

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 6, 2015

I. ROLL CALL

Town Council Members present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President
Mary E. Meagher, Vice President
Blake A. Dickinson
Michael G. White
Thomas P. Tighe

Also in Attendance:

Andrew E. Nota, Town Administrator
Peter D. Ruggiero, Town Solicitor
Edward A. Mello, Police Chief
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director
Donna Fogarty, Library Director
Cathy Kaiser, School Committee Chair
Cheryl A. Fernstrom, Town Clerk

II. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Trocki called the regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 7:01 p.m. in the Jamestown Town Hall Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue, and Councilor Dickinson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS,
RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

- A) Proclamations
1) 2015-08 May 6, 2015 as "Tom McAleer Day" in Jamestown

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Dickinson to continue this item to the April 20, 2015 meeting agenda. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS, LICENSES AND PERMITS

None.

V. OPEN FORUM

Please note that, under scheduled requests to address, if the topic of the address is available to be put on the agenda, the Council may discuss the issue.

- A) Scheduled to address. None.
- B) Non-scheduled to address.

Jerry Scott of Walcott Avenue, President of the Taxpayers Association of Jamestown, commented on the great job the Council is doing in keeping expenses down. He hopes the Council can adopt a 0% increase budget.

VI. COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATOR, SOLICITOR, COMMISSION/COMMITTEE COMMENTS & REPORTS

A) Administrator's Report: Town Administrator Andrew E. Nota. Mr. Nota clarified the meeting schedule and final budget work session. The Council scheduled a budget work session for April 9th at 6 p.m. The first public information session for the April 28th Special Referendum for purchase of the PAC is Tuesday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall, and the second session is Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street.

B) Fourth Quarter 2014 GZA Monitoring Report. Public Works Director Michael Gray referenced the report summary for the testing performed on the 11 program test wells. Inorganic compound levels remain constant and statistical data shows there are decreasing trends. Monitoring continues and the next report will cover through March 2015.

C) Jamestown Philomenian Library Report. Library Director Donna Fogarty's memo announced the Library Board of Trustees awarded the bid for the Capital Campaign Fund Consultant for the Jamestown Library Capital Campaign to Brakeley Briscoe, Inc. at their meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) April 28, 2015 Referendum – Public Information Session. April 7th is the date of the PAC Special Referendum Public Information Session at Town Hall at 6:00 p.m. A sample ballot question will appear in the *Jamestown Press*, a great deal of information has been compiled for the public, and questions will be answered at the session.

B) Town Council Goals and Objectives update. President Trocki noted the Council held several work sessions to develop the goals and objectives outline. Kudos to the Town Administrator and staff for their efforts. Minor spelling and typographical errors will be corrected on the original document and distributed to Council members. Vice President Meagher noted her edits under "To Promote Quality of Life in the Community" - 3. f. adding the word "appropriate" before the word sailing; 4. h. under "Ensure Effective and Accountable Town Government" a. 1. the phrase "with no extra fee" is to be removed; 2. f. should read "Streamline the local government process by improving efficiencies"; 2. Should read "Maintain the Towns Remarkable Sense of Fiscal Responsibility"; the PAC reference should add "subject to voter approval." Councilor Tighe would like clarification of how police details would be handled across the board to establish a policy. The language can be revised in the future as needed.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve the Town Council Goals and Objectives as amended. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; and Councilor Tighe, Aye.

The “Mission Statement” is under Council review. Discussion involved public input, major goals (3) developed with sub-goals and actions to accomplish the goals. Tying a Mission Statement to the goals is appropriate. Mission Statement will appear on the April 20th meeting agenda.

C) Hull Cove Boardwalk RIDEM Grant; discussion, and/or possible action and/or vote to proceed.

Town Planner Lisa Bryer explained the Hull Cove Grant awarded by RIDEM (application made by prior Council). It appears on the agenda due to a difference of opinion on the status of the grant extended through March 31, 2016. The original project estimated cost of \$100,000 was revised to \$140,000 after preliminary engineering design work was conducted. Public Works Director Gray noted the project is to build a boardwalk supported on anchors and handicapped accessible/ADA compliant. Once the soil conditions are tested and the required anchor depth known, the town will have an accurate cost estimate. The town is responsible for 20% of the project cost, with an 80% match by RIDEM. Mr. Gray is confident the town will be responsible for no more than \$30,000. This area of Hull Cove has been under review since 2005. Discussion ensued of available parking and concerns of neighboring property owners.

Maureen Coleman of East Shore Road, Chair of the Conservation Commission, commented the confusion exists because the project has been ongoing for ten years and the damage to the area. Conservation wanted to improve the quality of access to the area, including ADA compliance. CRMC requires a high boardwalk due to the wetlands that exist. The town received the highly competitive grant for \$80,000 with the understanding there would be a \$10,000 commitment from the town, which now requires a higher commitment. Discussion ensued of alternate sources of funding.

Councilor Dickinson commented on his negative vote as he felt like he was put in a position to approve funding in an area that would not have much use or a need for the boardwalk improvement, and he would rather commit funding to town roads. Vice President Meagher feels the town should go the next step to determine the project cost; if it proves to be more expensive than anticipated, the town could seek additional funding. The project goal is making the ROW more accessible to the public to provide access to the shore.

Town Administrator Nota reviewed the town’s options. The Council feels the more information available the better. The project will not exceed \$150,000, leaving the town responsible for \$30,000. No action is required; discussion continued.

Chris Powell of Mt. Hope Avenue referenced the interest in the Hull Cove ROW since 2005 and its popularity with neighbors who wanted town-provided parking rather than cutting off the ROW. RIDEM liked the project and approved the grant in 2013. Due to wetlands the boardwalk must be elevated, resulting in the increased costs. He encourages the Council to move forward with the project. Council members comment there is a compelling argument for creating access as well as the need to know what we are getting into.

Michael Brown of Baldwin Court, Conservation Commission member, tried to walk the ROW today and noted the difficulties. The boardwalk will be kept as simple as possible, and in the end it will be a beautiful asset for the Town. The town should solicit bids to determine actual costs and then seek additional funding as needed. Councilor White would like to see the process go forward after gaining additional information.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A) Fire Department Renovation/Consolidation Project update and setting of Bond amount; discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote to approve.

Town Administrator Nota introduced Chief Bryer, Chief Tighe, and the architects from Ahronian & Associates. The two components for the project are: 1) Fire Department building renovation and consolidation with EMS and 2) pumper truck replacement. The truck replacement is \$300,000 with the balance for the building renovation and consolidation just under \$2,100,000.

Ahronian & Associates gave their report and displayed and explained the conceptual drawings for the proposed renovations and consolidation. Lengthy discussion ensued. Town Administrator Nota thanked them for their information and stated based on current information, unforeseen obstacles, and potential inflation, he recommends going forward with a Bond in the amount of \$2,500,000.

Councilor Dickinson recommends that the level of detail displayed is enough to convey to the people the need for the expansion with confidence. The scope of the plan meets the minimum of size requirement for Fire and EMS, addresses department challenges, is a bare-bones project, and the expansion will fit into the surrounding area. The project could come in less than anticipated, and the Council is with the project as defined. The addition is just over 3,700 square feet. A standard fire pumper truck will fit into the new space provided and will be \$200,000 lower in cost and easier to maintain than a custom truck.

Public comments.

Don Richardson of Davis Street, a former Fire Department member, asked why the Ambulance Barn should be moved to the Fire Station location.

Deputy Chief Howard Tighe explained due to the transition to ALS and the requirement for two EMT's on duty at all times. As a result, workers will be on duty 24/7, creating the need for separate sleeping quarters for men and women, as well as separate showers, and decontamination areas. The new space needs are huge and it is impossible to conduct

training at the current location. Since the 2011 merger of Fire and EMS, all training is done at the Fire Department; it is easier with all operations under one roof.

Mr. Richardson commented it would be more economical to put an addition on the Ambulance Barn and leave it at Knowles Court.

President Trocki noted standardized trucks are more economical to purchase than customized trucks manufactured to fit in the smaller bays. With the new larger bays proposed, the renovation/consolidation is the most economically feasible option for the town and taxpayers.

Jerry Scott of Walcott Avenue commented the town does not have a good construction record, additions are not cost effective and always run higher than anticipated, and requested double checks on cost estimates.

Public Works Director Michael Gray noted renovation costs and Town projects, stated the Town Hall and Highway Barn did not have cost over runs, and that is why contingencies are built in to the project. The Police Station had a change in the scope of the project, causing some higher costs, and there were other savings within the project. He has confidence in the estimate and it is realistic.

Jerry Scott asked for a third party estimate. Town Administrator Nota stated the decision to utilize outside sources to determine whether cost estimates are accurate can be made over the next few weeks, and the town is comfortable with the information before us. Chief Bryer stated checks and balances are in place, any new information will be shared with the public prior to the FTM, and the Fire Department would appreciate Council support for the \$2.5 million project.

Frank Dorsi of Grinnell Street questioned the footprint of the proposed renovation, its safety impact on parking conditions, and whether public safety vehicles would be pulling out onto Grinnell Street or Narragansett Avenue.

Chief Bryer stated one pumper truck would pull out on Grinnell Street, and the proposed structure is further from Grinnell Street than the present structure. The issue of removing four parking spots will be addressed with the Traffic Committee. In addition, the project must go for Planning Commission and Zoning Board approval.

Gary Girard of Seaside Drive commented on the project's potential impact on the downtown neighborhood with emergency vehicles using Grinnell Street.

President Trocki commented on current conditions and the determination it was safe to use Grinnell Street. Chief Bryer explained the only way this could work was to use Grinnell Street for the pumper truck with the others using Narragansett Avenue. 80% of the calls are for EMS.

Frank Dorsi asked if the State Traffic Safety Engineer determined this is safe.

Deputy Chief Tighe noted the objective is to buy a standard truck off the production line at half the price; the current structure built in 1925 cannot accommodate a new standard truck.

Discussion ensued of whether it would be cheaper to raise the present structure and build a new one. Chief Bryer noted this was investigated and cost to raise the current structure was \$1,500,000 (Bond is for \$2,500,000).

Mr. Richardson inquired where ambulances were located and other questions. President Trocki recommended that any citizen with questions can meet with Chief Bryer to gain knowledge for further explanation of Fire Department operations and the Renovation/Consolidation project. Fire and EMS merged into one unit, they are not separate.

Vice President Meagher commented it is not possible for all vehicles to pull out onto Narragansett Avenue. She also noted handicapped accessibility improvements. Discussion ensued.

President Trocki referenced the “not to exceed” figure and checks and balances to contain costs. Town Administrator Nota will further explain the proposed combined structure and costs, including the additional costs required for refurbishing the Fire Department as two independent structures, at the next session.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve the amount of the Bond at “not to exceed \$2,500,000, to include the Fire Department improvements and renovations and purchase of the new truck. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

IX. ORDINANCES AND APPOINTMENTS

- A) Appointments and Vacancies
 - 1) Charter Review Committee (Seven vacancies with a term ending date unspecified – maximum of nine months duration)
 - a) Request for Appointment
 - i) Anthony Antine
 - ii) James Rugh
 - iii) Mary Lou Sanborn
 - iv) John Pagano

Council members thanked the four citizens that came forward and welcomed additional applicants. Council members would like see them appointed as well as Vice President Meagher and Councilor Dickinson. The Charter Review Committee would report all actions to the Council. Any Charter revisions would be on the ballot for the November 2016 General Town Council Meeting 04.06.2015

Election. The Committee would begin meeting after the FTM.

A motion was made by Councilor White with second by Councilor Tighe to appoint Anthony Antine, James Rugh, Mary Lou Sanborn, and John Pagano, as well as Vice President Meagher and Councilor Dickinson, to the Charter Review Committee. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

An item on the Consent Agenda need not be removed for simple clarification or correction of typographical errors. Approval of the Consent Agenda shall be equivalent to approval of each item as if it had been acted upon separately.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve and accept the Consent Agenda. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

The Consent Agenda approved consists of the following:

- A) Adoption of Council Minutes
 - 1) March 2, 2015 (interview session)
 - 2) March 2, 2015 (regular meeting)
 - 3) March 2, 2015 (executive session)
 - 4) March 16, 2015 (regular meeting)
- B) Minutes from Boards, Commissions and Committees
 - 1) Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee (01/12/2015)
 - 2) Jamestown Planning Commission (01/21/2015)
 - 3) Jamestown Planning Commission (02/04/2015)
 - 4) Jamestown Planning Commission (02/18/2015)
 - 5) Jamestown Planning Commission (03/04/2015)
 - 6) Jamestown Tree Preservation & Protection Committee (02/17/2015)
- C) Resolutions and Proclamations of other Rhode Island cities and towns
 - 1) Smithfield School Committee Resolution Designating March 2015 and going forward as “Women’s History Month”
 - 2) Foster Town Council Resolution Opposing An Act Relating to Taxation – Levy Assessment of Local Taxes
 - 3) Portsmouth Town Council Resolution requesting the RI General Assembly correct the conflict in RIGL §45-11-1(11) and RIGL §16-7-23(b) to enable School Committees to return surplus taxpayer monies to the municipality’s appropriating authority for deposit in the municipality’s reserve fund
 - 4) East Greenwich Town Council Resolution Supporting Bills S 0144 and H 5275 Relating to Education Foundation Level School Support
 - 5) East Greenwich Town Council Resolution Opposing Bill H 5257 Relating to Waters and Navigation Harbors and Harbor Lines
 - 6) Hopkinton Town Council Resolution Opposing Bills H 5044, S 0559 and H 5173 Relating to Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes

- D) Abatements/Addenda of Taxes
- E) Finance Director's Report
- F) Victualing License Application (New)
 - 1) Isis Cakes, LLC dba: Isis Cakes
Location: 9E Ferry Wharf

XI. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve and accept the Communications. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

The Communications approved consists of the following:

- A) Communications
 - 1) Letter of RIDEM Principal Sanitary Engineer Jay Manning with Project Priority List Requests for State Fiscal Year 2016
 - 2) Letter of South Kingstown Town Council affirming their vote to join Jamestown in opposition to Bills H 5044, H 5173, and S 0559
 - 3) Letter of WCRPC Executive Director Jeff Broadhead regarding the Partnership for RI Streetlight Management (PRISM) and support for proposed legislation Bill S 0741 and Bill H 5594
 - 4) Letter of Friends of the Jamestown Philomenian Library President Joan McCauley expressing their delight and approval that the Trustees are moving forward with hiring a fundraising consultant for the Library renovation project

- B) Petitions
 - 1) Pole Petition – National Grid and Verizon for New Joint Pole 17-1 on Northerly side of Arnold Avenue at intersection of Pemberton Avenue
 - a) Recommendation for approval by Public Works Director Michael Gray with the condition National Grid and Verizon coordinate with DPW re: location of water and sewer piping

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Tighe to approve the Pole Petition for Arnold Avenue. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A) Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Pending Litigation (Tarbox v. Jamestown Zoning Board of Review); discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote in executive session and/or open session
- B) Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Potential Litigation (Pension Lawsuit); discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote in executive session and/or open session
- C) Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (1) Personnel; discussion, and/or potential

action and/or vote in executive session and/or open session

A motion was made by Councilor Dickinson with second by Councilor Tighe to enter into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Pending Litigation, Subsection (2) Potential Litigation, and Subsection (1) Personnel.

Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Pending Litigation, Subsection (2) Potential Litigation, and Subsection (1) Personnel the following vote was taken by the Jamestown Town Council to enter into Executive Session: President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

The Jamestown Town Council reconvened its regular meeting at 9:12 p.m. President Trocki announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Dickinson to seal the Minutes of Executive Session. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilor Dickinson with second by Vice President Meagher to adjourn the meeting. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Attest:

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, CMC, Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council
 Town Administrator
 Finance Director
 Town Solicitor