

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 17, 2017

I. ROLL CALL

Town Council Members present:

Kristine S. Trocki, President
Michael G. White, Vice President
Blake A. Dickinson
Mary E. Meagher
Eugene B. Mihaly

Also in attendance:

Andrew E. Nota, Town Administrator
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director
Lisa W. Bryer, Town Planner
Michael C. Gray, Public Works Director
Edward A. Mello, Police Chief
Andrew J. Wade, Parks and Recreation Director
Peter D. Ruggiero, Town Solicitor
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 6:35 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. TOWN COUNCIL SITTING AS THE BOARD OF
WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS**

Meeting convened at 6:36 p.m. and adjourned at 7:18 p.m. See Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

**IV. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS,
RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

- A) Resolutions and Proclamations
 - 1) No. 2017-09 In Support of Governor Raimondo's Rhode Island's Promise Program; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

The Resolution was reviewed. Council members voiced concerns as this reflects the early published version of the Governor's proposal. Discussion ensued of the premature nature of this version, vocational education should be included, we need see what revisions are

forthcoming, and the final version of the resolution should reflect what is more suitable for the Town of Jamestown. This item is continued to a future agenda.

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS, LICENSES AND PERMITS

None.

VI. 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.

None.

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

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

- 1) East Ferry Parking Area Restoration.

Town Administrator Nota reported the project will be addressed at the April 19th Planning Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m., and the Chamber of Commerce and local businesses were notified of the meeting. Expected project completion is spring 2018 with replacement of curbing, sidewalk, asphalt, drainage and signage, along with repairs to steel pipe rail fencing, at an estimated cost of \$300,000. Application for a 50% matching grant from RI Commerce Corp. is being filed. The process is continuing, people are being heard, changes are being made to the plan, and it may take another month before returning to Council. Discussion continued.

- 2) Solar Array Project Discussions.

Town Administrator Nota reported Town staff met with RITBA and another meeting is being scheduled for the second week in May. The cost to move the interconnect project puts it outside of Altis Energy investor group guidelines. A dialogue with National Grid is continuing. Discussion ensued of options, alternate locations and connections, assessment of buildings and properties for solar array installations, interconnect costs, revisiting the initial site, green power opportunities, and a long-term power purchase agreement. Discussion continued.

- 3) RIDEM State Grant Opportunities.

Town Administrator Nota reported on the 2016 Green Economy Bond initiative. Presently there is \$3,000,000 available for the next round of grants to be awarded spring 2018. Town staff is working on several application options including Bike Path Development, Taylor Point, and Eldred Avenue Playfields. The potential projects are not in conflict with the Town's recent recreational grant awards, and Taylor Point will be on the May 1st Council meeting agenda. Discussion continued.

- B) Jamestown Historical Society Report: Conanicut Battery Support for 2016 and Plans for 2017.

President Trocki noted the Council's appreciation for the JHS and their efforts. Dennis Webster is in attendance on behalf of the JHS and the Battery Committee to provide information. The Eagle Scout Projects at the Big Boulder Trail by Josh Neronha and Ryan Geib, clearing work at West Passage funded by a RI Senate Grant, 2017 tree management plans, Battery Day festivities on June 3rd, and April 22nd volunteer work party were highlighted.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) Golf Course presentation and update: Public Works Director Michael Gray and Town Planner Lisa Bryer; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote, continued from April 3, 2017

Town Administrator Nota reported on the project to date and gave further information on the elements, including the 2nd floor, Alternate 4, and the construction cost summary prepared by Farrar & Associates based on the architect's conceptual drawings. Review and discussion of future use of the 2nd floor and basement space continued.

Discussion ensued of the potential to bring costs down and redefine the building. Town Administrator Nota explained that what is proposed is replacement of what currently exists, and the size is smaller than the present facility. Discussion ensued of misconceptions surrounding this project and providing proper information to the public. Discussion ensued of present and future uses for the clubhouse, public perceptions, and promoting the facility's value to the community. Council members agreed the project is not ready to move forward and shouldn't be rushed. Discussion ensued of presenting this to the voters at a Financial Town Meeting, referendum, or special election and the timelines associated with each process, including legislative authority for placement on an election ballot. Council members noted the condition of the clubhouse and the need for replacement. Public Works Director Gray commented this plan replaces what exists and the cost estimates are good.

Discussion ensued of the estimated cost per sq. ft. and how it was developed. Council members consider this a good plan but need further clarification of the costs and how developed. The base project is 7,000 sq. ft. The base lease provides \$175,000 revenue annually and the actual operating cost should be provided for public information. Discussion ensued of public support. A final plan must be chosen before a final cost can be determined.

Town Administrator Nota referenced the session held with the golfers and the opportunity to meet with them at the April 29th Opening Day event (Council members look forward to attending). Discussion continued. This item will be back on the May 1st Council agenda.

- B) Award of Award of Seasonal Vending Permit:
1) At East Ferry to: Del's Lemonade & Refreshments, Inc. of Cranston, RI for the amount of \$3,350.00 as bid as recommended

by Parks and Recreation Director Andrew Wade; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote, continued from April 3, 2017

Town Administrator Nota reviewed the discussion at the last meeting and follow-up with Parks and Recreation Director Andrew Wade and Mike Ridge of East Ferry business Spinnaker's. The prior vending license at this location was noted, which operated sporadically. This is an experiment for one season, and if this doesn't work would not be renewed. Council members expressed concern for existing businesses as East Ferry and downtown that operate year round; if this is successful there may be local interest for next season; the Council's goal is to promote business and support local businesses; the cart will not sell the same product as other East Ferry vendors; the cart will balance the services offered and enhance the area. Discussion continued.

A motion was made by Councilor Mihaly with second by Vice President White to move acceptance of this bid. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President White, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Nay; Councilor Meagher, Nay; Councilor Mihaly, Aye. Motion passes by a majority vote in the affirmative.

President Trocki stated this is for a trial period.

Mike Ridge of Spinnaker's addressed the Council. He doesn't think East Ferry is an appropriate venue for the type of vending proposed. After the last session he thought this would be returned to town staff to develop new specifications that were more appropriate, would attract additional bidders, and there would have been opportunity to re-examine the scale of the project, which he does not consider appropriate for that space. Mr. Ridge was critical of having the same bid specs for the three locations.

Town Administrator Nota explained the common similarities in all aspects of a seasonal vendor services, including competition, with the main focus on parking. Councilor Dickinson interjected that the Council already voted. President Trocki stated it is not inappropriate to have this conversation and she would like to hear from Mr. Ridge, Andy Wade and the Town Administrator.

Councilor Mihaly asked how the bid could have been written differently. Mr. Ridge stated East Ferry is a sensitive and highly congested area and doesn't accommodate certain endeavors with respect to traffic flow and impact on the local business community. A more complimentary business, such as Stearns Farm selling farm products or other local vendor, would be desirable, and the bid as written would preclude this from happening.

Town Administrator Nota stated this would not preclude this from happening. President Trocki noted the purchasing process that must be followed. Town Administrator Nota explained the bid process and the opportunities available and the previous discussions with input from Mr. Ridge. Discussion ensued of support for local business, the bid process was similar to the process used by other communities, local vendors had the opportunity to bid, and this was a financial opportunity for the right activity. Discussion

continued. Mr. Ridge stated Del's belongs at Mackerel Cove but not at East Ferry, and he would appreciate the Council's reconsideration and eliminating the East Ferry bid award. President Trocki noted that no parking space was given up, Del's is required to park a vehicle behind the Recreation Center, and the cart will be located on the grass area. Mr. Ridge was asked if he would participate in a bid for special events. Discussion continued.

Solicitor Ruggiero noted the State statute governing the bid process prohibits the town from limiting the bid awards to local businesses only. Parks and Recreation Director Andy Wade commented on the research performed prior to the bid process, including review of similar activities in other communities. There were variations in the bid specs for the different locations in an attempt to protect the town.

C) Calendar for Board/Commission/Committee Sessions

Town Administrator Nota will prepare a schedule for Boards/Commissions/Committees to meet with the Council (at the second meeting of the month).

D) Upcoming Meetings and Sessions – dates and times

1) Programs and Services for an aging population

Councilor Meagher commented this would be a significant discussion that could take place in May, including recent improvements in Senior Services. The Town Administrator will contact participants to schedule a session prior to the May 15th meeting (perhaps 5:30 p.m.) The Fort Getty discussion can be scheduled for a later date.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A) Award of Bid: to furnish labor and materials to complete the installation of masonry pavers at the Fort Getty Pavilion to **W. H. Peppes, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$11.75 per square foot** as recommended by Public Works Director Michael C. Gray

President Trocki noted the 25 cent difference between W. H. Peppes and the local vendor and the State purchasing law requirement to award the bid to the lowest qualified bidder. Mr. Gray noted the job can be completed by May 19th.

A motion was made by Councilor Meagher with second by Councilor Mihaly to award the bid to W. H. Peppes, Inc. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President White, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor Mihaly, Aye.

B) Adoption of the FY 2018 (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) Town, School, and Capital Budget; review and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote

Town Administrator Nota stated there were no substantive changes to the FY 2018 Budget. Tax Assessor Gray updated the tax roll and feels confident an additional 1 cent can be taken off the tax rate. The current tax rate is \$8.58, it was anticipated the new tax rate would be \$8.68, is now \$8.67, and possibly \$8.66, due to growth. Councilor Dickinson requested further explanation of the budget, with a spending increase by the

Town of \$227,124 and \$220,716 for the School. Finance Director Collins distributed a schedule of changes based on increased revenues and expense reductions not previously known. Town Administrator Nota reported the Town increase is \$281,624 and School Department increase is \$266,223. The reductions from the original projections were due to additional revenues and growth. Councilor Dickinson expressed concern for the budget increase that is \$576,988. Discussion continued of reductions and increases to the Town budget. Discussion ensued of additional revenues that were not anticipated for the School Department. The Total Combined Town and School Budget is \$23,717,253, an increase of 2.34%.

Lengthy discussion ensued of the breakdown of increased revenues and expenses for the School Department, and expanded programs were noted. Mr. Nota explained that the overall increase affecting the net impact on residents and total increase for the levy paid through the property tax is \$378,463 over last year. Reference was made to the CPI at 1.5%. Lengthy discussion ensued of the actual amount of increase. Mr. Nota commented on the CPI and over 5 years the CPI was 1.57% and the budget increased 1.4%; over 10 years the CPI was 1.47% and the budget increases were 2.12% due to debt service. It was noted there haven't been negative comments from the public on the budget. Councilors' comments included: increased costs aren't part of the CPI, there were increased revenues, concern for increased expenses, the town funds activities other communities don't address, staff is diligent in preparing the budget, the school budget is based on needs, the budget reflects the town's values, and the town is getting good value for its money. Councilors also commented they are impressed with the budget process and it is very well done, taxes are quite low, and the budget continues to improve in its transparency. Andy Nota, Tina Collins, B. J. Whitehouse, Jane Littlefield, School Committee, Department Heads and Town staff were thanked for the budget.

A motion was made by Councilor Mihaly with second by Councilor Meagher to adopt the FY 2018 Budget. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President White, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Nay; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor Mihaly, Aye.

X. ORDINANCES AND APPOINTMENTS AND VACANCIES

- A) Appointments, Vacancies and Expiring Terms; view and discussion and/or potential action and/or vote
 - 1) Jamestown Tree Preservation and Protection Committee (One vacancy with a three-year term ending date of December 31, 2019); duly advertised; no applicants

President Trocki noted upcoming Board/Commission/Committee term ending dates of May 31st and recent interest in serving by Town residents.

XI. 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 Councilor Meagher with second by Councilor Mihaly to approve and accept the Consent Agenda. President Trocki, Aye; Vice President White, Aye; Councilor Dickinson, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor Mihaly, Aye.

The Consent Agenda approved consists of the following:

- A) Adoption of Council Minutes
 - 1) April 3, 2017 (regular meeting)
 - 2) April 10, 2017 (special meeting)
 - 3) March 23, 2017 (budget work session)
 - 4) March 30, 2017 (budget work session)
 - 5) April 6, 2017 (budget work session)
- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
 - 1) Jamestown Philomenian Library Board of Trustees (02/01/2017)
 - 2) Jamestown Library Renovation Building Committee (01/30/2017)
- C) CRMC Notices
 - 1) April 2017 Calendar
- D) Abutter Notifications
 - 1) Notice is hereby given that the Jamestown Zoning Board of Review will hold a public hearing April 25, 2017, at the Jamestown Town Hall, 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, RI at 7:00 p.m. upon the following: Application of Roland R. Reed, whose property is located at 40 Reservoir Circle and further identified as Assessor's Plat 4, Lot 76 for a variance from Article 6, Section 82-606, & Article 3, Sec. 82-302, Table 3-2. To construct a 26' x 30' deck with a front setback of 21.5' where 40' is required, and a rear setback of 33' where 40' is required. Said property is located in a R-80 zone and contains 18,207 sq. ft.

E) Abatements/Addenda of Taxes
 Total Abatements: \$23,743.52 Total Addenda: \$21,797.89

1) Real Property/Motor Vehicle/Tangible Abatements to 2016 Tax Roll

	<u>Account/Abatement Amount</u>	
a)	02-0610-00	\$ 588.59
b)	02-1606-00	\$10,004.55
c)	04-0359-50M	\$ 84.95
d)	11-0043-06	\$ 533.68
e)	14-0393-61	\$ 5,992.54
f)	16-0913-45M	\$ 94.91
g)	22-0078-80	\$ 643.50
h)	25-0029-00	\$ 5,800.80

2) Real Property/Motor Vehicle/Tangible Addenda to 2016 Tax Roll

	<u>Account/Addenda Amount</u>	
a)	12-0793-48	\$ 5,992.54
b)	13-1896-00	\$ 5,800.80
c)	18-0639-85	\$10,004.55

- F) Finance Director's Report

XII. COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND PROCLAMATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM OTHER RHODE ISLAND CITIES AND TOWNS

Councilor Meagher would like to discuss the Communication. She supports early voting, and making it easier for people to vote is a terrific goal.

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

The Communications, Petitions and Proclamations accepted consists of the following:

- A) Communications
 - 1) Letter of Town Clerk Lynn Hawkins on behalf of the Exeter Town Council in opposition to House Bill 5700 and Senate Bill 0422 – An Act Relating to Elections – In-Person Early Voting

XIII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING AND FUTURE MEETINGS

- A) RITBA Solar Array Project
- B) Golf Course Update
- C) Taylor Point Restoration Plan
- D) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees Memorandum of Understanding
- E) Water and Sewer Budget (May 15)
- F) Tick Task Force: Committee Charge and Term Ending dates (May or June)
- G) Traffic Committee: Term Ending dates (May or June)
- H) Low Speed Vehicles on Town roads (June 19)

Discussion ensued. Town Administrator Nota is coordinating participants. The Solar Array, Golf Course update, and Taylor Point Plan approval will be on the May 1st agenda. Discussion ensued of the Library Board of Trustees request to meet with the Council at the next meeting, whether this should be in open or closed session, what constitutes closed session discussions, and how this should be listed on the agenda. Councilor Mihaly stated the Tick Task Force may become a program of the Conservation Commission. The Water and Sewer Budget will be on the May 15th agenda. The Traffic Committee and Low Speed Vehicles will be on the June 19th agenda.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION


None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

The Jamestown Town Council adjourned the regular meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Attest:



Cheryl A. Fernstrom, CMC, Town Clerk

Copies to: Town Council
 Town Administrator
 Finance Director
 Town Solicitor

