

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Monday, March 18, 2024
5:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on March 18, 2024. Town Council Members present were as follows: Nancy A. Beye, Michael G. White, Randy White, and Erik Brine. Mary Meagher arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Also, in attendance: Town Administrator Edward A. Mello, Solicitor Peter Ruggiero, Finance Director Christina Collins, Chief Jamie Campbell, Public Works Director Michael Gray, Town Planner Lisa Bryer, Parks and Recreation Director DeFalco, Water & Sewer Clerk Denise Jennings, 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 5:00 p.m. in the Jamestown Town Hall Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 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) Pending or Potential Litigation Carey v Town of Jamestown C.A. No.: NC-2020-0375.

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

It was announced that 1 vote was taken.

A motion was made by Councilor M. White with a second by Councilor R. White to direct Solicitor Peter Ruggiero to undertake discussions with the Plaintiff. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

The Town Council reconvened the regular meeting at 5:35 p.m.

IV. JOINT TOWN COUNCIL AND JAMESTOWN TAX RELIEF AD HOC COMMITTEE WORK SESSION

- A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Review and/or Discussion of the Jamestown Tax Relief Ad Hoc Committee report and implementation recommendations
 - 1) Town of Jamestown Tax Relief Ad Hoc Committee Report to the Town

- 2) Copy of legislation introduced regarding Homestead Exemptions: 2024 -- S 2369 Relating to Taxation -- Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes 44-5-89. Homestead exemption.

Councilor Brine reviewed the goal and priorities of the Tax Relief Ad Hoc Working Group:

1. Make Jamestown more affordable for primary residents
2. Create opportunities to meet town budgetary objectives while minimizing impact on Jamestown residents
3. Protect and/or support Jamestown businesses
4. Keep taxes low for elderly and need-based populations on fixed budgets
5. Make Jamestown more affordable for town employees whose salaries have not risen commensurate with property values and who the community depends on
6. Incentivize long-term rentals

The following recommendations are excerpts from the Tax Relief Ad Hoc Committee final report:

An update to current exemptions was discussed:

- Current Veteran exemptions (credits) do not update year to year. Alternatively tying to the Consumer Price Index or a multiple of the current amount, with a maximum cap. The committee made the recommendation to raise these credits dramatically to represent the tremendous sacrifice by those eligible. This change will have extremely low to no budget impact, but the Committee suggested these increases would fall more in line with Jamestown values.

Tax Relief Ad Hoc Committee member Edward (Eddie) Ross, 20 Ocean Avenue commented on an increase could be a multiple of the current amount, with a maximum cap.

Solicitor Peter Ruggiero stated the steps would entail the introduction of an agenda item, deciding on an actual amount to go to from the current level, and selecting the correct metric so it adjusts as intended. Integration into the budget cycle would need to be considered.

Senior Exemptions- The income-based senior exemptions are tied to published poverty income rates, which is helpful because it allows for those income requirements to change year to year. The qualifying incomes are capped at 220% of the poverty level. The committee recommends that the Council consider shifting each of the categories to a higher percentage of the poverty level to commensurately increase the income level caps.

- Disability Based Exemption – The Disability Based exemption currently is not tied to age or any index and therefore is not updated regularly. The committee made the recommendation to change the Disability exemption to match the Senior exemption and tie it to the same income-based exemption.
- Firefighters Exemption – The recent firefighter tax exemption amendments were acknowledged by the Committee. Jamestown has a superb group of volunteer firefighters, that ensure the safety of the town, and concurrently keep the tax burden significantly lower than they would be if Jamestown had to fund a full-time firefighting organization.

Town Administrator Mello stated Town staff would need to analyze the fiscal impacts of the proposed recommendations.

Adding new exemptions were discussed:

- Town Employee Exemption – The Committee recognized that there are a diminishing number of Jamestown employees, including police officers, public works, and teachers who also live in our community due to the rapidly rising costs of housing in Jamestown and pay increases not keeping pace with inflation. There are real benefits to people who work in our community being able to live in our community. The Committee made the recommendation to consider an exemption in the form of a credit, similar to the firefighter exemption, for all full-time Jamestown employees. This could help the town recruit and retain talent, show town employees that they are appreciated, and make them more accessible to the community they serve.
- Homestead Exemption – Homestead exemptions have become very popular, especially in vacation destination communities that have a large non-resident population. An estimate created by cross-referencing property tax rolls and voter registration rolls shows that of the approximately 2,700 residences in Jamestown, nearly 50% of them are owned by non-residents. Exemptions in other communities provide an opportunity to keep taxes low for residents while leveraging the popularity of their communities for vacation goers and multiple-home owners to provide the necessary funding to maintain the infrastructure and management of the municipality. The Committee made the recommendation to consider the adoption of a homestead exemption as 12 other Rhode Island Communities have adopted. (RI municipalities that offer a homestead exemption are Central Falls, East Providence, Johnston, Lincoln, Middletown, Narragansett, Newport, North Kingstown, North Providence, Providence, West Greenwich, and Woonsocket) Homestead exemptions can be instituted in a variety of ways and can become both complicated to understand and onerous for the town to oversee. With that in mind, the Committee made the following recommendation to the Council for two possible options:
 - Provide a flat percentage of home value as an exemption for all residents. *Example – If a home is assessed at \$500,000 and the exemption rate is 20%, the resident homeowner would have the first \$100,000 of their home value exempted from their property tax bill therefore resetting their property assessed value at \$400,000. If a resident's home is worth \$1,200,000 the property assessed value would be decreased by \$240,000 to \$960,000. This could be capped at a certain level (for example the median home value) to ensure the amount of tax savings is not dramatically skewed by outliers with extremely high-valued homes.*
 - Provide all residents a flat exempted amount off the value of their homes. *Example - If a home is assessed at \$500,000 and the exemption amount is \$200,000 the resident homeowner would have the first \$200,000 of their home value exempted from their assessed value at \$300,000. If a resident's home is worth \$1,200,000 the property tax value would be decreased by \$200,000 to \$1,000,000. If this option is chosen, the Committee recommends that the Council tie the amount of the exemption to the change in median home valuation made during every revaluation assessment.*
 - In order to incentivize long-term rentals and increase the availability of full-time housing options in Jamestown, the Committee recommends that the Council offer the

Homestead Exemption to non-residents who provide a current 12-month lease on an annual basis.

- Tax Stabilization Program
 - The Committee recommends the Council consider a Tax Stabilization Program to allow residents on fixed income to defer taxes that are more than 5% of their income. Taxes deferred are held, as a receivable, by the town until a triggering event occurs (sale of property, deceased etc.) which requires a full payment of deferred taxes. Amounts deferred can be charged interest and are accounted for in the Tax Collection Office. Applicants file on a yearly basis as this deferral is based on household income that can fluctuate year to year. North Smithfield has such a program that has benefited many older low-income property owners.
- Reverse Mortgage Options
 - The Committee considered town-sponsored reverse mortgage options to allow aging residents on a fixed income to stay in their homes as tax rates rise. Since a similar program is being pursued through affordable housing policy, the Committee did not want to interrupt that progress and commended the Council for supporting such efforts.
- Ensure Exemptions are Stackable
 - The Committee recommends that eligibility for any exemption should not eliminate the eligibility for another, especially for those that are need-based. For Example, residents may be eligible for a Homestead Exemption, a Firefighter credit and an age-based senior exemption.
- The Committee recommends that the Council does not make any changes to commercial properties or businesses in Jamestown. Commercial property tax makes up a fairly small part of tax revenue in Jamestown and the Committee believes it is more important for Jamestown to keep the businesses that are here, especially those that stay open year-round, in town, rather than chase them off with higher taxes.
- Seek greater revenue from fees and leasing of town properties and facilities.

While the committee recognizes that revenue generation from fees and leases may fall outside the charge of this committee, we did discuss it as it directly relates to the need for the town to primarily rely on property taxes for funding. The Committee therefore makes the following recommendations that pertain revenue creation that can offset or supplement revenue from taxes

- Property leases – Avoid long leases with one-sided renewal options that prevent the town from receiving competitive rent for high-value properties. *For Example -golf course, harbors, pier/dock access to commercial operations.*
- Facility Use – The Committee commends the Council’s recent increase in rates at Fort Getty at a rate higher than in years past but urges it to continue to look at raising rates especially for non-residents to those similar in surrounding similar communities.

- Parking – The Committee recommends that the Council consider instituting online/ap-based paid parking throughout commercial and recreational areas in town both to limit parking congestion by non-residents and bring in revenue for the town. Rather than selling summer beach parking passes to residents the Committee recommends selling annual town parking passes that allow residents to park without additional cost in all commercial and recreational areas in town, all year round. Additionally, the town should increase the cost of beach parking for non-passholders to be commensurate to beach parking prices in Narragansett and Newport.
- The Committee recommends that the Council publish the balances of all other funds outside the general fund, which only appear in the town’s audit report, in the annual budget documents for greater transparency and public education of the town’s financial position. (Example – Golf Course Fund, Harbor Management Fund, etc.)

Councilor R. White asked if the Homestead Exemption in other municipalities were analyzed. Councilor Brine and Eddie Ross responded more analysis needs to take place. The Homestead Exemption is calculated either as a percentage of home value or flat rate exemption.

Linda Jamison, 7 Ocean Avenue, asked if an analysis was done. Did you look at 2 tax rates? Is any minimum year residence required? Do businesses pay a different rate? For non-residents who are generating revenue by renting their properties for 12 months, Ms. Jamison believes there should be no reduction in taxes.

Representing the Tax Payers Association Linda Jamison questioned why the Tax Relief Ad Hoc Committee had not filed meeting minutes. She stated an Open Meeting Act (OMA) violation had been filed by the group.

Town Administrator Mello stated due to the unresolved OMA file, the Town is in the process of responding to those questions.

Sav Rebecchi, Sail Street, stated he researched Homestead Exemptions in 12 other municipalities. Jamestown should cross reference before enacting a Homestead Exemption. There could be unintended tax burden consequences.

Christian Infantolino, Reservoir Circle, commented the proposed tax relief concepts are intended to incentivize year-round residency. He made a request to give consideration of properties in a trust. Incentivize on a percentage basis would be more equitable.

Eddie Ross concluded any tax policy should consider local attributes, reflecting on the community.

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; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

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

- B) Open Forum – Water & Sewer Matters
 - 1) Scheduled request to address - None
 - 2) Non-scheduled request to address

- C) Report of Town Officials: Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote:
 - 1) Pumping Report
 - 2) Town Project Reports
 - a) Town Wells
 - b) Water Treatment Plant
 - c) Transfer Pumping/Reservoir
 - d) Distribution System
 - e) Wastewater Treatment Facility

- D) Letters and Communication: No items at this time.

- E) Unfinished Business:
 - 1) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote on the Water Supply System Management Plan-5 Year Update prepared by Pare Corporation, continued from February 20, 2024.

 - 2) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote: Update of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, prepared by PARE Corporation, continued from March 6, 2024.

 - 3) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote: Update on legislation introduced (S2414, H7345) Relating to Waters and Navigation- Water Resources Management, Chapter 46-15-24. Public water system's obligations- Jamestown.

- F) New Business:
 - 1) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Permission to Authorize Town Administrator Mello to sign an extension of the Interim Operations Assistance Agreement for an additional sixty (60) days between the Town of Jamestown and Veolia Water North America-Northeast LLC.

 - 2) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Regarding the current staffing conditions at the Water Treatment Plant.

- G) Consent Agenda
 - 1) Adoption of Minutes:
 - a) February 20, 2024 (regular meeting)

 - 2) Finance Director's Report: Comparison Budget to Actuals as of February 29, 2024.

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; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

VI. OPEN FORUM

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

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

A) Presentations

- 1) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote: At the request of Jamestown resident and North Kingstown High School student Bowdyn Mooney permission to create a mural at the Jamestown Skatepark.

Jamestown resident and North Kingstown High School student Bowdyn Mooney asked for permission to create a mural at the Jamestown Skatepark.

Vice President Meagher expressed concern regarding the location and potential “tagging” of the art. There may be objections to the location and it may be problematic.

Councilor Brine asked for clarification. Would Bowdyn select the final image or would the Town Council make the selection? What would the next steps be?

Town Administrator Mello will look into what rules were established in the past by the Ad-Hoc Committee for Public Art and report back to the Town Council.

B) Resolutions and Proclamations

- 1) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote: Resolution 2024-10, A Resolution Establishing A Temporary Moratorium On The Acceptance of Applications and the Issuance Of Building Permits For Multi-Family Dwelling Units In The R-8, R-20, R-40, CL, And CD Zoning Districts

Town Planner Lisa Bryer addressed the Town Council and explained the necessity for a temporary moratorium on the acceptance of applications and issuance of building permits for multi-family dwelling units in the the R-8, R-20, R-40, CL, And CD Zoning Districts. Calculating the density of multi-family dwelling units needs further study.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve Resolution 2024-10, A Resolution Establishing A Temporary Moratorium On The Acceptance of Applications and the Issuance Of Building Permits For Multi-Family Dwelling Units In The R-8, R-20, R-40, CL, And CD Zoning Districts. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

The Town Council took a brief recess at 7:37 p.m.

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

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, LICENSES, AND PERMITS

- A) Public Hearings: Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Proposed Amendment(s) to the Town of Jamestown Charter, duly advertised in the March 7, 2024 edition of the Jamestown Press. The proposed Charter amendments are as follows:
- 1) Preamble
 - 2) Article II. The Town Council - Sec. 201- Number, selection, term; Sec. 212 -Vacancies; 216 - Procedure for adopting ordinance.
 - 3) Article III. The Town Administrator - Sec. 301 - Appointment and qualifications.
 - 4) Article IV. Administrative Departments - Sec. 406- Town Moderator; Sec. 409. – Building Official
 - 5) Article V. Schools – Sec. 501 – School committee membership; Sec. 503 Vacancies
 - 6) Article XI. Financial Provisions – Section 1104 Public Notice.
 - 7) Article XII. Amendment of Charter, Sec. 1201 Charter Revision Committee

Jamestown Charter Review Chair Jim Rugh gave a summary of the Charter Review Committee recommendations.

A motion was made by Councilor R. White with a second by Councilor Brine to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend the Preamble to conform to the current official state name. “The people of the Town of Jamestown, in order to secure the right of self-government in all local matters, pursuant to the provisions of the constitution of the State of Rhode Island ~~and Providence Plantations~~, do adopt and establish this Charter.” Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend Article XI. Financial Provisions – Section 1104 Public Notice, would allow a “digest or description which substantially expresses the purpose or identifies the subject matter” of a proposed ordinance or amendment to be published in a general circulation newspaper rather than the full text, and making the full text available on the Town website and at the Town Clerk’s Office for public inspection. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor M. White with a second by Councilor Brine to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend Sec. 301. – Appointment and qualifications. “The town council shall appoint a town administrator for an indefinite period of time, based solely upon the executive and administrative qualifications of the applicant, as outlined by generally accepted professional standards. The town administrator need not be a resident of the town or state at the time of appointment, but must become and remain a qualified elector and resident of the state within ~~six~~ twelve months after appointment, unless an extension is approved by town council. The relationship between the town and the town administrator shall be contractual and not that between a municipality and a civil officer.” Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend Sec. 1104. Public notice, "The recommended budget (section ~~223~~ 1102) and capital budget as provided in section ~~224~~ 1103 shall be printed and available to the public at least 14 days preceding the annual financial town meeting." Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend Sec. 409. – Building, "There shall be a building official who shall be nominated by the town administrator with the approval of the town council and shall be responsible for the supervision and enforcement of ordinances relating to buildings, ~~zoning~~, trailer parks and other matters assigned to the building official pursuant to law. The building official may also serve as the zoning enforcement officer and the minimum housing inspector. In the absence of a town engineer, the building official shall be responsible for the custody and proper maintenance of engineering records including surveys, plans, maps and the like, pertaining to town property and projects." Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor R. White with a second by Vice President Meagher to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend Sec. 1201.- Charter revision committee, "~~The town council shall appoint a charter review committee to review this Charter whenever it is deemed necessary but not longer than six years from the previous review. The town council shall appoint a special charter review committee whenever it is deemed necessary. The council shall appoint a full charter review committee beginning September 1, 2029, and every six years from that date. The Town Clerk shall inform the Council no less than six months before the next Full Review to begin the process of review committee selection. Said full review committee shall~~ within nine months of its appointment submit to the town council a report with its recommendations for amendments, additions or deletions." Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor R. White with a second by Vice President Meagher to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend Sec.212. Vacancies. "~~Vacancies shall be said to exist when any member ceases to meet the qualifications established in section 202. If such a vacancy occurs in the membership of the town council, the remaining members of the town council shall appoint the next highest vote getter to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled biennial election.~~

If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the council, for whatever reason, the remaining members of the council shall select a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled state or town election, at which time the electors shall elect a qualified person to complete any unexpired portion of the term."

Paul Sprague, 11 Mast Street, expressed concern that if the next highest vote-getter is not a legitimate candidate and the Town Council selects a candidate, the selection could be biased.

Back to the vote. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor M. White with a second by Vice President Meagher to approve placing the question on the November ballot to amend Sec. 503.- Vacancies, “~~Any vacancy in the membership of the school committee shall be filled by the town council by the next highest vote getter from the most recent election and so on until someone fills the vacancy until the next regular town election, when the office shall be filled for the unexpired term thereof. Should there be no next higher vote getter or if none of the vote getters be willing to serve then the council shall appoint a member, pursuant to the laws of the State of Rhode Island.~~

If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the school committee, for other than the expiration of the member’s term, the town council shall select a qualified person to fill the vacancy to serve until the next regularly scheduled state or town election, at which time the electors shall select a qualified person to complete the unexpired portion of the term”.

Sarah Baines, Intrepid Lane, recommended input from the School Committee in the selection if a vacancy occurs.

Back to the vote. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

The Town Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the recommendations related to a non-partisan ballot.

John Murphy, 65 Hamilton Avenue, commended the Charter Review Committee. Mr. Murphy stated a Hatch Act violation could still occur with a non-partisan ballot. Also, he would be opposed to the recommendation requiring the \$1 million threshold paper ballot requirement at the Financial Town Meeting (FTM). The FTMs have operated successfully, and there has been no problem with the current process.

Carol Nelson-Lee, 23 Buoy Street, Board of Canvass Chair, as a point of information, at an FTM, with two voting machines operating, it would take a minimum of 45 minutes to process paper ballots.

Dennis Webster, Mount Hope Avenue, expressed the importance of party designation. Would a candidate still be able to receive a party endorsement?

A motion was made by Councilor R. White with a second by Councilor M. White to reject the recommendation to move to a non-partisan ballot in Sec. 201 Number, selection term.

Paul Sprague, Mast Street, questioned why the Town Council would not put the non-partisan ballot question on the November ballot for the voters to decide.

Vice President Meagher explained that more research and vetting needs to take place to avoid any unintended consequences of a non-partisan ballot.

Carol Nelson-Lee, stated the November ballot will be multiple pages with the addition of the Charter amendment questions and it will slow down the election process.

Sav Rebecchi stated there were several motivating factors for the non-partisan ballot recommendation which included permitting federal employees to run for office, encouraging more residents to run for office, as well as protecting a voter's rights.

Back to the vote. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor R. White with a second by Councilor M. White to reject the recommendation to move to a non-partisan ballot in Sec. 501- School committee membership. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor R. White with a second by Councilor M. White to reject the recommendation to move to a non-partisan ballot in Sec. 406- Town moderator. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Councilor R. White with a second by Councilor M. White to reject the recommendation of the requirement in Sec. 406 – Town moderator, ” Whenever any question involves an expenditure of money, or the incurring of liability in excess of \$1 million by the Town, or the disposition of Town property in excess of \$1 million, that vote shall be taken by ballot.” Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to convene as the Town Council sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

B) Town Council Sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board

- 1) Request for a motion that the application listed below will be in order for hearing at a meeting of the Town Council sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. and advertised in the Jamestown Press, as provided under Title 3, Chapters 1-12 of the General Laws of Rhode Island 1956, and as amended, for a NEW BV-VICTUALER under said Act, for the period April 15, 2024, to November 30, 2024:

FROM: CLASS B Victualer Limited Liquor License
 VHBC, LLC
 dba: Village Hearth Bakery & Cafe
 2 Watson Avenue
 Jamestown, RI 02835

TO: CLASS B Victualer Liquor License
 VHBC, LLC

dba: Village Hearth Bakery & Cafe
2 Watson Avenue
Jamestown, RI 02835

- a) Request for the Town Council to Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote of approval to proceed to advertise for a Public Hearing to take place on April 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m. by the Town Council, with advertisements in the March 21st and March 28th editions of the *Jamestown Press*.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the request to proceed to advertise for a Public Hearing to take place on April 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m. by the Town Council, with advertisements in the March 21st and March 28th editions of the *Jamestown Press*. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

- 2) Notice is hereby given by the Town Council of the Town of Jamestown, being the Licensing Board in said Town as provided under Title 3, Chapters 1-12 of the General Laws of Rhode Island 1956, and as amended: Pursuant to RIGL§ 3-7-15(b), that the following request for consent under said Act, Class G. Liquor License (State License) by Conanicut Marine Services, Inc., for service of liquor while at dockside at East Ferry for the 2024 season no more than 30 minutes prior to scheduled departure for the following marine vessels:
 - a) The Jamestown, MV Katherine, The Coastal Queen
 - b) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote to grant Town Council consent to the request of the CLASS G LIQUOR LICENSE.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to grant consent to the request of the CLASS G LIQUOR to Conanicut Marine Services, Inc. for the following marine vessels: The Jamestown, MV Katherine, and The Coastal Queen. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to adjourn from sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

- C) Licenses and Permits
 - 1) One-Day Event/Entertainment License: All One-Day Event/Entertainment license application approvals are subject to any COVID-19 protocols in effect at the time of the event; Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote for the following:
 - a) Applicant: Quononoquott Garden Club
 - Event: Quononoquott Garden Club Summer Party
 - Date: September 9, 2024
 - Location: Fort Getty Pavilion

- i) Letter from Quononoquott Garden Club Vice President and Program Chair Jan Gilgun requesting a waiver of the Fort Getty Pavilion rental fee.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the Quononoquott Garden Club Summer Party One-Day Event/Entertainment License and the request to waive the Fort Getty Pavilion fee. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

IX. 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) Safety Enhancement Grant awarded to the Jamestown Police Department.

The Rhode Island Interlocal Trust has awarded the police department a \$1,000 grant for the purchase of Guardian lighting equipment. The devices will be issued to every officer and will allow more visibility while out of their vehicles and in the path of traffic.

- 2) Ft. Getty Pier storm damage assessment and repair update. (New Business)

Foth Engineering was on-site for several days conducting an inspection of the condition of the Ft. Getty Pier. They are preparing a damage assessment and repair report. (new business)

- 3) Union Studios Architectural Services Agreement for the work at 6 West Street. (Consent Agenda)

This item will be placed on the Wednesday, March 20th agenda.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A) Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote: No additional items.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: At the request of Vice President Meagher discussion of R.I. Gen. Laws § 44-5-2 (b) Levy and Assessment of Local Taxes, which restricts a city or town from levying a tax in an amount not more than four percent (4%) in excess of the total amount levied and certified by that city or town for its previous fiscal year. Discussion and or Potential Action seeking exemption for certain expenditures from the 4% levy cap.

Vice President Meagher read a draft letter to the Rhode Island General Assembly regarding the 4% levy cap and possible exemption. The original intent of the tax levy did not consider inflation and does not enable any flexibility as it is currently written.

No vote or action was taken.

B) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: At the request of Parks and Recreation Director DeFalco permission to extend the Mackerel Cove Vendor Contracts for the 2024 season to Splash Dogz LLC. and Dels Lemonade & Refreshments.

The 2023 Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Jamestown and vendors Splash Dogz LLC and Dels Lemonade & Refreshments permitted renewal. Parks and Recreation Director

DeFalco recommended approval of the vendor renewals for the 2024 season. The vendors, Splash Dogz LLC and Dels Lemonade & Refreshments have been positively received.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve to extend the Mackerel Cove Vendor Contracts for the 2024 season to Splash Dogz LLC. and Dels Lemonade & Refreshments. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

- C) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: At the request of Parks and Recreation Director DeFalco approval of the T2's Mobile Pay Parking Pilot Program at Mackerel Cove Beach for the 2024 season.

Parks and Recreation Director DeFalco gave a presentation on the proposed T2's Mobile Pay Parking Pilot Program at Mackerel Cove Beach for the 2024 season. This program would be for the one-day beach sticker, and will not be used for the residential beach pass sales. This would eliminate cash sales at the beach.

Bob Bowen, Capstan Street, questioned whether other municipalities have used the T2's Mobile Pay?

Town Administrator Mello confirmed that other municipalities are using the program. There were no similar programs that allowed for cash sales.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to approve the T2's Mobile Pay Parking Pilot Program at Mackerel Cove Beach for the 2024 season. 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: At the recommendation of Town Administrator Mello review and approval of the Ft. Getty Pier assessment and repair cost proposal submitted by Foth Engineering Firm; and permission to utilize available funds from the Harbor Management and Waterfront Reserve Fund account(s) for the proposed repairs.

Town Administrator Mello gave a status report on the Ft. Getty Pier assessment. There are significant concerns about the sub-structure (piles, cross members, battered piles, stringers and decking). It has been determined that the age and condition of the pier deem it unsafe. A temporary repair of the existing pier has been estimated at a minimum of \$150,000. The final report from Foth Engineering should be available in the coming weeks.

XII. ORDINANCES, APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES, AND EXPIRING TERMS

- A) Ordinances: Discussion and Possible Action to Order to Advertise in the Jamestown Press; Notice of a Public Hearing to take place on April 1, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for Proposed Amendments to Chapter 66- Taxation and Finance.

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

- B) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Appointment of Councilor Michael G. White as the Town of Jamestown liaison to the Local Hazard Mitigation Committee.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor Brine to approve the appointment of Councilor Michael G. White as the Town of Jamestown liaison to the Local Hazard Mitigation Committee. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

- C) Permission to proceed to advertise Committee, Board, and Commission Vacancies and Expiring Terms in the March 28th and April 4th editions of the Jamestown Press. The application deadline will be set for April 10, 2024, for current vacancies and expiring terms.

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to proceed to advertise Committee, Board, and Commission Vacancies and Expiring Terms in the March 28th and April 4th editions of the Jamestown Press. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Brine, Aye; Councilor M. White, Aye; and Councilor R. White, Aye.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) Adoption of Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - 1) February 20, 2023 (Regular meeting)
- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
 - 1) Board of Canvassers (January 19, 2024)
 - 2) Board of Canvassers (February 8, 2024)
 - 3) Board of Canvassers (February 26, 2024)
 - 4) Planning Commission (February 21, 2024)
- C) Abutter Notifications: Notice is hereby given that the Jamestown Zoning Board of Review will hold a public hearing on March 26, 2024, at the Jamestown Town Hall 93 Narragansett Avenue, Jamestown, Rhode Island at 7:00 p.m. upon the following:
 - 1) Application of DISH Wireless L.L.C. and property owner of Town of Jamestown whose property is located at 96 Howland Ave, and further identified as Tax Assessor's Plat 9, Lot 152 for a Variance/Special Use Permit from Article 82, Section 601, & Section 82.301 Table 3-1 V-17 to add a new wireless carrier, DISH Wireless, to the water tank on Howland Ave. DISH has proposed to install 3 antennas, 6 radios, and accompanying wireless equipment to the water tank and will require a 5x7 lease area for ground equipment. Said property is located in a Public zone and contains 0.5234 acres.
- D) Finance Director's Report: Comparison Budget to Actuals as of February 29, 2024.

- E) Ratification of the Administratively approved Short-Term Rental application for the period of January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024:
- 1) Lisa Stokes, STR-113, 231 Beavertail Road
 - 2) Loretta Robin, STR-114, 951 Fort Getty Road
 - 3) Joanne Calore, STR-72, 87 Spindrift Street
 - 4) William Hutchinson, STR-116, 4 Fort Wetherill Road
 - 5) Anne Livingston, STR-39, 51 Howland Avenue
- F) One-Day Event/Entertainment License Applications: All One-Day Event/Entertainment license application approvals are subject to any COVID-19 protocols in effect at the time of the event:
- 1) Applicant: Save the Bay
Event: Annual Save the Bay Swim
Date: Saturday, July 13, 2024
Location: RITBA Lawn
 - 2) Applicant: Jamestown Senior Services Department
Event: Jamestown Senior Center's "Senior" Prom
Date: April 26, 2024
Location: 6 West Street
 - 3) Applicant: Arnold-Zweir Post 22, American Legion
Event: Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration
Date: March 29, 2024
Location: 6 West Street
b) Request to waive insurance requirements as historically granted.
 - 4) Public Notice of CRMC and RIDEM of application for Assent filed by Michael Piper & Mercedes Climaco Piper, to construct and maintain: a new 1500lb boat lift, the as-built replacement of a ramp and terminal float with a 4'x18' fixed pier, and new sister piles and tie off piles. No variances required. Written comments/objections are due by April 4, 2024, to CRMC, O.S. Government Center, 4808 Tower Hill Road, Rm 116, Wakefield, RI 02879, or cstaff1@crmc.ri.gov

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; Councilor R. White, Aye; and Councilor M. White, Aye.

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

Communications were acknowledged.

XIV. 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: Tyrone C. Sutton
Dated: February 20, 2024
Re: Village Hearth Letter of Endorsement
- 2) Copy of letter to: Town Council
From: Doriana Carella and Andrea Colognese
Dated: March 7, 2024
Re: 35 Gondola Avenue Short-Term Rental Application

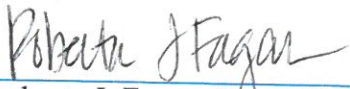
B) Communications and Resolutions from other Rhode Island Cities and Towns:

- 1) Letter from the Town of Burrillville regarding a coalition of communities to work with the General Assembly and Governor to overhaul the funding mechanisms and/or other factors contributing to inconsistent funding and appropriate support for public schools.
- 2) Town of Charlestown, RI, A Resolution in Opposition to Any Revival of the Old Saybrook to Kenyon Bypass

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with a second by Councilor M. White to adjourn at 9:09 p.m. 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

Town of Jamestown
2022-2023 Jamestown Charter Review Committee

Final Report to the Town Council

The 2022-2023 Town Charter Review Committee consisting of seven (7) voting member: James Rugh, Chairman; Sav Rebecchi, Vice Chairman; Job Toll, Secretary; Lucia Marshall; Mary E. Meagher; James (Jay) Sisson; and George Souza was charged with reviewing the Charter to determine if there are any changes needed. The Committee met bi-weekly and researched and discussed various possible Charter changes. Our eleven recommended changes are presented to the Council for consideration.

In this report recommended text changes are **highlighted**, additions are underlined, and deletions are struck through. Identical changes to multiple sections are presented together.

RECOMMENDATION 1

In November 2020 voters in Rhode Island passed a ballot measure to drop the words "Providence Plantations" from the official state name. We recommend that the preamble be changed to conform to the current official state name.

PREAMBLE

The people of the Town of Jamestown, in order to secure the right of self-government in all local matters, pursuant to the provisions of the constitution of the State of Rhode Island ~~and Providence Plantations~~, do adopt and establish this Charter.

RECOMMENDATION 2

After considerable research and discussion, the committee recommends the Town move to non-partisan elections for the Town Council, School Committee and Town Moderator. Several other Rhode Island cities and towns have moved to non-partisan local elections (the Town has no control over state and Federal elections) including Newport and Middletown, to name just two.

Sec. 201. - Number, selection, term

The town council shall consist of five members elected from the town at large, each to serve for a term of two years or until a successor is elected and qualified. The regular election of council members shall be held on the first Monday of November

in even-numbered years, beginning November 2012. The names of all candidates for town council who shall have qualified to appear on the ballot shall be listed ~~under their respective~~ without party designations (in the order determined by the board of canvassers by the drawing of lots). Each elector shall vote for no more than five candidates for town council, and the five receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected.

PLEASE NOTE: Under the Jamestown Town Charter, sections 601 and 602, primary, general, and special elections and the authority granted the canvassing authority are governed by Rhode Island General Law 1956, §§ 17-1-1 et seq, 17-8-1 et seq., and 45-4-1 et seq. The Committee suggests that the Town Solicitor be consulted to determine if further additions to the Charter may be needed to move to local non-partisan elections. For this reason, we suggest the 2022-2023 Town Charter Review Committee not be discharged until the Town Solicitor makes his report, in case additional changes to the Charter are needed.

RECOMMENDATION 3

This recommendation mirrors recommendation 2 and would make local school board elections non-partisan.

Sec. 501 – School committee membership.

There shall be a school committee of five members, each of whom shall be elected at large from the town by the electors of the town of Jamestown at the regular town election to serve for a term of four years and until the successor is elected and qualified. The names of all candidates for the school committee who shall have qualified to appear on the ballot shall be listed ~~under their respective~~ without party designation (in the order determined by the board of canvassers by the drawing of lots). Those persons receiving the greatest number of votes for an office, not exceeding the number of persons to be chosen for the office, shall be declared elected to office. All members of the school committee in office at the time this Charter is adopted shall continue to hold office until their normal terms have expired.

RECOMMENDATION 4

We are recommending two changes to section. 406. The change in the first paragraph would mirror recommendations 2 and 3 and would make the Town Moderator election non-partisan.

Currently, at the Town Financial Meeting the Town Moderator can call for a ballot vote on any issue. Voters at the meeting can make a motion from the floor to vote by ballot. We believe many voters are reluctant to take a public position or to speak publicly at this meeting. Our recommendation is to require a ballot vote on the expenditure of money or the incurring of liability in excess of \$1 million. This limit would exempt most bond issues. Had this been in effect at the 2023 Town Financial Meeting it would only have required a ballot on the Town and School budgets. Other cities and towns have a similar provision and we believe many registered voters will support this change.

Sec. 406. - Town moderator.

There shall be a town moderator, who shall be elected at the regular town election without party designation and shall have those powers and perform those duties prescribed now or in the future by the constitution and laws of the state not inconsistent with this Charter. In the event that the office of the town moderator becomes vacant during the term of office, the town council will appoint a replacement until the next regularly scheduled election.

The moderator of the Town Financial Meeting shall upon a motion being made and seconded, relative to any business before such meeting, after having heard all the registered voters thereon who shall be desirous of being heard, cause the votes of the registered voters present to be taken thereon. Whenever any question involves an expenditure of money, or the incurring of liability in excess of \$1 million by the Town, or the disposition of Town property in excess of \$1 million, that vote shall be taken by ballot.

RECOMMENDATION 5

Under section 212, when a member of the Town Council leaves the council because they cease "to meet the qualifications established in section 202" (must be a qualified elector, a residents of the Town, and hold no other public office or employment in the service of the town) the Council appoints the next higher vote getter. However, there may be no next higher vote getter or that person could have only received a few votes. In addition, section 212 does not address when a Council members resigns for other reasons. We recommend eliminating the current wording and replacing with wording allowing the Town Council to fill an open position with a "qualified person."

Sec. 212. - Vacancies.

Vacancies shall be said to exist when any member ceases to meet the qualifications established in section 202. If such a vacancy occurs in the membership of the town

~~council, the remaining members of the town council shall appoint the next highest vote getter to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled biennial election.~~

If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the council, for whatever reason, the remaining members of the council shall select a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled state or town election, at which time the electors shall elect a qualified person to complete any unexpired portion of the term.

RECOMMENDATION 6

Section 503 outlines the process to follow when a member of the School Board leaves the Board. The process is similar to that now followed when a vacancy occurs on the Town Council. The same concerns apply and we recommend mirroring changes recommended to section 212.

Sec 503 – Vacancies.

~~Any vacancy in the membership of the school committee shall be filled by the town council by the next highest vote getter from the most recent election and so on until someone fills the vacancy until the next regular town election, when the office shall be filled for the unexpired term thereof. Should there be no next higher vote getter or if none of the vote getters be willing to serve then the council shall appoint a member, pursuant to the laws of the State of Rhode Island.~~

If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the school committee, for other than the expiration of the member's term, the town council shall select a qualified person to fill the vacancy to serve until the next regularly scheduled state or town election, at which time the electors shall select a qualified person to complete the unexpired portion of the term.

RECOMMENDATION 7

We are recommending changes to section 216 that would allow a “digest or description which substantially expresses the purpose or identifies the subject matter” of a proposed ordinance or amendment to be published in a general circulation newspaper rather than the full text. This is permitted by state law and would result in significant savings to the Town. Many of today's ordinances/amendments are complex, for example the short-term rental ordinance. These can run multiple newspaper pages and cost thousands of dollars per insertion. If this recommendation is adopted a more concise digest of the ordinance or amendment could be published. So that Jamestown voters can read and understand the ordinance/amendment we recommend making it

clear that the full text must be posted on the Town web site and available for public inspection at the Town Clerk's Office.

Sec. 216. - Procedure for adopting ordinance.

An ordinance or amendment to an existing ordinance may be introduced by any member at any regular or special meetings of the town council. Upon introduction of any ordinance or amendment to an existing ordinance, the town clerk shall distribute a copy to each town council member and to the town administrator; shall file a reasonable number of copies in the office of the town clerk and shall publish the ordinance or amendment. It shall not be necessary for the full text of an ordinance or amendment to an ordinance to be published. The Council may approve a digest or description which substantially expresses the purpose or identifies the subject matter. Following the publication by at least seven days, the town council may adopt the ordinance with or without amendment or reject it, but if it is amended as to any matter of substance, the town council may not adopt it until the ordinance or its amended sections have been subjected to all the procedures hereinbefore required in the case of a newly introduced ordinance. As soon as practicable after adoption of any ordinance, the town clerk shall have sufficient printed copies of the ordinance or amendment available at the town hall.

As used in this section, the term "publish" means to print in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the town. The full ordinance or amendment shall be posted and to post on the town's website: ~~(1) the complete ordinance or amendment and (2) the places where copies of it have been filed and the times when they are~~ and shall be made available at the Town Clerk's office for public inspection.

RECOMMENDATION 8

Section 301 deals with the appointment of the town administrator. Candidates are permitted six months to become a resident of the state of Rhode Island. Finding suitable housing in Rhode Island is becoming more challenging. In light of current housing conditions, we recommend expanding this time to twelve months.

Sec. 301. - Appointment and qualifications.

The town council shall appoint a town administrator for an indefinite period of time, based solely upon the executive and administrative qualifications of the applicant, as outlined by generally accepted professional standards. The town administrator need not be a resident of the town or state at the time of appointment, but must

become and remain a qualified elector and resident of the state within ~~six~~ twelve months after appointment, unless an extension is approved by town council. The relationship between the town and the town administrator shall be contractual and not that between a municipality and a civil officer.

RECOMMENDATION 9

Currently the building official may serve as the minimum housing inspector, a position mandated by state law. The building official is also responsible for supervision and enforcement of ordinances relating to buildings, zoning, trailer parks and other matters. We feel that zoning enforcement is a critical function and should be more prominent. We recommend that "zoning" be deleted from the list of supervision and enforcement duties and that wording be added that states he may also serve as the zoning enforcement official.

Sec. 409. - Building.

There shall be a building official who shall be nominated by the town administrator with the approval of the town council and shall be responsible for the supervision and enforcement of ordinances relating to buildings, ~~zoning~~, trailer parks and other matters assigned to the building official pursuant to law. The building official may also serve as the zoning enforcement officer and the minimum housing inspector. In the absence of a town engineer, the building official shall be responsible for the custody and proper maintenance of engineering records including surveys, plans, maps and the like, pertaining to town property and projects.

RECOMMENDATION 10

We are recommending two housekeeping changes to section 1104 which requires that the Town budget and capital budget be printed and available 14 days in advance of the financial town meeting. In 2002 sections 223 and 224 we deleted and replace with section 1102 and 1103. At the time section 1104 was not corrected to indicate the proper sections. For the sake of accuracy, we recommend these changes be made to section 1104.

Sec. 1104. Public notice.

The recommended budget (section ~~223~~ 1102) and capital budget as provided in section ~~224~~ 1103 shall be printed and available to the public at least 14 days preceding the annual financial town meeting-

RECOMMENDATION 11

Our final recommendation is to clarify in section 1201 that there are two types of charter reviews. A full review which by the current charter occurs every six years, and a special review that can take place as needed (the most recent special review took place in 2020 to update section 219 – Initiative Petition). The committee felt that there could be confusion regarding the date of full review since it could be a year or more from the call for a committee to the submission of a final report. To eliminate any question, our recommendation is to make the appointment of the next full charter review committee September 1, 2029 and full reviews every six years from that date. (September 1 was selected as it would allow the committee to meet during the fall/winter/spring and avoid the summer with it can be a challenging getting a quorum).

Sec. 1201. - Charter revision committee.

~~The town council shall appoint a charter review committee to review this Charter whenever it is deemed necessary but not longer than six years from the previous review.~~ The town council shall appoint a special charter review committee whenever it is deemed necessary. The council shall appoint a full charter review committee beginning September 1, 2029, and every six years from that date. The Town Clerk shall inform the Council no less than six months before the next Full Review to begin the process of review committee selection. Said full review committee shall within nine months of its appointment submit to the town council a report with its recommendations for amendments, additions or deletions.

Submitted by the 2022-2023 Jamestown Charter Review Committee:

James Rugh, Chairman
Sav Rebecchi, Vice Chairman
Job Toll, Secretary
Lucia Marshall
Mary E. Meagher
James (Jay) Sisson
George Souza

July 11, 2023

