

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 7, 2022

- I. TOWN COUNCIL INTERVIEW SPECIAL SESSION:** The Jamestown Town Council met to conduct interviews of applicants for the Board/Committee/Commission vacancies as follows:

The following candidates were interviewed for the Board of Canvassers: Nancy Kolman Ventrone, Linda Jamison, and George Newman.

II. ADJOURNMENT OF SPECIAL SESSION

The Town Council interview session was concluded at 6:26 p.m.

III. ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on March 7, 2022. Town Council Members present were as follows: Nancy A. Beye, Mary Meagher, Erik G. Brine, Michael G. White and Randy White.

Also, in attendance: Town Administrator Jamie Hainsworth, Solicitor Peter Ruggiero, Police Chief Edward Mello, Finance Director Christina Collins, Public Works Director Michael Gray, Town Planner Lisa Bryer, Building and Zoning Official William Moore, Parks and Recreation Raymond DeFalco, IT Consultant Michael Glier, and Town Clerk Roberta Fagan.

IV. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

V. OPEN FORUM

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
- B) Non-scheduled request to address

Chris Cowan, 19 Melrose Avenue addressed the Town Council. Mr. Cowan provided perspective on Pickleball Courts and improvements to the Eldred Avenue fields and structures; as well as support of a Bike Path Committee.

Robert Plain, Calvert Place, recommended additional thought to Resolutions received by Woonsocket and Burrillville in reference to draft bills H6638 and S2340. The Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee will assist in researching the intent and impact of the proposed legislation.

Maureen Gladding, Columbia Lane, requested the Town Council's support of the budget cap waiver which would enable the proposed School Budget.

Patrick Gaines, 19 Columbia Lane, spoke in support of the proposed School Budget as well as a Bike Path Committee.

Christine Gentry, 65 Cedar Lane, addressed the Town Council and gave her perspective as a veteran, a family with children in the Jamestown Schools and the importance of supporting the proposed School Budget.

Christopher Matthews, 1 Fox Run, spoke in support of the proposed School Budget. The level and quality of education was the reason his family moved to Jamestown.

Eddie Ross, Ocean Avenue. Mr. Ross would support an even more robust school budget. Jamestown has a strong case for a waiver; and of the opinion that Jamestown may be required to do so to provide the required services to students in the community.

Barbara Cunha, 31 Seaview Avenue, was born in Jamestown and a product of the Jamestown Schools. Ms. Cunha expressed concern for the Burden on elderly tax payer.

Dan West, 43 Summit Avenue, father of two children, spoke in support of the School Budget. Referenced the Brookings Institute and correlation of high scoring schools to increased home values. Mr. West expressed growing concerns that Jamestown is turning into a resort town with increased number of short-term rentals. Mr. West would be supportive of strategies to attract more year-round residents. Further suggested implementation of Homestead Exemption in addition to low income programs which would enable fixed income/lower income residents to hold onto their homes in Jamestown.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRESENTATIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- A) Review, Discussion and/or Act regarding a Proclamation declaring April 29, 2022 as Arbor Day in the Town of Jamestown**

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the Proclamation declaring April 29, 2022 as Arbor Day in the Town of Jamestown. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

- B) Brown University Capstone Project presentation on the Town of Jamestown Cyber Security assessment**

A presentation was given by Shea Maloney, a senior at Brown University, who is majoring in Business Entrepreneurship and Organization with a focus on Economics. The Capstone Project focused on the increased cyber security and technology in small Rhode Island municipalities.

The Town Council gave thanks to Ms. Maloney, the Capstone Project team and resident Annette Tante for the level of expertise and talent in conducting the analysis.

VII. 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. Review, Discuss and/or Take Action and/or Vote on the following items:

- A) Event/Entertainment Licenses: Review, Discussion and/or Take Action and/or Vote:
- 1) Applicant: Conanicut Island Art Association
Event Name: 47th Annual Summer Member's Show
Location: Jamestown Recreation Center
Date/time: June 25th – July 2nd, 10 a.m. to 5p.m.
Opening Reception June 29th, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher to approve the Conanicut Island Art Association Event/ Entertainment license application for the 47th Annual Summer Member's Show taking place June 25th- July 2, 2022 Event and Opening Reception on June 29, 2022, with a second by Councilor M. White. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

- 2) Applicant: Jamestown Arts Center
Event Name: Newport String Project Classical Music Performance
Location: Jamestown Arts Center
Date/time: March 20, 2022, 3:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.

A motion was made by Councilor R. White to approve the Jamestown Art Center One Day Event/ Entertainment license application for the Newport String Project Classical Music Performance on March 20, 2022, with a second by Vice President Meagher. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote:
- 1) Memorandum from Parks and Recreation Director Ray DeFalco with update and decision on whether to proceed with the project on RIDEM grant application for proposed Pickleball Courts

Discussion ensued.

Parks and Recreation Director Ray DeFalco gave an update on the grant application and feedback from the RIDEM on amendment of the original application. The grant application approval process has already begun; amendment to the grant would be challenging. Most agreed that Eldred Avenue would be a better location for a pickleball court. There was further discussion on moving forward with RIDEM grant application with the proposed Pickleball Court project at Fort Getty, with President Beye and Councilor R. White expressing reservations of proceeding with the grant application.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher to approve to proceed with the RIDEM grant application for proposed Pickleball Courts at Fort Getty with a second by Councilor M. White. Vote: President Beye, Nay; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Nay.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote:
 - 1) Overview of the Town Administrator's FY2023 proposed recommended total budget including Town Administration and School Committee
 - a) Discussion of recommended budget by School Committee and amount recommended by Town Administrator's proposed budget
 - b) Schedule dates for Budget Work Sessions and eventual vote to adopt the budget for FY2023 at the Financial Town Meeting

Discussion ensued.

Town Administrator briefed the Town Council on the proposed budget and the implications of the recommended budget by the School Committee. Budget Work Sessions were scheduled for March 14, 15 and 21, 2022. It was agreed to schedule the in-person meetings to begin at 6:00 p.m. Councilor Brine would be attending virtually via Zoom.

No additional action was taken.

- B) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote:
 - 1) Presentation by Chief Mello and discussion regarding adoption of an Entertainment Ordinance

Discussion ensued.

Chief Mello presented the draft ordinance as a starting point for regulating indoor and outdoor entertainment. Currently the Town has only a policy that requires applying for an entertainment/event license. An Ordinance would give structure to the application process, with guidelines for Town Council and staff, and with clear enforcement mechanisms.

The Council will review and consider on a future agenda.

- C) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote at the request of Vice President Meagher the request by the Jamestown Affordable Housing Committee
 - 1) Increase the Town of Jamestown annual investment to the Jamestown Affordable Housing Trust Fund from \$75,000 to not less than \$225,000
 - 2) Establish an ordinance that sets into local law the annual amount to the Jamestown Affordable Housing Trust Fund commensurate with Town's share of the State Real Estate Conveyance Tax. Voting language suggested: "The Town Council shall make an annual appropriation from the unrestricted fund balance to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund of an amount at least equal to half of the Town's share of the Real Estate Conveyance Tax receipts, but not less than \$225,000 annually, whichever amount is greater"

Discussion ensued.

Vice President Meagher gave a brief overview of the request to establish an ordinance that sets into local law the annual amount to the Jamestown Affordable Housing Trust Fund commensurate with Town's share of the State Real Estate Conveyance Tax. The question was raised as to how to move forward and what would be a mechanism/methodology to support affordable housing and economic diversity.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher requesting Solicitor Ruggiero to review the annual funding of the Jamestown Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and prepare a report on how to craft the funding mechanism commensurate with Town's share of the State Real Estate Conveyance Tax with a second by Councilor M. White. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

- D) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote:
 - 1) Reinstatement of the Bike Path Design Committee and coordinate with the Rolling Agenda group on improving "bike-ability / walkability" on State and Town roadways in the Town of Jamestown
 - a) 2008 Bike Path Design Committee Charge

Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher to create a Bike Path Committee with a second by Councilor Brine. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

Vice President Meagher recused herself from the discussion of agenda item E and left the meeting.

- E) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote regarding the request of the Jamestown Arts Center for permission to exhibit six temporary artworks outside on Town property for the Summer 2022 season
 - 1) Letter to the Town Council requesting permission to use Town properties to host artworks

A motion was made by Councilor Brine to approve the Jamestown Arts Center request for permission to exhibit temporary artworks outside on Town property for the Summer 2022 season with a second by Councilor M. White. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

Molly Dickinson, on behalf of the Jamestown Art Center, thanked the Town Council for their support and approval of the request.

Vice President Meagher rejoined the regular meeting.

X. ORDINANCES, APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES AND EXPIRING TERMS

- A) Request to the Town Council for authorization to begin the appointment process for One (1) Board of Canvassers Republican Alternate Member, for the unexpired Six-year term expiring March 2023, pursuant to RIGL § 17-8-1 and RIGL § 17-8-2; review discussion and/or potential action and/or vote
 - 1) Memorandum of request of Board of Canvassers Clerk Karen Montoya to contact the Jamestown Republican Town Committee to solicit a list of qualified individuals for Town Council consideration to fill the Board of Canvassers Republican Alternate Member vacancy.
 - 2) RIGL § 17-8-1 and RIGL § 17-8-2

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher to approve the request of the Board of Canvassers Clerk Karen Montoya to contact the Jamestown Republican Town Committee

to solicit a list of qualified individuals for Town Council consideration to fill the Board of Canvassers Republican Alternate Member vacancy with a second by Councilor M. White. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

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 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 23, 2022 (Regular Meeting)
- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
 - 1) Board of Canvassers (December 16, 2021)
 - 2) Jamestown Zoning Board of Review (January 25, 2022)

C) Tax Assessor’s Abatements and Addenda of Taxes

ABATEMENTS TO 2021 TAX ROLL		
02-0096-11	TOWN COUNCIL AGREEMENT	\$1637.25
06-0109-30	TOWN COUNCIL AGREEMENT	\$2024.78
19-0546-30	TOWN COUNCIL AGREEMENT	\$2161.84
TOTAL ABATEMENTS TO 2021 TAX ROLL		\$5823.87
GRAND TOTAL		\$5823.87

D) Town of Jamestown as an abutter. Town property: Plat 9, Lots 252, 355, 356, & 595

Application of TPG Marinas Conanicut, LLC, whose property is located at 1 and 3 Ferry Wharf Unit D and E. and further identified as Tax Assessor’s Plat 9, Lot 791 (D) and (E) for a Modification to a Special Use Permit granted under Article 6, Special Use Permits and Variances, Section 600 and 602. This application is made pursuant to the provisions of section 82-302, Table 3-1, Permitted Uses of the zoning ordinance. The Applicant seeks to make interior modifications to the property and is requesting modifications to the service and operational hours, entertainment and service conditions from the approval granted September 25, 2013. Said property is located in a CD zone and contains 12,060 square feet.

E) Joint Pole Petition of The National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to move Pole #136 at the intersection of Sloop Street and North Main Road; and Pole #109-

84 across from 747 North Main Road; with recommendation for approval by Public Works Director Michael C. Gray

- F) Authorization for the Town Clerk to Advertise Committee Vacancies
 - 1) Affordable Housing (2) Full Member Vacancies.
 - 2) Fire Department Compensation (1) Citizen- At-Large Vacancy
 - 3) Tax Assessment Board of Review (1) Full Member Vacancy

A motion was made by Councilor Brine to approve the consent agenda with a second by Vice President Meagher. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

XII. 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 email to: Canvassing Clerk Karen Montoya
From: Susan Jamison
Dated: February 28, 2022
Re: Withdrawing name for consideration to the Board of Canvassers
 - 2) Copy of letter to: Council President Nancy Beye
From: Mayor of Newport Jeanne-Marie Napolitano
Dated: February 28, 2022
Re: 66th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, Saturday, March 12, 2022
- B) Resolutions From Other Rhode Island Cities and Towns:
 - 1) City of Woonsocket Resolution in Opposition to House Bill 2022-H6638 entitled "An Act Relating to Towns and Cities- Zoning Ordinances
 - 2) Town of Burrillville, Resolution in Opposition to House Bill 2022-H6638 and Senate Bill 2022-S2340 Zoning Ordinances – Prohibits Single-Family Residential Zoning in Municipalities with Populations over Twenty Thousand

Affordable Housing Committee Chair Robert Plain made the request to the Town Council to take no action on the Resolutions received from the City of Woonsocket and the Town of Burrillville; and requested the matter be referred to the Affordable Housing Committee to for further study of the proposed legislation.

The Town Council acknowledges the communications.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher to move into Executive Session with a second by Councilor M. White. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

XIII. 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) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote in Executive Session and/or open session pursuant to RIGL § 42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Collective Bargaining (union contract negotiations NAGE 68 & 69)

President Beye recused herself at 8:31 p.m. from Executive Session in regards to NAGE 68.

President Beye rejoined the Executive Session at 8:35 pm.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher to seal the minutes and adjourn from Executive Session with a second by Councilor M. White. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.


It was announced that no votes were taken.

The Town Council reconvenes the regular meeting.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Council M. White to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. with a second by Councilor Vice President Meagher. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

Attest:


Roberta J. Fagan, Town Clerk