

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
March 2, 2020

I. ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on March 2, 2020. Town Council Members present were as follows: Michael G. White, Mary Meagher, Nancy A. Beye, William J. Piva, Jr. and Randy White. Also present Town Administrator Jamie A. Hainsworth, Finance Director Christina D. Collins, Town Solicitor Peter D. Ruggiero, Chief of Police Edward A. Mello, and Town Planner, Lisa Bryer.

II. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Council President White called the meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 6:34 P.M. in the Jamestown Town Hall, Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. OPEN FORUM

Please note that under scheduled requests to address, comments are not limited to items on this agenda. However, items not on this agenda will only be heard and not acted upon by the Town Council. Note: Section 42-46-6 of the Open Meetings Act and Department of the Attorney General Advisory Opinions relevant to this item on any public body meeting agenda specifically prohibits the Town Council from discussing, considering or acting on any topic, statement or question presented. The Town may, if warranted, refer such matters to an appropriate committee, to another body or official, or post the matter for consideration at a properly-noticed, future meeting.

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

Sydney Keen of Walcott Avenue, requested a resolution be adopted banning high capacity magazines.

Council President White advised Ms. Keen to submit the proposed Resolution to be considered at the next meeting.

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

Please Note in Accordance with Section 42-46-6 (b) the Council May Review, Discuss and/or take Action and/or Vote on the following items:

- A) Town Administrator's Report: Jamie A. Hainsworth
 - 1) Submittal and Brief Overview of the FY 2020/2021 Town Administrator's Budget; No Action Required

Town Administrator Hainsworth gave a brief overview of his proposed budget for FY 2020/2021.

Vice President Meagher questioned what was taken out of reserve. Finance Director Collins advised \$400,000.

Town Administrator Hainsworth also thanked Finance Director Collins and Administrative Assistant Shea for their work on the budget. He also thanked the Department Heads; for they are prudent when submitting budget requests.

- 2) Advisement of the DEM's Proposal to Waive or Modify the Plan of 1972 with U.S. National Park Service to build a Public Park Area at Battery in Beavertail; No Action Required

Town Administrator Hainsworth advised the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (DEM) is seeking to modify or waive the provision in the application that proposed to convert the historic Battery Whiting located on the property into a tourist attraction. He further explained DEM has leased this property from the Town of Jamestown since 1980 and they do not have the resources to convert the Battery Whiting into a tourist attraction. They are asking the U.S. Park Service that the provision to convert the Battery Whiting into a tourist attraction be waived until sufficient funding can be appropriated to undertake the project. They further requested the Town of Jamestown to concur with the request.

Councilor White questioned if this was being removed or suspended from the agreement. Town Administrator Hainsworth advised it was being suspended, until they could allocate the funds.

- 3) Status Update Regarding the Library Renovation Project; No Action Required

Town Administrator Hainsworth reported the library is in the process of reviewing plans and estimates are still ongoing. The Library Board and Committee continue to work on the plans & estimate. He believed they plan to ask the Council to request the voters approve a bond at the Financial Town Meeting. However, they continue working with OLIS to achieve and maximize state aide reimbursement for the project. He further explained he thought they will request ballot placement at the next meeting.

Finance Director Collins reported on funding.

- 4) Advisement of the Geese Depredation Permit US Fish & Wildlife, Permit Expired & Liability Issue; No Action Required

Town Administrator Hainsworth advised, it has come to his attention the Town had at one time obtained a permit by U.S. Fish & Wildlife with consent by RI DEM for depredation of the goose population on all or most of Town owned land. The last permit expired in April of 2019. He looked into this and further learned we are not covered for any liabilities incurred by an agent of the Town while performing such actions. The RI Inter-Local Trust has affirmed this. Once learning of this and after reviewing the issue with the Town Solicitor. He notified the agents on the permit, due to no active permit and no liability coverage to stop any activities of this nature on any Town land including the Jamestown Golf Course. Unless further directed by the Council he will not file an application to renew this permit.

Vice President Meagher advised that Blake Dickinson was an Agent on the Permit and he did a good job.

Discussion ensued on the permit and liability coverage.

- 5) Follow up on CRMC; Regarding the Letter of Concern Sent at the Councils Direction; No Action Required

Town Administrator Hainsworth reported that he sent a letter to the Director of CRMC with the Council's concerns to the application made by Seakist and in general regarding the amount of aquaculture in this area. He also explained as suggested, he met with two representatives of CRMC this past week with Chief Mello, Lisa Bryer, and Andy Wade. They further raised questions such as: how does the Town weigh in on the permit application process; when does the area become or considered at capacity, and what are best practices of mixing recreation to farming are. He also reported that they viewed the area on the west side of the farms with CRMC and obtained a good perspective of the operations. He stated he believed it was a productive meeting as well as educational. He advised he will look to have a more involved interactions with the CRMC staff on these matters of mutual concern.

Councilor Piva questioned if specific discussions were held on applications. Town Administrator Hainsworth advised it was general conversation, and further explained CRMC had a change of staff, so they were preparing for that as well.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Please Note in Accordance with Section 42-46-6 (b) the Council May Review, Discuss and/or take Action and/or Vote on the following items:

- A) Upcoming Meetings and Sessions – dates and times
 - 1) Town Council Meeting Schedule: March 16, 2020 and April 6, 2020
 - 2) Budget Work Shop Schedule: March 9, 2020, March 10, 2020 March 16, 2020, March 23, 2020 and March 26, 2020

Meeting dates were reviewed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Please Note in Accordance with Section 42-46-6 (b) the Council May Review, Discuss and/or take Action and/or Vote on the following items:

- A) Discussions with Representative Deb Ruggiero and Senator Dawn Euer regarding Legislative Issues.

Representative Ruggiero and Dawn Euer addressed the Council and reviewed the following legislative initiatives: State Budget, climate change, small business healthcare, short term rentals, citizen redistricting, reduction of carbon, medical transportation and municipal training for Planning and Zoning members.

Vice President Meagher stated North Road needs to be addressed and also commented on affordable housing.

Discussion ensued on affordable housing.

Discussion ensued on the Bridge Authority.

VII. 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 for review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote. A Consent Agenda item or items may be removed by the Town Council for review, discussion and/or potential action and or vote.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Beye to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye

The Consent Agenda approved consists of the following:

- A) Adoption of Town Council Minutes
 - 1) February 3, 2020 (special meeting)
 - 2) February 3, 2020 (regular meeting)
 - 3) February 7, 2020 (executive session)
 - 4) February 7, 2020 (special meeting)

- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
 - 1) Jamestown Philomenian Library (January 14, 2020)
 - 2) Jamestown Harbor Commission (January 9, 2020)
 - 3) Jamestown Traffic Committee (October 17, 2019)
 - 4) Jamestown Zoning Board of Review (January 28, 2020)
 - 5) Jamestown Board of Canvassers (January 27, 2020)

C) Request of Tax Assessor for Specific Abatements & Addenda of Taxes

MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENTS TO 2015 TAX ROLL		
19-0301-10M	Motor Vehicle – 2003 Ford	\$67.41
19-0301-10M	Motor Vehicle – 2007 Jeep	\$200.08
MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENTS TO 2016 TAX ROLL		
19-0301-10M	Motor Vehicle – 2003 Ford	\$63.43
19-0301-10M	Motor Vehicle – 2007 Jeep	\$178.98

MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENTS TO 2017 TAX ROLL		
19-0301-10M	Motor Vehicle – 2007 Jeep	\$117.36
REAL ESTATE ABATEMENTS TO 2019 TAX ROLL		
02-1663-40	Plat 8, Lot 195 – Tax Appeal	\$720.48
12-0856-50	Plat 2, Lot 159 – Tax Appeal	\$937.83
25-0013-00	Plat 8, Lot 280, -Tax Appeal	\$140.88
TOTAL ABATEMENTS		\$ 2,426.45
TOTAL ADDENDA		\$ 0

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

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor Piva to accept the Communications. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye

The Communications and Proclamations and Resolutions from other RI cities and towns consists of the following:

- A) Communications
 - 1) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council
From: Jim & Renee McCooey
Dated: February 12, 2020
Re: Aquaculture Farm Expansions
 - 2) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council
From: Rob & Mary Jo Braisted
Dated: February 14, 2020
Re: Aquaculture Proliferation in Dutch Harbor
 - 3) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council
From: William R. Kalander, Jr.
Dated: February 12, 2020
Re: Aquaculture Proliferation in Dutch Harbor
 - 4) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council
From: Paul M. Zabetakis, MD
Dated: February 12, 2020
Re: Aquaculture Proliferation in Dutch Harbor
 - 5) Copy of Email to: Jamestown Town Council
From: David & Susan Reardon
Dated: February 13, 2020
Re: Aquaculture Proliferation in Dutch Harbor

- 6) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council
From: Robert S. Powers
Dated: February 12, 2020
Re: Aquaculture Proliferation in Dutch Harbor
- 7) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council
From: Jay Manning, P.E, RI DEM
Dated: February 18, 2020
Re: Project Priority List Request for Fiscal Year 2021
- 8) Copy of Letter to: Mr. Grover Fugate, Executive Director CRMC
From: Jamie A. Hainsworth, Town Administrator
Dated: February 19, 2020
Re: File NO: 2019-12-079, Seakist Aquaculture, LLC
- B) Proclamations and Resolutions from other Rhode Island Cities and Towns
 - 1) Smith Field School Committee Resolution recognizing Public Schools Week

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Council may seek to enter into Executive Session for review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote on the following:

- A) Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Potential or Pending Litigation (IBPO Retiree Pension Benefits: File No. Balzer vs. Town of Jamestown, C.A. No. 1:19-cv-00109-WES-PAS; Dube, etal, vs. Town of Jamestown, C.A. No. 1:19-cv-00018-WES-PAS); review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote on potential settlement agreement
- B) Pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Collective Bargaining (Union Contract Negotiations IBPO)

Town Solicitor Ruggiero advised there was no need to convene in Executive Session.

X. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Piva to adjourn at 7:15 P.M. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye

Attest:

Erin F. Liese, CMC, Town Clerk