffe Street, both sides from its intersection with Fremont Street in a southerly direction for its entire length to dead end.”**

•**Public Hearing Opened:** 7:23 p.m.

•**Speaking in Favor: James Maslow, 11 Rackliffe Street,** stated that he was in favor of this ordinance amendment and he had the statement of seven other residents who were in favor of the amendment. He stated that there had been an emergency call to the end of this portion of Rackliffe Street where a fire truck could not make

the turn onto the street from Fremont Street, and he had taken photographs. He stated that this was an example of why there should be fire lanes on both sides of the street.

George Bottger, 12 Rackliffe Street, stated he had also witnessed the fire truck unable to turn onto Rackliffe. He stated that cars parked near the beginning of the street made it difficult to turn onto the street and decreased visibility. He stated that when cars were parked on the side of the street it also made it into a one-way street.

Elizabeth Lewis, 15 Rackliffe Street, stated the fire truck incident was when her fire alarms would not turn off, and not for an actual fire. She stated her support for the matter.

Karen Maslow, 11 Rackliffe Street, stated that she had sent the City Council pictures regarding the fire truck incident showing how tight the road was.

Bob Ryan stated his support for the matter. He stated that this was a very tight street and that a normal two-way street was 20 to 24 feet wide, while Rackliffe Street was between 14 and 15 feet. He stated that the matter had the support of the Police Chief and Fire Chief.

•**Speaking in Opposition: Michael Diliberti, 5 Wiley Street**, stated that when the condominiums had been built on Rackliffe Street, two parking spaces had been lost. He stated that the City Council in 1982 had done a study on the area and a key concern was parking. He stated that there had been 44 years of trucks going down this section of Rackliffe Street with no issues, and all of the streets in the area were similarly tight. He stated that this was not a safety issue, but a change in neighborhood dynamics.

Gale Seraphine, 5 Wiley Street, stated that residents were often very careful about parking in the area due to how tight it was.

•**Communications:**

Communications in Favor

Karen, Jake, and James Maslow, 11 Rackliffe Street

Rose Bottger, 12 Rackliffe Street

Elizabeth Lewis, 15 Rackliffe Street

Gabriela Chapdelaine, 17 Rackliffe Street

Jennifer Taylor, 18 Rackliffe Street

Josh Silverman, 19 Rackliffe Street

Susan Dodd, 10 Fremont Street

Fire Chief, Eric Smith regarding swept path analysis

•**Questions from Councilors to Applicants/Staff: Councilor Margiotta** asked if landscapers or other workers needed to park in the area, where would they park if there were fire lanes. **George Bottger** stated that the landscapers would sometimes park on the grass of 13 Rackliffe Street if there was no street parking. He stated that they may need to park in driveways.

Councilor Grace asked what happened to the Fire Lane signs that had previously been on Rackliffe Street. **Karen Maslow** stated that she had requested them be moved when her driveway had been expanded from one car to two cars. She stated that the DPW had moved them to the corner of Rackliffe and Fremont.

Councilor Grace asked when had the driveway been expanded. **Karen Maslow** stated about 10 years ago.

Councilor Grace asked if there had been parking problems prior to the driveway expansion. **Karen Maslow** stated that there had not been. **Councilor Grace** stated that it seemed as if the expansion of the driveway was the first event that led to the proposed ordinance amendment. **Elizabeth Lewis** stated that most properties had

additional parking on their property. **George Bottger** stated that it was a safety issue. **Councilor Gross** stated that there were streets that had similar issues throughout the City and if all of those streets were made into fire lanes there would be a huge issue.

Councilor Benson asked if the Fire Chief was in support of the matter. **Councilor Gross** stated that the Fire Chief had stated his support.

Councilor Benson asked if there were concerns from the opposition that this would set a precedent for the creation of fire lanes on similar streets in the City. **Michael Diliberti** stated that other streets in the area where similar in size and the City shouldn't cherry pick.

Councilor Gross asked if there was concern regarding tradespeople parking elsewhere. **Michael Diliberti** stated they already had difficulties with vehicles from the condominiums.

Councilor Page asked who was parking on Rackliffe Street causing the issues, if the houses already had driveways. **Karen Maslow** stated that it was residents from other areas of Rocky Neck.

Councilor Margiotta asked for clarification regarding the width of the street. **Bob Ryan** stated that each lane should be 10 feet. He stated that residents of Wiley Street were parking on Rackliffe Street, and he stated if a landscaper needed parking, then residents could park their cars in the nearby parking lot.

Councilor Margiotta asked for clarification regarding how the width of Rackliffe Street compares to other streets in the area. **Bob Ryan** stated that he had only measured Rackliffe Street. He stated that the City Council did not have the authority to dictate no parking areas on private ways like Rackliffe Street but could mandate fire lanes.

Councilor Page asked for clarification regarding the City Council's authority regarding fire lanes on private ways. **Bob Ryan** stated that the City could only mandate fire lanes on private ways. He stated that there were 18 streets that had resident only parking that were private ways and were therefore non-enforceable. He stated that if residents of a street made a petition with 60% of residents signing it, then the City Council could make an area no parking on a private way.

Councilor Grace asked if the reason for the proposed ordinance was originally because the Maslow's were having issues backing out of their driveway. **Councilor Memhard** stated that he had been working with the Maslow's on the matter for 11 years. He stated that the issue arose when cars were being parked across the street where signage was confusing. He stated that it had originated as a parking issue but was now being handled as a fire safety issue.

Councilor Grace asked for clarification regarding what had happened to the original fire lane signage. **Councilor Memhard** stated that residents across the street had seen existing signage being removed by the Maslows and put in their backyard. **Bob Ryan** stated that there currently was a fire lane sign at the corner with arrows pointing in either direction.

Renee Serafi, 15 Wiley Street, stated that when the condos were built the City Council had established fire lanes for safety.

•**Public Hearing Closed:** 8:18 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-292 "Fire lanes" by DELETING "Rackliffe Street, westerly, side from its intersection with Fremont Street in a southerly direction for its entire length to dead end" and ADDING "Rackliffe Street, both sides from its intersection with Fremont Street in a southerly direction for its entire length to dead end."

Summary of Discussion: Councilor Grace stated that this matter did not start off as a safety issue, but a neighborhood dispute, and that history was important to consider.

Councilor Page stated there were many streets in the City that had similar constraints, and there should be continued public access to the area.

Councilor Memhard stated that he was concerned about setting a precedent and also creating a hardship by adding a second fire lane. He stated he would not be supporting the matter.

Councilor Gross stated that this would create a precedent and the City would need to create fire lanes on similar streets.

There was a brief discussion regarding postponing the vote on the matter. It was determined that the vote would not be postponed.

Councilor Grace stated that streets should be evaluated fairly across the board.

Councilor Page called the question.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the City Council voted by ROLL CALL 0 in favor, 7 opposed, 2 absent, to amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-292 “Fire lanes” by DELETING “Rackliffe Street, westerly, side from its intersection with Fremont Street in a southerly direction for its entire length to dead end” and ADDING “Rackliffe Street, both sides from its intersection with Fremont Street in a southerly direction for its entire length to dead end.”

THE MOTION FAILS.

5. PH2026-027: CC#2026-010 (Margiotta): Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times,” and Sec. 22-291 “Tow-away Zones” by ADDING “Wheeler Street, both sides, from its intersection with Shore Hill Road to its intersection with Howard Road.”

This matter was continued to the December 8, 2026 City Council Meeting.

6. PH2026-028: CC#2026-011 (Benson): Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-284 “Service or Loading Zones” by DELETING “Main Street, northerly side, in front of #134, one space, 30 minutes limit,” and ADDING “Main Street, northerly side, in front of #124, one space, commercial vehicles only, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., 30 Minutes Limit.”

•Public Hearing Opened: 8:34 p.m.

•Speaking in Favor: Councilor Benson stated that businesses were reporting that delivery vehicles were unable to access the loading zone due to parked cars. He stated that the current signage was confusing. He stated that this would allow for the signage to be updated and made clearer.

Bob Ryan stated that this would clear up the signage and locate the sign in the proper location.

•Speaking in Opposition: None.

•Communications: None.

•**Questions from Councilors to Applicants/Staff:** None.

•**Public Hearing Closed:** 8:37 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grace, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-284 "Service or Loading Zones" by DELETING "Main Street, northerly side, in front of # 134, one space, 30 minute limit," and ADDING: "Main Street, northerly side, in front of # 124, one space, commercial vehicles only, 8 AM to 5 PM, 30 Minute Limit."

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22, "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-284 "Service or Loading Zones" by DELETING "Main Street, northerly side, in front of # 134, one space, 30 minute limit," and ADDING: "Main Street, northerly side, in front of # 124, one space, commercial vehicles only, 8 AM to 5 PM, 30 Minute Limit."

7. PH2026-029: CC#2026-015 (Memhard): Amend GCO Ch. 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-279 "Thirty-minute parking" by DELETING "Eastern Avenue, in front of #18 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the area beginning at pole #2741 on the westerly side in a southerly direction for 36 feet, two 30-minute parking spaces, clearly delineated."

•**Public Hearing Opened:** 8:38 p.m.

•**Speaking in Favor:** Councilor Memhard stated that this was a housekeeping matter, as the reserved parking was for a business that was no longer in operation.

Bob Ryan stated he supported the matter.

•**Speaking in Opposition:** None.

•**Communications:** None.

•**Questions from Councilors to Applicants/Staff:** None.

•**Public Hearing Closed:** 8:40 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grace, seconded by Councilor Nolan, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 2 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 absent, to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 "Traffic and Motor Vehicles," Sec. 22-279 "Thirty-minute parking" by DELETING "Eastern Avenue, in front of #18 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the area beginning at pole #2741 on the westerly side in a southerly direction for 36 feet, two 30-minute parking spaces, clearly delineated."

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Margiotta, seconded by Councilor Grace, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-279 “Thirty-minute parking” by DELETING “Eastern Avenue, in front of #18 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. in the area beginning at pole #2741 on the westerly side in a southerly direction for 36 feet, two 30-minute parking spaces, clearly delineated.”

8. PH2026-030: CC#2026-020 (Gross): Amend GCO Ch. 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles,” Sec. 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” and Section 22-291 “Tow-away Zones” by DELETING “No parking at 127 Rogers St. for 25 feet in a southerly direction from the northern crosswalk.” “No parking at 128 Rogers St. for 25 feet in a southerly direction from the northern crosswalk and in a northerly direction from the same northern crosswalk to corner of Gorton’s parking lot entrance at 128 Rogers Street.” and ADDING “No parking at 128 Rogers Street for 100 feet in a northerly direction from the southern crosswalk to corner of Gorton’s parking lot entrance at 128 Rogers Street.” “No parking at 127 Rogers Street for 110 feet in a southern direction from the lot entrance to the trailer truck only parking zone.”

•**Public Hearing Opened:** 8:42 p.m.

•**Speaking in Favor: Councilor Gross** stated that the proposed ordinance amendment came from a discussion with Gorton’s Seafood regarding safety on Roger’s Street. He stated that there had been a number of near misses for pedestrians, and the parking was largely used by Gorton’s staff, and the business would handle any issues that arose from it internally. He stated that the meeting had included Senator Bruce Tarr, Representative Dru Tarr, Gorton’s Staff, CAO Kelly Dolan, Traffic Commission Chair Bob Ryan, Interim Police Chief Michael Williams, and himself.

Bob Ryan stated that there would be a safety study conducted for the area as well.

•**Speaking in Opposition:** None.

•**Communications:** None.

•**Questions from Councilors to Applicants/Staff: Councilor Benson** asked how many parking spots would be removed. **Councilor Gross** stated there would be four parking spots removed.

•**Public Hearing Closed:** 8:47 p.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Grace, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the Ordinances & Administration Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles” as follows:

Amend Section 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” and Section 22-291 “Tow-away Zones” by
DELETING:

~~No parking at 127 Rogers St. for 25 feet in a southerly direction from the northern crosswalk.~~

~~No parking at 128 Rogers St. for 25 feet in a southerly direction from the northern crosswalk and in a northerly direction from the same northern crosswalk to corner of Gorton’s parking lot entrance at 128 Rogers St.~~

ADDING

“No Parking at 128 Rogers St. for 100 feet in a northerly direction from the southern crosswalk to corner of Gorton’s parking lot entrance at 128 Rogers St.”

“No Parking at 127 Rogers St. for 110 feet in a southern direction from the lot entrance to the trailer truck only parking zone”

Summary of Discussion: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grace, seconded by Councilor Margiotta, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to amend the Gloucester Code of Ordinances, Chapter 22 “Traffic and Motor Vehicles” as follows:

Amend Section 22-270 “Parking prohibited at all times” and Section 22-291 “Tow-away Zones” by
DELETING:

~~No parking at 127 Rogers St. for 25 feet in a southerly direction from the northern crosswalk.~~

~~No parking at 128 Rogers St. for 25 feet in a southerly direction from the northern crosswalk and in a northerly direction from the same northern crosswalk to corner of Gorton's parking lot entrance at 128 Rogers St.~~

ADDING

“No Parking at 128 Rogers St. for 100 feet in a northerly direction from the southern crosswalk to corner of Gorton’s parking lot entrance at 128 Rogers St.”

“No Parking at 127 Rogers St. for 110 feet in a southern direction from the lot entrance to the trailer truck only parking zone”

COUNCIL VOTE:

1. **Memorandum from the City Clerk requesting to reduce Early Voting hours for the 1st week of Early Voting for the November 3, 2026 State Election**

Summary of Discussion: City Clerk, Grace Poirier stated that the State allows the Early Voting period to be reduced by 50% with a vote by City Council. She stated that reducing the hours for the first week of Early Voting would decrease the burden on staff, and makes the office able to concentrate on the high volume of vote-by-mail. She stated that in the 2024 election there were only 77 in person early voters, while there were thousands of vote-by-mail ballots that had been sent out, which required a number of manual and detailed processes. She stated that she had not received complaints from residents regarding the reduced hours in the past.

Councilor Kimberley asked how many steps were involved in processing a vote by mail application. **Grace Poirier** stated that there were twelve manual steps per ballot, from receipt of the application to tabulation.

Councilor Kimberley asked if the reduction in hours could deter a resident from voting. **Grace Poirier** stated that it could but there were many opportunities to vote, such as vote-by-mail, two early voting Saturdays, a full week before the election, and election day.

Councilor Kimberley asked if volunteers were important for working the polls. **Grace Poirier** stated having a good pool of election workers was very important. She stated election workers went through training and were made sure to be up to the task.

Councilor Gross asked for clarification regarding the Saturday voting hours. **Grace Poirier** stated that both Saturdays voting would be open for six hours.

Councilor Gross stated that if a resident could not make it to the polls on election day for a legitimate reason, such as travel or a medical reason, then they were allowed to vote absentee at any time.

Councilor Grace asked for clarification regarding the reduced hours. **Grace Poirier** stated that the hours during the first week would be reduced but not eliminated.

Councilor Benson stated that he understood the amount of work the Clerk's Office put into elections, but he could not support reducing access to voting for residents.

Councilor Page stated her support for the matter.

Councilor Gross stated that the City Council did not support restricting voting access whatsoever, but the burden on the Clerk's Office was dramatic.

Councilor Page asked if it would be helpful for the Clerk's Office to close for non-election related business on some days. **Grace Poirier** stated that the Council President and Vice President had allowed the office to close leading up to elections and the day after.

Councilor Gross stated that residents should try to vote in person as it was the most secure way to cast a vote.

Councilor Page asked if the previous City Clerk had asked to end vote-by-mail. **Grace Poirier** stated that they had not, however the State did allow municipalities to opt out of vote-by-mail for local elections.

Grace Poirier stated that the City Clerk's Office did everything to make sure ballots were secure and counted, however the USPS did not process vote-by-mail ballots locally which caused delays. She stated also that signing the ballot envelope was important, as otherwise the ballot could not be processed.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Benson, seconded by Councilor Page, the City Council voted by 6 in favor, 1 opposed (Benson), 2 absent, to reduce the Early Voting hours for the 1st week of Early Voting for the November 3, 2026 State Election

INDIVIDUAL COUNCILOR'S DISCUSSION INCLUDING REPORTS BY APPOINTED COUNCILORS TO COMMITTEES: None.

COUNCILORS' REQUESTS TO THE MAYOR: **Councilor Grace** requested that the Mayor alert Councilors when a large project was happening in a ward.

COUNCILORS' THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: **Councilor Memhard** thanked the DPW and Casella for their rollout of the new trash bins.

COUNCILORS' WARD UPDATES AND COMMUNITY NEWS: None.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Grow, seconded by Councilor Page, the City Council voted 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent, to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Submitted by: Lynds Jones, Legislative Aide

Items submitted at the meeting: None.

Meeting Recording: <https://www.gloucester-ma.gov/1097/Past-Remote-Public-Meetings>