

TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION
October 1, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Meagher called the work session to order at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers of the Jamestown Town Hall at 93 Narragansett Avenue.

II. ROLL CALL

Council Members present:

Mary E. Meagher, Vice President
Thomas P. Tighe
Eugene B. Mihaly
Blake A. Dickinson

Town Council Members absent:

Kristine S. Trocki, President

Also in Attendance:

Andrew E. Nota, Town Administrator
Michael Gray, Public Works Director
Peter D. Ruggiero, Town Solicitor
Wyatt A. Brochu, Town Solicitor
Cheryl A. Fernstrom, Town Clerk

III. TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION

A) Agenda setting for the Town Council Meeting of Monday, October 6, 2014

Town Administrator Nota thanked the Council for considering the change. He explained the meeting and agenda setting procedure, which is similar to the original format intended, using the second meeting of the month as a work session to set agenda items for the first regular meeting of the month, partnered with the Water and Sewer Meeting. Vice President Meagher stated the Council likes the concept of setting the agenda with the community knowing what will be on it and the order in which it will appear that is closer to the actual meeting date. This format should be more efficient and work successfully. Discussion ensued of the number of meetings attended by the Council during the course of the year.

Vice President Meagher likes the proposed procedure and thanked the Town Administrator for suggesting its implementation. Town Administrator Nota stated the Council can have discussion to determine if items need to be added or deleted from the proposed agenda.

Review of Agenda.

III. A) Presentations 1) Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan requires public vetting as part of the review and adoption process and does not require Council action; it is expected to take one-half hour. The draft Plan would then be forwarded to RIEMA for their review and comment, as required by statute. Vice President Meagher noted agenda topics the public is interested in should be addressed early in the meeting and whether the Draft HMP should be the first agenda item. Town Administrator Nota stated it would be appropriate under Presentations or New Business.

IV. A) Public Hearings 1) Amendment of Chapter 70 Traffic and Vehicles regarding proposed restrictions for parking on Reservoir Circle. Discussion ensued whether this public hearing has more public interest than the Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, as Reservoir Circle residents are expected to attend. Town Administrator Nota stated the Draft HMP would work just as well under VIII. New Business. (The Town can only apply for FEMA funding if there is a pending HMP application.) Police Chief Mello has recommendations for the Traffic Ordinance amendment, moving enforcement to the State Traffic Tribunal for fines, which will be presented during the course of the public hearing.

VII. Unfinished Business has two items for the Tick Task Force requiring action. Councilor Mihaly will be part of a session on Thursday with a senior RIDEM official, and this could be addressed under Unfinished Business and placed under Tick Task Force as item 3) Tick Task Force Report and RIDEM Update, in case there is need for discussion and/or action.

VII. B) Traffic Committee. Chief Mello will report on the Traffic Committee and the application to the State Traffic Commission regarding Conanicus Avenue parking. The State Traffic Commission reported they are supportive of an expanded parking plan. Chief Mello will also seek Council guidance. The boat trailer parking on Bay View Drive and the intersection of Hamilton and Southwest and evaluation of crosswalks update will also be addressed. The Town Administrator will have a written report with numerous items for the meeting packet for discussion on Monday.

VIII. New Business includes bid awards for: Fire Department Expansion for architectural services; Town Hall exterior painting, cleaning, and preparation under Public Works (interior painting will be handled in-house); and maintenance contracts for Channel Markers and Buoys, the Ribcraft Vessel, and the Eastern Vessel under the Harbor Patrol division. All required interviews were conducted and bid information should be ready for the meeting packets. The floating docks at East Ferry were also bid out, and as that same service is part of the lease at West Ferry, a one-year lease extension will be sought, so that both leases expire next year, so that it can be determined what bid process would work best for the Town to realize cost savings.

B) CIAA request to change date for the Art Exhibit Opening Reception to November 20th and serve wine at the event. This requires additional consideration. The last time the Council addressed this issue, they decided they would not address alcohol service until the ordinance was revisited. Discussion ensued of where the restriction appeared in the Code of Ordinances and any amendment will be a three-month process. Conflicting language was referenced, and it will be forwarded to Council members.

The Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan will be addressed as D) under New Business. An update on “Party Houses” will be addressed under the Town Administrator’s Report.

Town Administrator Nota stated a number of items under XI. Communications could be placed under Consent Agenda as they do not require Council action. The letter of Paul Cartier will be addressed under Town Administrator’s Report, with recommendations and a request for Council support for ordinance review and revision. Discussion continued.

Solicitor Ruggiero noted that any item placed under the Consent Agenda can be removed for review, discussion, and action. Simple bid awards can also go under Consent Agenda and removed for more information and discussion, it depends on the Council’s personal choice, and it doesn’t have to be determined this evening.

Discussion ensued of scheduling a work session for the third week in October. XII. Executive Session will address matters related to real estate, with potential action.

Council members have no additional comments or suggestions and expressed they are pleased. Solicitor Ruggiero stated the agenda will be revised and published tomorrow.

Public Comment. Sav Rebecchi of Sail Street commented on the Water and Sewer Meeting taking place on Wednesday when normally it was on the first Monday with the Regular Council Meeting and asked how this process happened.

Town Administrator Nota stated it was his recommendation to have this change for the reasons discussed earlier in the work session. Mr. Rebecchi asked why it wasn’t done at a regular Council meeting. The Council has a procedure document that would determine agenda items at the second monthly meeting. He expressed concern for the methodology followed outside of normal procedures.

Vice President Meagher stated the work session and Water and Sewer Meeting were posted in compliance with the Open Meetings Statute.

Councilor Dickinson stated the last Water and Sewer meeting was very thorough and long it was apparent more time and energy was needed for Water and Sewer, and the half hour allotted prior to a regular Council Meeting was not enough time to address the issues properly. The Town Administrator suggested the change, and he whole-heartedly agreed. Town Administrator Nota stated it was his suggestion to move the Water and Sewer Meeting to the same evening as the agenda setting work session so that there

would be ample time to address the issues. Vice President Meagher noted at the last few meetings the agenda setting portion was not addressed because of the late hour when that that agenda item was reached. She likes the open and public setting of the agenda and that the public can attend and ask that items be placed on the agenda. This requires an Open Forum agenda item. Discussion continued.

Michael White of Conanicus Avenue stated he was on the Council that changed the Water and Sewer Meeting to the same night as the Council Meeting, as the meetings were only lasting fifteen minutes and it didn't make sense to open the Town Hall for another night out if it could be avoided. He has no objection to this move, as this procedure is revised as needed, and he understands completely. There will always be changes and meetings will evolve, and he commends the Council for being fluid and adaptable.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the work session was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Attest:

Cheryl A. Fernstrom, CMC, Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council (5)
 Town Administrator
 Finance Director
 Town Solicitor