

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**April 20, 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  
James Bryer, Fire Chief  
Howard Tighe, Deputy Fire Chief  
Edward A. Mello, Police Chief  
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director  
Michael Gray, Public Works 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 7:02 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) Acknowledgement

- 1) 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, April 24, 1915, Observance and Moment of Silence

A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

B) Proclamation

- 1) 2015-09 May 6, 2015 as "Tom McAleer Day" in Jamestown

The Proclamation was drafted by Council Vice President Meagher. President Trocki read the Proclamation.

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to adopt the Resolution declaring May 6<sup>th</sup> as Tom McAleer Day. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.**

#### **IV. PUBLIC HEARINGS, LICENSES AND PERMITS**

None.

#### **V. OPENFORUM**

*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.

Frank Dorsi of Grinnell Street commented on the Fire Station expansion, stated he will propose a resolution at the FTM, and requested due diligence disclosures for the project. He shared his concerns by reading remarks from a prepared statement which questioned the in-town location as the best for Fire and EMS, financial impact to the town and taxpayer, whether this would be the largest debt incurred by the town, the project is moving too fast, due diligence needs to be done first, and the project funding should be contingent upon a thorough financial impact statement being made available to taxpayers. If the Town Council adopts a similar stance, he can withdraw his proposal slated for the FTM.

Mr. Dorsi was informed by the Town Administrator this discussion could take place during budget review and adoption.

Gary Girard of Seaside Drive stated the Fire Station renovation is an important project that needs to be done. It is important to spend more time on planning and informing taxpayers of all the information. Perhaps there is a better design option for this project.

Elizabeth Littlefield of Grinnell Street stated she is just hearing about the Fire Station project, was surprised at how far along it is, and that garage bays will be facing Grinnell Street that would be better facing Narragansett Avenue in the same direction as existing bays.

Richard Koster of West Reach Drive asked for a rights-of-way opening update. Town Administrator Nota stated the Conservation Commission is coordinating with a separate group meeting on this topic to review current conditions, requests for funding, and seeking additional support. Mr. Koster can be connected with the group.

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

A) Administrator's Report: Town Administrator Andrew E. Nota.

Town Administrator Nota stated during the budget preparation process he drifted away from written report preparation and should resume them after completion of the budget process.

Contract Negotiations. The Negotiating Committee will resume talks with IBPO Local 305 on April 30, 2015.

League of Cities and Towns. Governor Raimondo and General Treasurer Magaziner were present at the recent meeting and discussed statewide initiatives, including the RI Infrastructure Bank. It is hoped there will be opportunities for Jamestown going forward. Governor Raimondo focused on her proposed commitment to cities and towns, closing tax loopholes and increasing revenues to municipalities, establishing a school building authority, promoting infrastructure improvements for roads and bridges, Main Street program, Innovation Grant Program, and early education initiatives. Mr. Nota will be following these proposals closely and providing updates in the coming weeks and months.

Fort Getty. The Town began improvement initiatives from the last budget. The weather turned in our favor and the road work was completed. The new parking area and Phase 1 improvements are underway.

## **VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A) April 28, 2015 Referendum – Public Information Session. April 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date of the PAC Special Referendum Public Information Session at the Jamestown Arts Center, 18 Valley Street, at 6:00 p.m. This is an opportunity to inform the public about the upcoming Referendum and what is proposed. The town website gives a full explanation of all proposed projects.

B) Town Council Goals and Objectives update. President Trocki noted the Council held several work sessions to develop the goals and objectives outline that was revised and approved and should be added to the website this week. There are three (3) dominant goals with numerous objectives for achievement.

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

A) FTM Warrant and Resolution Language: discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote to approve

Finance Director Collins commented on preparation of the resolutions. The first four are housekeeping in nature, and there is an additional resolution for the Fire Department Renovations. A full printout will be available at the next meeting.

President Trocki stated the proposed budget and improvements have been ongoing discussions at numerous meetings which included the PAC, Recreation Center, Golf Course, Fire Station, EMS Barn, and alternate locations. There have been several proposals brought forward and vetted numerous ways and reviewed at length to achieve the most feasible and useful alternative for review and discussion.

Vice President Meagher noted the two main bays of the proposed Fire Station renovation are facing Narragansett Avenue, and the Grinnell Street facing bays are for non-emergency

vehicles. Chief Bryer stated this is not the first Council to address this issue, and anyone interested can come to the Fire Station and he will explain the project. Other alternatives were investigated, but were determined not to be cost effective. The Fire Department wanted to maintain the look of Jamestown, fully investigated what made the most sense financially, and it all came down to the current location. Moving the station location would require JFD to reroute the entire fire alarm system at a cost of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000; the cost to raise the current fire station for a rebuild was \$1,000,000 plus the cost of the new building.

Mr. Dorsi asked about the cost of a new truck. Chief Bryer informed him JFD put off the purchase for ten years, and the 1994 pumper truck needs to be replaced first, followed by the 1993 truck in the near future. Both will be garaged in the bays facing Narragansett Avenue in the new addition (which provides three new bays). The new standard truck at \$300,000 is half the price of a custom truck and is included in the proposal. Mr. Dorsi asked about parking spaces and how many will be lost. Chief Bryer stated three or four spaces will be lost. President Trocki noted this was explained previously, and she invited Mr. Dorsi to meet with Chief Bryer to review the proposal in detail. Chief Bryer noted 11 spaces would be built into the new area, storage will be indoors, and only boats will be housed outside.

Councilor Dickinson commented what Mr. Dorsi is seeking is the cost for the project and to explain his proposed warrant contingency. Town Administrator Nota explained the two components of debt service for the project. Discussion ensued. Solicitor Ruggiero provided additional information to Mr. Dorsi and asked if he seeks information on the warrant or the impact on the budget.

Mr. Dorsi stated his request is make approval of funding conditional upon additional disclosure and due diligence such as subsequent expenditures due to the design in the current location. Councilor Dickinson noted at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting the Warrant language will be reviewed. President Trocki noted due diligence has been done and can be explained further by Town Administrator Nota or Chief Bryer. Vice President Meagher commented the plan may be new to some citizens, but has been in the works for some time and the subject of conversation for a very long time; Councilor White concurred.

B) Adoption of FY 2015-2016 Town, School, and Capital Budget: discussion and/or potential action and/or vote to approve

Finance Director Collins has the information available for a vote to approve if the Council is comfortable with the current budget proposed. Discussion ensued of the budget items as follows:

Capital Budget.

Police Protection/EMS Fuel Tanks. Discussion ensued of the \$35,000 project for the 4,000 gallon fuel tank to increase storage capacity in case of an emergency. It is estimated the town uses 1,000 gallons of fuel during a weather emergency. Part of the project cost could be covered by grant funding if the application is successful. Necessity for the project was

discussed.

Technology. Website Enhancement. Discussion ensued of the \$10,000 for website enhancement added to the capital budget.

Public Works. Bike Path Bridge Design - Engineering. Discussion ensued of the \$50,000 project. Bob Sutton of Rosemary Lane, Chair of the Bike Path Committee, commented on recent remarks made in the newspaper and thought clarification was warranted. He proceeded to explain the history of the Bike Path proposal and the reason for the recommendation made in 2007 and in particular improvements to North Road that are required, even if the Bike Path Project does not come to fruition. The poor drainage issues, narrow lanes, vehicles competing for lane space, safe bicycle travel, State matching funding of the project and required spending to get money, 30 mph speed limit exceeded by all, wetlands, and RIDEM and CRMC permitting were noted.

Council discussion ensued of location choice and connections, alternatives, no alternate location was viable, project goal to get people from North Road to Eldred Avenue and East Shore Road, connecting the north end to the village; going over the Spillway would meet the requirements for the bike path.

Ray Ianetta of Stanchion Street commented on being an avid bike rider and his concerns for North Road bike travel. He reflected on his experience being hit by a vehicle in 1988 and his concerns for bike riders, especially with the advent of texting. He is in favor of the bike path, it is needed, and it would be an injustice to cut it out.

Councilor Dickinson stated he is an avid bike rider and an advocate to cut this out. He respects the work of committees, but has always had reservations about the project, the way it was sold to the public, and where it is going. As a ratepayer to the water system he does not want anyone near the Water District Property. He believes he is a proponent for getting North Road completed, and by the time that is done in two years it will give needed time to review the issues. Before spending \$50,000 on design/engineering there are other alternatives that could be reviewed, especially with 8.5% increase to Water District ratepayers.

President Trocki commented providing a bike path will make the area more secure; she appreciates the history, but we can't second guess every committee or we would never go forward with any initiatives suggested. The project has her support since her vote to go forward with the initial design for North Road in order to decide what effort and expense would be required.

Councilor White noted there have been at least three Councils who worked on this issue, and there was due diligence done on the bike path. Enough Councils have been in favor of it, and it would be an advantage to spend the \$50,000 and it should be included in the budget.

Vice President Meagher spoke to the issue of whether there would be an alternate location. A wetlands permit was obtained for the North Road project, and she appreciates Bob's

comments. When the design is done you get the best estimate of project costs, followed by an RFP to determine costs and what could be done in-house. The town has a great staff that can do a lot but not everything, and projects are outsourced due to time constraints. However, bridge construction and drainage work should be less than \$300,000, and once completed, could be used by bikers, joggers, walkers, and others. Councilor White commented there may be additional forms of funding in the future.

Gary Girard of Seaside Drive noted his concern for the Dam, the two bridges that connect us to the rest of the state, terrorism, and that the bike path could provide access to our water supply. Councilor Dickinson stated the ratepayers would be agreeable to a lease agreement for that property,

Town Administrator Nota stated the proposed capital budget is \$1,240,000, and the total budget as proposed would be \$8.77 per \$1,000, or a 2 cent increase, including growth. There are significant tax appeals pending (\$11,000,000), and if successful, there could be an additional 5 cents on the roll. Any overall value adjustment or additional revenue would be noted at the FTM. The Total general operating budget is proposed at \$10,424,047 (1.37% increase), the total proposed school budget is \$12,526,457, and total combined budget is \$22,950,504 (1.29% increase).

Councilor Dickinson referenced the school budget reduction due to population decrease and increased expenses due to electricity and ALS, which affects everyone. The FY 2013-2014 budget increased by 3 ½% and last year 4%, and there are increases to this budget at a time when spending less is warranted. Over the last two years the school worked with us, and this year he is voting against this budget.

President Trocki noted there has been a 0% tax increase for last two years, and a 2 cent increase is minimal based on services provided and all town needs being met. The town is in great fiscal shape and she is extremely proud of this budget. Vice President Meagher and Councilor White agreed. We have to raise things some times, and this is a budget we can be proud of. Councilor Dickinson feels there is room to have a 0% increase and he would like the school to run the way it wants and not take State aid. Per School Committee Chair Kaiser, if we did, we would lose state and federal funding. Discussion continued.

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve the Town Operating Budget at \$10,424,047. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.**

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve the School Budget at \$12,526,457. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.**

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to**  
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**approve the Total Town and School Budget at \$22,950,504. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Nay; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye. Motion passes by a majority vote in the affirmative.**

C) Town Mission Statement

Town Administrator Nota referenced the three options:

- Town Council engage in the process
- Town staff develop a basis to begin the process
- Reach out to the public

Town Administrator Nota will develop the mission statement as part of the Goals and Objectives and seek public input.

D) Agenda items for May 4, 2015 Town Council Meeting

- 1) Rules and regulations for Affordable Housing
- 2) Executive Session - Personnel
- 3) FTM Warrant Resolutions for approval (language; will be communicating with the State)
- 4) Harbor Management Plan
- 5) Traffic Committee Meeting tomorrow -potential agenda items
- 6) Tick Task Force proposals to State for deer reduction and success; education (\$15,000 in their budget)

## **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) will be started after FTM.

The Council extends thanks for their interest.

- a) Request for Appointment
  - i) Arlene Petit
  - i) Edward Gromada

**A motion was made by Councilor Tighe with second by Councilor Dickinson to appoint Edward Gromada and Arlene Petit the Charter Review Committee. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.**

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Tighe that Council members appointed to the Charter Review Commission will be non-voting members. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.**

- b) Appointments made on April 6, 2015
  - i) Anthony Antine
  - ii) James Rugh
  - iii) Mary Lou Sanborn

iv) John Pagano

2) Adoption of Committee Charge for Charter Review Committee

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to adopt the Committee Charge for 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 4, 2015 (work session)
  - 2) March 18, 2015 (special meeting)
  - 3) March 18, 2015 (executive session)
  - 4) March 23, 2015 (special meeting)
  - 5) March 23, 2015 (executive session)
  - 6) March 26, 2015 (special meeting)
  - 7) March 26, 2015 (executive session)
  - 8) March 26, 2015 (work session)
  - 9) April 6, 2015 (joint public hearing)
  - 10) April 6, 2015 (regular meeting)
  - 11) April 6, 2015 (executive session)
  - 12) April 7, 2015 (public information session)
- B) Minutes from Boards, Commissions and Committees
  - 1) Jamestown Harbor Commission (01/14/2015)
  - 2) Jamestown Harbor Commission (02/11/2015)
  - 3) Jamestown Harbor Commission (03/11/2015)
- C) CRMC Notices
  - 1) April 2015 Calendar - amended
  - 2) Public Notice of proposed repeal of the CRMC Federal Consistency Manual
- D) Resolutions and Proclamations of other Rhode Island cities and towns
  - 1) Bristol Town Council Resolution Opposing Bill H 5847 "Relating to Waters and Navigation -Harbors and Harbor Lines"
  - 2) Charlestown Town Council Resolution Opposing the Surtax on Second Homes



- 3) Charlestown Town Council Resolution Supporting Bill H5594 and S 0741 "Municipal Street Light Investment Act:
- E) Abatements/Addenda of Taxes
- F) One Day Event/Entertainment License Applications
  - 1) Applicant: Jamestown Cal Ripken Baseball
  - Event: Jamestown Baseball Opening Day Parade
  - Date: May 2, 2015
  - Location: Narragansett Avenue

## XI. COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Communication 2) was referenced, which announced Jamestown's Tree City USA designation.

**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 Armenian National Committee of Rhode Island requesting the Town Council observe a Moment of Silence in remembrance of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide (1915-1923) that began April 24, 1915
  - 2) Letter of Arbor Day Foundation announcing Jamestown's recognition as a 2014 Tree City USA (14<sup>th</sup> recognition)

## XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A) Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Pending Litigation (Paicos v. Town of Jamestown); discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote in executive session and/or open session

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to enter into Executive Session pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Pending Litigation.**

**Pursuant to RIGL §42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Pending Litigation 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 9:02 p.m. President Trocki announced that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

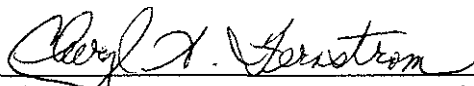
**A motion was made by Councilor White with second by Councilor Dickinson to seal the Minutes of Executive Session. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor White, Aye; Councilor Tighe, Aye.**

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White 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 9:03 p.m.

Attest:

  
Cheryl A. Fernstrom, CMC, Town Clerk

Copies to:     Town Council  
                  Town Administrator  
                  Finance Director  
                  Town Solicitor