

Approved: _____

Charter Review Committee
Town of Jamestown, Rhode Island
Minutes of the March 16, 2016 Meeting

The meeting of the Jamestown Charter Review Committee was held at the Jamestown Town Hall, in the Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI. The Committee Chairman, Arlene Petit, called the meeting to order at 4:37 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

The Co-Chairman called the roll and noted the following members were present:

James Rugh, Co-Chairman
Anthony Antine
Blake A. Dickinson
John Pagano
Mary Lou Sanborn
Edward Gromada, Secretary

Mary E. Meagher (Ex Officio Member)

Arlene D. Petit was absent.

II. MINUTES

A motion was made by Ed Gromada and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to accept the amended minutes from the meeting of February 17, 2016. Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:44 PM.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Jim Rugh made the following motion that was seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to separate the approval of recommendations to be made to the Town Council into two categories. The motion as read, "I move that the proposed report of the Town Charter Review Committee, as drafted by Arlene Petit, be separated into two parts and considered individually. Part one to be the introduction of page 1 and changes to Articles II, IV, VIII, X as presented on pages 2 through 6. The second part to be the Recommendation for changes to Article XI on page 2." After much discussion the

motion was approved by Jim Rugh, Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada and John Pagano. Mary Lou Sanborn voted no. The motion passed at 4:50 PM.

B. Discussion followed regarding Section One: the introduction on page 1 and changes to Articles II, IV, VIII, X as presented on pages 2 through 6. Blake Dickinson made a motion that was seconded by Jim Rugh regarding the Section one, "Approved as presented in Section One of the previous motion." Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 4:55 PM.

C. Regarding Section Two of the recommendations, Mary Meagher proposed striking out the current wording:

1. ~~"The TCRC absolutely agreed that all budgets and warrants should be voted by paper or electronic ballot.~~
2. ~~The TCRC was split on changing the process from a Financial Town Meeting to an all day referendum. It was thought that the Town Council should specifically discuss the pros and cons of changing the process.~~

Article XI. Financial Provisions

Resolution

~~The TCRC strongly recommends the implementation of a paper ballot or electronic ballot to approve the Town, School, and combined budgets and any warrant item exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), whether through a Financial Town Meeting or through an all-day Referendum."~~

In its place the following wording should be substituted:

"Perhaps most significant to the committee was its discussion of the Financial Town Meeting and the means by which citizens vote on the Town Budget. The TCRC did review alternatives to the Financial Town Meeting in their Charter Review, but chose instead to unanimously support the following resolution.

While the FTM voting process is not described in the Charter, it is the Committee's hope that the Town Council will give the budget approval process, whether it be at an FTM or referendum, a thorough review and support this resolution.

Article XI. Financial Provisions

Resolution

The TCRC strongly recommends the implementation of a paper ballot or electronic ballot to approve the Town, School, and combined budgets and any warrant item exceeding fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000), whether through a Financial Town Meeting or through an all-day Referendum."

A motion was by Blake Dickinson and seconded by Mary Lou Sanborn to "Approve Section Two as amended." Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 5:09 PM.

- D. Ed Gromada introduced an Interoffice Memorandum that was drafted by Arlene Petit as a cover document for the TCRC recommendation. The Memo reads as follow:

"TO: HONORABLE JAMESTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
FROM: TOWN CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE
SUBJECT: REPORT TO COUNCIL
DATE: MARCH 16, 2016

The Town Charter Review Committee would like to thank the Jamestown Town Council for the opportunity to review the Town Charter. We ask that the Council review and consider the recommendations made by the Town Charter Review Committee in the attached report.

The Town Charter Review Committee would also like to thank the individuals that assisted us in our deliberations; most notably, Mary Meagher, Vice President of the Jamestown Town Council and ex-officio member of the Town Charter Review Committee, the Town Administrator, Town Solicitor, and Town Clerk and members of her office, and other interested parties that gave their suggestions and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted."

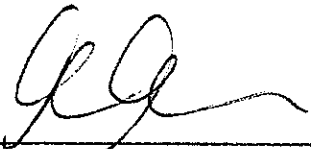
Mary Lou Sanborn made a motion, which was seconded by Blake Dickinson, to "Accept the Memorandum as read." Tony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Ed Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. Time of motion 5:19 PM.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. The next meeting of the Committee, if necessary, will be held on April 6, 2016.

V. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Blake Dickinson, and seconded by John Pagano to adjourn the meeting. Anthony Antine, Blake Dickinson, Edward Gromada, John Pagano, Jim Rugh and Mary Lou Sanborn voted in favor of the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.



Secretary

