

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 2, 2024
6:30 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on January 2, 2024. Town Council Members present were as follows: Nancy A. Beye, Mary Meagher, Michael G. White, and Erik Brine. Randy White was absent.

Also, in attendance: Town Administrator Edward A. Mello, Solicitor Peter Ruggiero, Finance Director Christina Collins, Chief Jamie Campbell, Public Works Director Michael Gray, and Town Clerk Roberta Fagan.

II. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Town Council President Beye called the meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 6:33 p.m. in the Jamestown Town Hall Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

A) Acknowledgements:

1) Proclamation 2024-02, in honor of Lt. Lewis "Lew" W. Kitts.

President Beye read Proclamation 2024-02 honoring Lt. Lewis "Lew" W. Kitts.

A moment of silence was observed in Lew's honor.

After, President Beye shared personal reflections on Lew and expressed her gratitude for having known him. (attached)

2) Jamestown Police Department formal swearing-in probationary officer Kevin Kidd.

Chief Jamie Campbell gave opening remarks and thanked all present for attending the swearing-in of Kevin Kidd. Officer Kidd's appointment brings the Jamestown Police Department to full strength with 14 sworn personnel.

President Beye performed the swearing-in of probationary officer Kevin Kidd. Several members of Officer Kidd's family were in attendance including his father Thomas, mother Lynn, sister Kerri Hayes and daughter Nina. Applause.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to convene as the Town Council Sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White.

IV. TOWN COUNCIL SITTING AS THE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

A) Acknowledgements, Announcements, Presentations, Resolutions, And Proclamations:

- 1) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Resolution 2024-03 of the Water and Sewer Commission Relative to a Temporary Moratorium on Applications and Permitting for Water Service Extensions.

Town Administrator Mello reviewed the events leading to the introduction of the Temporary Moratorium on Applications and Permitting for Water Service Extensions. The Town has limited water resources, and the Resolution 2024-03 would pause any new connections; enable Town staff to revise the Town Water Management Plan, and develop a clear set of rules and regulations relating to service areas, connections, and extensions. Resolution 2024-01 was approved at the December 18, 2023 meeting and sent to our local delegation for support.

Vice President Meagher thanked Town Administrator Mello and Town staff for their efforts and development of the moratorium.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve Resolution 2024-03 of the Water and Sewer Commission Relative to a Temporary Moratorium on Applications and Permitting for Water Service Extensions. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to adjourn from sitting as the Board of Water And Sewer Commissioners. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

V. OPEN FORUM

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

VI. 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.

- A) No items at this time.

VII. COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATOR, 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:

- A) Town Administrator's Report: Edward A. Mello
 - 1) Fort Wetherill Boat Owner's Association Rental Agreement request.
(Consent Agenda)

The Fort Wetherill Boat Owners' Association has requested to rent a portion (approximately 1800 sf) of the Ft Wetherill building to be used only for the construction of floating docks and storage of associated materials for the period of January 15 through June 30, 2024. Rent in the amount of

\$5,000 or the exchange of in-kind construction services. Town Administrator Mello requested approval of the lease agreement subject to review by the solicitor. (Consent agenda)

2) Short-Term Rental Application update.

Town Staff are currently processing a total of 105 short-term rental applications.

3) December 17, 2023 Storm Event Summary

The storm caused significant damage to Mackerel Cove Beach and Ft Getty Pier. Town staff continue “clean up” work at Mackerel Cove, which will continue through the spring of 2024.

Ft. Getty Pier suffered significant damage with approximately 10-15% of the decking material breaking free. An effort by the DPW staff to reattach the decking boards to the stringers revealed a significant number of rotten stringers, and unfortunately, the boards cannot be reattached. The pier was closed to public access. This includes the two active tenants using the site. The Harbor Director has worked to accommodate the two tenants.

On December 20, the RI Trust visited the site and determined the pier presents a hazard and liability. Town staff are developing a deck repair plan and will work to file an insurance claim.

4) Mission Broadband Inc. Grant Project (Consent Agenda)

A request to for Town Council approval to partner with the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce to consult with Mission Broadband Inc. The grant-funded project will research and report on internet speeds and pricing models available to Jamestown residents and businesses. (Consent agenda)

Town Administrator Mello had two additional items to share with the Town Council. The Building online permitting has gone live on OpenGov. The rollout has gone very smoothly.

Additionally, the Zoning Ordinance Public Hearing will need to be rescheduled out an abundance of caution. The Zoning Ordinance booklet incorrectly indicated the hearing day as “Monday” January 16, 2024 (the hearing date was actually Tuesday, January 16, 2024.) The contents of the proposed ordinance in the insert are correct and remain unchanged. At the January 16th Town Council meeting a request to order to advertise the new hearing date for February 5, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) No items at this time.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Review and/or Discussion of the Jamestown Conservation Commission (JCC) recommendations:

- 1) At the request and recommendation of the Jamestown Conservation Commission to the Town Council, a formal dedication of the Public Right of Way(s) Oversight Responsibility to the Jamestown Conservation Commission.

Town Administrator Mello reported meeting with Jamestown Conservation Commission (JCC) Chair Bob Laman. The JCC is close to completing the updated Public Right of Way(s) report and map; and plans to present the report at a future Town Council meeting. Town Administrator Mello suggested the oversight responsibility could be a combination of a Town staff member working with the JCC and would like the Town Council to consider when the report is complete.

- 2) At the request of the Jamestown Conservation Commission permission to develop a Town-Wide Outreach Education Forum for Sustainability in Jamestown.

Vice President Meagher stated last year an Environmental/Conservation support staff was budgeted. Staff support would assist the JCC and the Town Planner.

The updated Harbor Management Plan and Harbor Ordinance will come before the Town Council for consideration in late February, or early March. Staff Members of the Harbor division could be designated responsible for the Public Right of Way(s) Oversight Responsibility in conjunction with the JCC and can be incorporated in the updated Harbor Management Plan.

X. ORDINANCES, APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, AND EXPIRING TERMS

- A) Appointments, Vacancies, and Expiring Terms; Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote:

- 1) Jamestown Tree Warden, pursuant to RIGL§2-14-2: each city and town must appoint a licensed arborist to serve as a tree warden each year during their January Council meeting. Review, discussion, and/or potential action and/or vote:
 - a) Letter of interest for reappointment
 - i) Steve Saracino

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to appoint licensed arborist Steve Saracino as the 2024 Town of Jamestown Tree Warden. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

- 2) Beavertail State Park Advisory Committee, One (1) member vacancy; with a three-year term ending December 31, 2026, duly advertised in the December 14th and 21st editions of the Jamestown Press:
 - a) Interested Applicant(s):
 - i) Gordon Rapkin
 - Application received November 6, 2023
 - Interviewed on December 4, 2023
 - b) Request to Order to re-advertise the vacancy

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to appoint Gordon Rapkin to the Beavertail State Park Advisory Committee, with a three-year term ending December 31, 2026. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

- 3) Elections Training and Advisory Ad hoc Committee, One (1) Jamestown Board of Canvassers Member; Four to Six (4-6) Jamestown Citizen-at-

Large Members; and One (1) Jamestown Town Council Ex-Officio Member with a term not to exceed 6 months:

- a) Interested Citizens-at-Large Applicants:
 - i) Daphne G. Meredith
 - Application received December 19, 2023
 - Interview to be scheduled
 - ii) Laura Goldstein
 - Application received December 26, 2023
 - Interview to be scheduled
 - iii) Linda Jamison
 - Application received December 28, 2023*
- b) Interested Board of Canvasser Applicants:
 - i) Carol Nelson-Lee
 - Application received December 27, 2023
 - ii) Kenneth Newman
 - Email expressing interest received December 28, 2023*
- c) Request to Order to re-advertise the vacancy(s)

**These applications were received after the December 27th advertised deadline.*

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the request to order to advertise Committee vacancy(s). Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

- 4) Juvenile Hearing Board, One (1) alternate member vacancy, with a two-year term ending December 31, 2025; duly advertised in the December 14th and 21st editions of the Jamestown Press:
 - a) Interested Applicant(s):
 - i) Nicole Fuoco
 - Application received December 15, 2023
 - Interview to be scheduled

It was noted that Nicole Fuoco became a resident of Jamestown in September 2022. As such she is not eligible to serve on the Juvenile Hearing Board per Sec 2-59 Juvenile Hearing Board: Composition: "The membership of the juvenile hearing board shall consist of seven persons, five of whom shall be regular members and two of whom shall be alternate members, over the age of 18 years, to be appointed by the town council, all of whom shall have been a resident for at least three years within the town and none of whom shall be attorneys admitted to practice before the state supreme court."

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the request to order to advertise Committee vacancy(s). Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

- 5) Library Board of Trustees, One (1) member vacancy, with a three-year term ending December 31, 2026, duly advertised in the December 14th and 21st editions of the Jamestown Press:

- a) Interested Applicant(s):
- i) Gordon Rapkin
 - Application received November 6, 2023
 - Interview on December 4, 2023
 - ii) Janet Schachtel Baker
 - Application received December 4, 2023
 - Interview to be scheduled
 - iii) Jean Burditt
 - Application received December 22, 2023
 - Interview to be scheduled

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to set up interviews with the interested applicants. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

- 6) Tick Task Force Ad hoc Committee, Five to Seven (5-7) member vacancy, for an unspecified term, duly advertised in the December 14th and 21st editions of the Jamestown Press:

- a) Interested Applicant(s):
- i) Taryn Breneman
 - Application received December 22, 2023
 - Interview to be scheduled
 - ii) Wayne C. Breneman
 - Application received December 22, 2023
 - Interview to be scheduled

- b) Request to Order to re-advertise the vacancy(s)

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the request to order to advertise Committee vacancy(s). Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

XI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
 - 1) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees (December 13, 2022)
 - 2) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (January 10, 2023)
 - 3) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (February 14, 2023)
 - 4) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (March 14, 2023)
 - 5) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (April 4, 2023)
 - 6) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (May 2, 2023)
 - 7) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (June 13, 2023)
 - 8) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (August 8, 2023)
 - 9) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (September 12, 2023)
 - 10) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (October 17, 2023)
 - 11) Jamestown Library Board of Trustees, (November 16, 2023)
 - 12) Newport & Bristol County Convention and Visitor's Bureau and Subsidiary, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, June 30, 2023

- B) At the recommendation of Town Administrator Mello approval of the lease agreement between the Fort Wetherill Boat Owner's Association and the Town of Jamestown for use of the town-owned building at Fort Wetherill to be used only for the construction of floating docks and storage of associated materials for the period of January 15 through June 30, 2024, in the amount of \$5000 or the exchange of in-kind construction services.

- C) At the request of Town Administrator Mello grant approval for the Town of Jamestown to partner with the Greater Newport Chamber of Commerce to consult with Mission Broadband Inc. on the grant-funded project to research and report on internet speeds and pricing models available to Jamestown residents and businesses.

- D) Ratification of the Administratively approved Short-Term Rental application for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024:
 - 1) Jeffrey Gravidahl, STR-91, 28 Newport Street
 - 2) Marianne Kirby, STR-28, 83 Bay View Drive
 - 3) Lisa Musco, STR-50, 6 Knowles Court
 - 4) Reva & Bruce DiGennaro, STR-77, 49 Hamilton Avenue
 - 5) Charles Higgins, STR-86, 24 Pierce Avenue
 - 6) Marie Broadley, STR-75, 30 Seaview Avenue
 - 7) Ratsamy Keointhisone, STR-55, 33 Clinton Avenue
 - 8) Sarah Baines, STR-92, 59 Intrepid Lane

Discussion ensued.

Vice President Meagher read aloud each Short-Term Rental host application name and address, asking those in attendance for any objections or comments to be known.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the Short-Term Rental applications for licensing as listed on the Consent Agenda. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor M. White with a second to accept the Consent Agenda. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor Brine.

Communications were acknowledged.

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 letter to: Town Council
- From: Dorianna Carella and Andrea Colognese
- Dated: December 20, 2023
- Re: Short-Term Rentals in ADUs.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

Attest:



Roberta J. Fagan, Town Clerk

I would like to say a few words about my experience with Lew...

I had the pleasure of volunteering with Lew the last twenty-five years on the Jamestown fire Department but my association with him began many years before that at the Jamestown Schools.

My children attended Melrose and Lawn schools when Lew was Superintendent of building and grounds. I thought of him as someone who "looked after" all the students, faculty, and facilities. I once asked him how he met all the expectations of everyone there. He replied "I don't know Nance, but it feels sometimes like I have 45 wives!

The list of things that Lew contributed to the safety and well being of our children are too long to list but I personally know the range of his duties as one morning when one of my sons was in second grade and felt like he no longer needed to attend school it was Lew who came to my rescue and helped remove him from my car and provided him with a personal escort to his classroom.

Lew will never be forgotten, there is no chance of that. We will never forget the help he gave to others and when the unthinkable happened and he lost his son Will, he dedicated the rest of his time here on earth to make sure no one forgot him.... Thank you Lew...