

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**April 5, 2021**

**I. ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on April 5, 2021. This meeting was held pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-05, executed by Governor Gina Raimondo and was teleconferenced via Zoom. The public access code to participate by phone was 1-646-558-8656 or 1-301-715-8592 or 833-548-0276 Meeting ID 912 0766 6122. To participate by computer or mobile app: <https://zoom.us/j/95133336158>. Town Council Members present were as follows: Nancy A. Beye, Mary Meagher, Erik G. Brine, Michael G. White 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, Michael Gray, Public Works Director, Denise Gamon, Town Clerk's Assistant

**II. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President Beye called the meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 6:32 P.M. held via Zoom, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

- 1) Review, Discussion and/or Act regarding a Proclamation declaring April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day in the Town of Jamestown

The Proclamation was read by Councilor M. White.

**A motion was made by Councilor M. White with second by Councilor Brine to declare April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day in the Town of Jamestown. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, aye**

- 2) Review, Discussion and/or Act regarding a Resolution declaring April as Fair Housing Month in the Town of Jamestown

The Resolution was read by President Beye.

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor M. White to declare April as Fair Housing Month in the Town of Jamestown. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, aye; Councilor R. White, Aye**

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

*The Town Council will review each license application and vote on it individually. All approvals for licenses and permits are subject to the resolution of debts, taxes and appropriate signatures as well as, when applicable, proof of insurance. 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) Event License Application
  - 1) Applicant: Jamestown Chamber of Commerce  
Event: Restaurant Outdoor Dining  
Dates: Updated Application April 17, 2021 to November 6, 2021  
Location: Narragansett Avenue Municipal Parking

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Brine to approve the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce Restaurant Outdoor Dining application. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, aye; Councilor R. White, Aye**

- 2) Applicant: Jamestown Chamber of Commerce
- Event: Pop Up Event
- Dates: Saturday Morning starting May 2021
- Location: Narragansett Avenue Municipal Parking

Michaela Cohoon, Executive Director of the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce, explained with this application, the Chamber is hoping to use the Municipal Lot on Narragansett Avenue for Saturday morning Pop Up Events. It would feature Chamber Members and rotating artists beginning in May. Ms. Cohoon would be staffing the lot, to ensure everyone's safety. The Chamber will provide quarterly reports to the Town Council on the status of the events. They are promoting the hours as 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. This would be an opportunity for the artists to display their work and hand out their cards. If there are to be sales, a vendor permit will be provided.

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Brine to approve the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce Pop Up Event application. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, aye; Councilor R. White, Aye**

**V. COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATOR, TOWN DEPARTMENTS, SOLICITOR, COMMISSION/COMMITTEE COMMENTS & REPORTS**  
*Please Note the Following Items are Status Reports and Matters of Interest to the Council and are for Informational Purposes unless Indicated Otherwise and will be Acted upon in Accordance with Section 42-46-6 (b)*

- A) Town Administrator's Report: Jamie A. Hainsworth
  - 1) Covid-19 Status
  - 2) Fireworks and Public Observances/ Parades
  - 3) Municipal Parking Lot Narragansett Ave.
  - 4) Jamestown Golf Course New Clubhouse
  - 5) RI DOT Letter Status Regarding North Road
  - 6) Town Clerk Vacancy
  - 7) Recreation Director Vacancy
  - 8) Lease Agreement Addendum with New England Golf Course Management, Inc. listed in Consent Agenda for Authorization

Town Administrator Hainsworth reported on the following:

There have been 9 positive cases of Covid-19 in the last 2 weeks.

After a meeting with Barbara Szepatowski and Tom McNiff co-chairs of the Fireworks Committee, they decided not to have the fireworks this year. With DBR guidance changing daily and the economic commitment they don't believe they should go forward.

The Department of Public Works has set up the canopies, fencing, lighting and planters at the Municipal Parking Lot on Narragansett Avenue. The parking lot will be ready for the Chamber of Commerce to use around May 1. The parking lot will be used as such for this season.

The Jamestown Golf Course is a couple of weeks behind the anticipated April 1 opening due to COVID.

Town Administrator Hainsworth has had a meeting with DOT regarding North Road. DOT will get back to him with a summary. The environmental impacts are holding things back. There is infrastructure that needs to be addressed under the bridge/concrete platform. DOT does acknowledge that North Road is sinking. Town Administrator has once again stressed to our Congressional Delegation that North Road is very important.

The Town Clerk vacancy is open for one more week, there have been a few applicants.

Second interviews for the Parks and Recreation Director should be completed this week.

Arbor Day, April 30 a tree will be planted at the Eldred Avenue end of the bike path.

B) EMA Report: Chief Edward A. Mello: Regarding COVID-19

Chief Mello reported on the following:

This Friday will be the last vaccination clinic to be held at the local MedPod in the Melrose School.

1200 doses of vaccine have been administered locally.

A tremendous effort by the Police Department staff, Town staff, volunteers and the residents that came to be vaccinated.

Jamestown is one of the highest percentage of the population to be vaccinated.

COVID Testing will continue indefinitely at the West Street side of Town Hall on Fridays from 1:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

- A) Upcoming Meetings and Sessions – dates and times
  - 1) Budget Work Session April 8, 2021 @ 6:30 P.M.
  - 2) Town Council Joint Meeting with School Committee April 12, 2021 @ 6:30 P.M.
  - 3) Town Council/ Water & Sewer Meeting Schedule: Regular Meeting April 19, 2021@ 6:30 P.M.
  
- B) Review, Discussion and/or Act regarding Revisions to the Dog Ordinance and Leashing Status Update by Councilman Randall White

Councilor R. White seeks the Council Members support in drafting a new Dog Ordinance.

**A motion was made by Councilor M. White with second by Vice President Meagher to draft changes to the existing Dog Ordinance. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, aye; Councilor R. White, Aye**

- C) Review, Discussion and/or Act regarding Resident Sticker Parking Update by Chief Edward A. Mello

Chief Mello will continue to work on drafting the Resident Sticker Parking Ordinance, and will have it ready for the next Town Council Meeting on April 19, 2021.

- D) Review, Discussion and/or Act regarding Amendments to the Parking Ordinance Update by Chief Edward A. Mello

Chief Mello will continue to work on drafting the Parking Ordinance, and will have it ready for the next Town Council Meeting on April 19, 2021.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

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

- A) Review, Discussion and/or Act regarding the Request of Walrus and Carpenter Oysters for placement of an “Oyster Upweller” at the Harbormaster Dock at West Ferry in Dutch Harbor

Discussion ensued.

Councilor R. White’s initial reaction is both strong and sadly negative. His concern is that there is very little dock space available at West Ferry. He would rather be having the conversation of increasing the dock space rather than giving up the precious little to a private interest. The brand new Harbormaster has yet to weigh in on the request by Walrus and Carpenter Oysters.

Town Administrator Hainsworth has received similar phone calls expressing the concerns that Councilor R. White had expressed. Town Administrator also said that no comment has been made by the Harbor Commission on this request by Walrus and Carpenter Oysters.

Lisa Bryer, Town Planner has been speaking with Jules Opton-Himmel, proprietor of Walrus and Carpenter Oysters, Chief Mello and Town Administrator Hainsworth on this matter. She is extremely enamored by public/private partnerships in terms of aquaculture and upwellers. It is a great opportunity, where you work with an aquaculture farmer, to build a dock. They occupy it early mornings, they do their daily maintenance, and then they are out. The dock with upwellers is paid for by the farmer.

Chief Mello stated that at the Harbor Commission, they have heard for some time, there is a need for additional dock space at West Ferry. It would be a heavy investment for the Town to make but if that is the desire of the Council and this is something the Council would like to entertain Chief Mello would be happy to discuss that with Jules Opton-Himmel, the Town Administrator and the Town Planner and bring this thru the Harbor Commission process first.

Jules Opton-Himmel proprietor of Walrus and Carpenter Oysters, prefaced that farming in the ocean is a privilege and not a right. He is open to proposals. He is looking for guidance as to what would benefit the Town and meet his needs. Any location would be suitable as long as it met his requirements for an upweller. He would be happy to invest his resources for a long term lease. During the months of May – July, the upwellers would be checked daily at a minimum and would take as little as ½ an hour, to open up the doors and stir them around. Starting around July it can be checked every other day, and once a week the boxes/silos need to be removed and cleaned. That does not need to be done on the upweller, as it could be done elsewhere. Removal of the boxes could take about an hour and another hour to replace them. This would be at the bare minimum.

Joe Pinheiro questioned Jules Opton-Himmel if they would be overlapping at the Fort Getty dock.

Linda Jamison of 7 Ocean Avenue is in favor of the public/private partnership. The dock the way it is, is chaos.

Town Administrator Hainsworth has received phone calls from residents after seeing this item on the Town Council Agenda. He stated that the more public hearings that are held, the better, then an informative decision can be made.

**A motion was made by Councilor M. White with second by Councilor R. White to refer the Request of Walrus and Carpenter Oysters for placement of an “Oyster Upweller” at the Harbormaster Dock at West Ferry in Dutch Harbor to the Harbor Commission. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, aye; Councilor R. White, Aye**

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

### VIII. 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) Adoption of Town Council Minutes
  - 1) February 16, 2021 (Regular Meeting)
  - 2) March 1, 2021 (Regular Meeting)
  - 3) March 15, 2021 (Regular Meeting)
  - 4) March 29, 2021 (Budget Workshop)
  
- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
  - 1) December 9, 2021 Harbor Commission
  - 2) February 3, 2021 Harbor Commission
  - 3) February 9, 2021 Philomenian Library
  
- C) Request of Tax Assessor for Specific Abatements & Addenda of Taxes

MOTOR VEHICLE ABATEMENTS TO 2020 TAX ROLL		
07-0641-00M	Motor Vehicle	\$ 23.79.
<b>TOTAL ABATEMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 23.79</b>

- D) Authorization of the Bid Award for Full Revaluation of Property Values to North East Revaluation Group LLC at a price of \$136,400; as recommended by Christine Brochu, Tax Assessor
- E) Authorization of Town Administrator to sign the Second Addendum Lease Agreement for the Town of Jamestown and New England Golf Course Management, Inc. regarding the Jamestown Golf Course Clubhouse

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

*The Council may acknowledge any of the listed Communications and Proclamations and Resolutions. Should any member wish to have a conversation on any of the matters, the item will be placed on a future agenda for review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote.*

- A) Communications Received:
  - 1) Copy of Letter to: Town Council  
From: Bob Sutton  
Dated: March 11, 2021  
Re: Thank you
  - 2) Copy of Email to: Town Council  
From: The Taxpayers' Association of Jamestown  
Dated: March 15, 2021  
Re: Financial Town Meeting
  - 3) Copy of Email to: Town Council  
From: Elizabeth & Larry Allen  
Dated: March 27, 2021  
Re: Dog Leashing Ordinance
- B) Public Notices Received:
  - 1) Cease & Desist Order to Mitchell & Regina Sinberg from Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC); regarding Plat 5 Lot 505; for cutting of vegetation on a coastal feature without CRMC Assent
  - 2) Public Hearing Notice from Coastal Resources Management Regarding Maxine Clark- Clark Boatyard; 110 Racquet Road for reconstruction of a boathouse
  - 3) Cease & Desist Order to Alan Katz from Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC); regarding Plat 8 Lot 667; for cutting of vegetation on a coastal feature without CRMC Assent

Town Council President Beye acknowledged the communications.

**X. OPEN FORUM- To participate you will press \*9 to raise your hand.  
The meeting moderator will coordinate your participation.**

*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 Council 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

No requests to address the Town Council were made.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Councilor M. White with second by Councilor Brine to adjourn at 7:50 P.M. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, aye; Councilor R. White, Aye**

Attest:

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Denise Gamon, Town Clerk's Assistant