

## Committee on General Government – Meeting Minutes

November 10, 2022

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Attendees present: Councillor Bruce Vogel (at-large), Councillor Sharif Zeid (Ward 1), Councillor Heather Shand (Ward 3, Chair); via Zoom James Pope

### Agenda:

- COMM00438 Hanukkah Menorah Market Square 12/12-12/27
- COMM00440 IT Director James Pope

Committee called to order at 6:00

### **COMM00440 IT Director James Pope**

Mr. Pope spoke to his qualifications that involved many years working in the city of Gloucester as their IT director.

Councillor Zeid spoke to 4 points; Homogenization of the IT efforts in the city, the IT needs between the city and the school department, a full audit of the city's IT system and retention of the data we're accumulating.

Mr. Pope spoke to his plans to speak to his first month listening tour, speaking to department heads and officials to understand the current IT situation and assess the city's needs. Acknowledges a mismatch of data systems and how technology is changing quickly. Noted there are different audio and video issues with the council chambers and other rooms currently being used for zoom meetings. Stated he'd work with the schools to see if there are synergies to be gained but has no directive to do so. Stated an audit was in process and would assess noting Newburyport already has the latest version of Civic Plus. Regarding retention of data, he agreed data needed to be easy to retrieve. He didn't think there was a need to increase staff and would assess the current needs along with the current outsourcing efforts.

Councilor Zeid noted the salary was 10% more than what the council budgeted in the spring so should be aware of that for the next budget season. Also, this is a department head position that is union, so there is no contract.

Committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval to the full council.

### **COMM00438 Hanukkah Menorah Market Square 12/12-12/27**

Committee discussed the request, stating this is the same as has been asked for in years past Regarding timeline, stipulated the Menorah should come down no later than January 2, 2023.

Committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval to the full council.

Committee adjourned at 6:25.

