

**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
**May 4, 2020**

**I. ROLL CALL**

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council was held on May 4, 2020. This meeting was held pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-05, executed by Governor Gina Raimondo and was teleconferenced via Zoom. The public access code to participate by phone was 1 (301) -715-8592 or 1(312) - 626- 6799 or 1(646) - 558- 8656. To participate by computer or mobile app: <https://zoom.us/j/93106150187> Meeting ID: 931 0615 0187. Town Council Members present were as follows: Michael G. White, Mary Meagher, Nancy A. Beye, William J. Piva, Jr. and Randy White. Also present Town Administrator Jamie A. Hainsworth, Finance Director Christina D. Collins, Town Solicitor Peter D. Ruggiero, Chief of Police Edward A. Mello, and Town Planner, Lisa Bryer, Michael Gray, Public Works Director.

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

Town Council President White called the meeting of the Jamestown Town Council to order at 6:32 P.M. in the Jamestown Town Hall, Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

- A) Review, Discussion and Possible Action to extend the April 20, 2020 Executive order from May 8, 2020 to May 19, 2020, unless revoked earlier; the continuation of the authorization of the Town Administrator to take any and all necessary actions to implement best practices guidance regarding municipal government actions to curtail the spread of the COVID 19 virus.

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Beye to extend the Executive Order from May 8, 2020 to May 19, 2020, unless revoked earlier.**

**Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye**

- B) Review, Discussion and Summary of the FY 20-21 Budget approved for submission to the FTM by the Town Council

Finance Director Collins gave a brief status on the budget.

- C) Review, Discussion and Possible action on a request from the Library Board of Trustees for One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars Bond Issuance to Fund the Library Renovations and authorize possible adoption of a Resolution and referral to the General Assembly for placement of this question on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot for consideration by Jamestown Voters

- 1) Library Board of Trustees Correspondence dated April 29, 2020
- 2) Proposed Library Local Bond Act Resolution for Consideration

Gene Mihaly from the Library Board of Trustees gave an overview of the status of the fundraising effort for the Library renovations and requested it be placed as a Bond Item on the November General Election Ballot.

Councilor Piva questioned the reimbursement from the State. Mihaly advised on the reimbursement of the Bond.

Vice President Meagher advised on OLIS funding.

Discussion ensued on library fundraising efforts.

Council President White read the following Resolution proposed: Resolved: That the Town Council of the Town of Jamestown requests that the General Assembly approve enabling legislation to place a bond referendum on the ballot at a special election or at the general election to be held on November 3, 2020 as determined by the Town Council. Said bond referendum shall ask the voters of the Town to approve issuance of up to \$1,500,000 in bonds and notes to finance the costs of renovation, repairs and/or expansion and/or related equipment at the Jamestown Philomenian Library.

Councilor Piva requested public comment be taken at this time.

Mary Lou Sanborn of Bayview Drive stated concern of the OLIS funding due to the financial status of the State.

Mihaly advised the funding is a contract between to the Town of Jamestown and State of Rhode Island. The agreement will be signed immediately after the bond passes. If it is not signed it will not be drawn upon.

Discussion ensued on agreement.

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor White to approve the Resolution and to move forward the request of the 1.5 Million Dollar Bond for Library Renovations for consideration of the voters on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye**

- D) Upcoming Meetings and Sessions – dates and times
  - 1) Town Council Meeting Schedule: May 18, 2020

Meeting dates were reviewed.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

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

- A) Review, Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Possible Scheduling Adjustments to the Fort Getty Park Season in Response to COVID-19
  - 1) Andrew Wade, Parks & Recreation Director Memorandum on Fort Getty Campground: COVID- 19 Restrictions

Town Administrator Hainsworth advised the town will follow the guidance of the State; however that has still not been made clear.

Parks and Recreation Director Andrew Wade advised on public safety and access to Fort Getty. He further explained on April 9<sup>th</sup> parks were closed on weekends to comply with State recommendations. He also explained the guidance received from the DBR on camping facilities and restrictions. He further requested to delay opening the park for three weeks to determine the climate and the season would then end on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Staffing maybe an issue, but he will cross that bridge when it comes and will continue to monitor and change with the situation.

Discussion ensued on Fort Getty.

Parks and Recreation Director Wade also advised on the maintenance and improvements done to restrooms and repairs completed. He explained the difficulty of weddings to be held and has received mixed requests regarding that. He also explained beach stickers will be sold online or through mail service. He also stated we will learn as things evolve.

Vice President Meagher requested that this item be placed on the May 18<sup>th</sup> agenda for future discussions.

Discussion ensued on delayed opening.

Town Administrator Hainsworth advised they were looking for the consent of being flexible with the season.

The Council concurred the delayed opening aligned with the Executive Order.

- B) Review, Discussion and Possible Action to Authorize the Placement of a Question on the November 3, 2020 General Election Ballot for Consideration of Jamestown Voters; Regarding Whether to Approve Amendments to the Jamestown Town Charter; Sections 218- 220: Initiative and Referendum
  - 1) Approval of Question: Shall the Charter of the Town of Jamestown be amended to revise the process and requirements by qualified electors of the town to use the initiative procedure?

Councilor White advised that that Section 219 was the only section that needed revision. He further advised that he and Mr. Rugh had reviewed the proposed amendments with the Solicitor and it reflects verbatim what the committee proposed and encouraged it be placed on the November Ballot.

**A motion was made by Councilor White with second by Vice President Meagher to approve the following question to be placed on the November Ballot for Amendments to the Jamestown Town Charter; Sections 219: Initiative and Referendum: Shall the Charter of the Town of Jamestown be amended to revise the process and requirements by qualified electors of the town to use the initiative procedure?**

**Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye**

Mary Lou Sanborn of Bay View Drive questioned the qualifiers.

Vice President Meagher advised on the qualifiers.

- C) Review, Discussion and Possible Action by the Town Council to authorize and provide \$150,000 in funding from the various funds to subsidize the Purchase of a property located at 53 Narragansett Avenue (Former Bakers Pharmacy) by Church Community Housing Corporation for re-use as an Affordable/Private Housing Project.
  - 1) Request from Church Community Housing Corporation dated March 27, 2020
  - 2) Lisa Bryer, Town Planner Memorandum on Affordable Housing Opportunities

Lisa Bryer Town Planner advised on the request on Church Community Housing. She further explained the delay in the workshop with Affordable Housing due to COVID- 19. She thanked several Council members who had reached out on the topic and also advised she has not been contacted by residents on this topic. She introduced Christian Belden from Church Community Housing was present tonight. She further explained the State requirements for affordable housing and currently Jamestown is at 4.2 % of the 10% required. She explained this is a private initiative and the town is not buying the property. She further explained the intent and the housing trust created in 2005.

Christian Belden thanked the Council for tonight. He explained the Church Community Housing opportunities model and the impact on children and overall the community. He explained if you develop affordable housing these children will not need assistance as adults. He further explained the benefits of this model. He also explained Church Community is a leader in the State to break poverty and the reason for development in high performing school systems. We are trying to do to give kids a fighting chance for success. He further explained the purchase and sales.

Councilor Piva questioned the status on Carr Lane.

Town Planner Bryer commented on Carr Lane and the difficulties with 100% affordable funding projects.

Belden advised on Carr Lane; however explained Bakers would be different.

Discussion ensued on Affordable Housing, proposed layout, traffic, and recreation space.

Heather Lopes of SwinBurne Street and Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee was in favor of the project; however that is her personal opinion and not of the Committee. She further stated the units need to be downtown for access to schools and stores.

Town Administrator Hainsworth advised tonight's purpose was to discuss the subject and approve the conceptual plan. He further advised the Solicitors Office would look further on criteria and agreements.

Belden advised his Purchase and Sales Agreement is contingent on tonight's approval for his financing needs to be secured by May 8, 2020. He further explained the timeline on the project.

Discussion ensued on financing timeline.

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Beye to Authorize the \$150,000 in Funding to Subsidize the Purchase of a property located at 53 Narragansett Avenue by Church Community Housing Corporation for re-use as an Affordable/Private Housing Project; with Town Solicitor's Review of the Agreements. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye**

**V. ORDINANCES, APPOINTMENTS, VACANCIES AND EXPIRING TERMS**

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

- A) Discussion and Possible Action to Order to Advertise in the Jamestown Press; Notice of a Public Hearing for Proposed Amendments to the Code of Ordinances regarding Chapter 46- Hawkers, Peddlers, Door-to-door salespersons and Mobile Food Establishments, which removes the Provision on Prohibition of Door to Door Sale

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Piva to Authorize the Town Clerk to advertise the Public Hearing to be held on June 15, 2020 on the Proposed Amendments to the Code of Ordinance- Chapter 46- Hawkers, Peddlers, Door-to-door salespersons and Mobile Food Establishments. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye**

- B) Discussion and Possible Action to Order to Advertise in the Jamestown Press; Notice of a Public Hearing for Proposed Amendments the Code of Ordinances regarding Repealing Section 38-92. Indecent Intoxication, which removes the Provision of Public Intoxication
  - 2) Correspondence from the Rhode Island American Civil Liberties Union dated March 9, 2020

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Piva to Authorize the Town Clerk to advertise the Public Hearing to be held on June 15, 2020 on the Proposed Amendments to the Code of Ordinance Repealing Section 38-92. Indecent Intoxication. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye**

**VI. 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.*

Councilor White advised and recused from Consent Items B and D

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Piva to approve Consent Items B and D. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye**

- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
  - 1) Jamestown Tax Assessment Board of Review (April 1, 2020)
  - 2) Jamestown Tax Assessment Board of Review (April 2, 2020)
  - 3) Jamestown Tax Assessment Board of Review (April 8, 2020)

- D) Request of Tax Assessor for Specific Abatements & Addenda of Taxes  
**REAL ESTATE & TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY ABATEMENTS TO 2019 TAX ROLL**

03-1166-03	Sold business	\$48.30
08-0385-50	Plat 9, Lot 402	\$440.34
<b>TOTAL ABATEMENTS</b>		<b>\$ 488.64</b>

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

- A) Adoption of Town Council Minutes
  - 1) March 10, 2020 (budget workshop)
  - 2) March 16, 2020 (special meeting)

- C) Revision of the previously authorized Warrants and Resolutions for the June 1, 2020 Financial Town Meeting to provide for alternate FTM dates due to COVID 19 gathering restrictions.(Warrants are routine in matter as they relate to setting the tax rate.)
- 1) Resolution Number 1: Sewer Line Frontage Tax Rate (.68 cents per liner foot, included on tax bill for homes in the Sewer district) \* **Revision to previously authorized April 20, 2020. Revision is to provide flexibility on date and time of FTM.**
  - 2) Resolution Number 2: Borrowing in Anticipation of Taxes (Authorizes the Town the ability to borrow funds in anticipation of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter's taxes being due.) \* **Revision to previously authorized April 20, 2020. Revision is to provide flexibility on date and time of FTM.**
  - 3) Resolution Number 3: Disposition of Collected Back Taxes (All back taxes to be placed in the General Fund at time of receipt.) \* **Revision to previously authorized April 20, 2020. Revision is to provide flexibility on date and time of FTM.**
  - 4) Resolution Number 4: Setting the Tax Rate (Actual rate to be determined within a range at the FTM.) \*\* **Revision to previously authorized April 20, 2020. Revision is to provide flexibility on date and time of FTM.**
  - 5) Resolution Number 5: Borrowing for Improvement, Replacement, Construction, Repair, Reconstruction and/or Restoration of Roadways in the Town of Jamestown through Issuance of Bonds in an Amount not to exceed One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars
  - 6) Resolution Number 6: Borrowing for Purchase of a Fire Pumping Truck in the Town of Jamestown through Issuance of Bonds in an Amount not to exceed Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars
- E) Authorization for the Town Clerk to Advertise Committee Vacancies
- 1) Affordable Housing (3) Full Member Vacancies.
  - 2) Fire Department Compensation (2) Citizen- At-Large Vacancies
  - 3) Tax Assessment Board of Review (1) Full Member and (1) Alternate Member Vacancy
- F) Authorization of the Public Works Department Bid Award for a New Trash Ejector Trailer to Warren Equipment, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$105,000.

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

**VII. 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: Michael White, President  
Jamestown Town Council  
From: Sandra Shah  
Dated: April 14, 2020  
Re: Tax Bill
- 2) Copy of Email to: Jamestown Town Council  
From: Linda Jamison  
Dated: April 16, 2020  
Re: Proposed Budget 2020-2021
- 3) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council  
From: Mary Lou Sanborn  
Dated: April 16, 2020  
Re: COVID -19 & Budget
- 4) Copy of Letter to: Jamestown Town Council  
From: Taxpayers Association of Jamestown  
Dated: April 24, 2020  
Re: Budget
- 5) Copy of Letter to: Acting Town Administrator Christina Collins  
From: Dan Lambe. Arbor Day Foundation  
Re: 2019 Tree City USA Recognition

**B) Proclamations and Resolutions from other Rhode Island Cities and Towns**

- 1) Town of Charlestown Resolution regarding Primary Election Day
- 2) Town of Charlestown Resolution regarding Legislation to Establish an Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience Fund (OSCAR)
- 3) Town of Charlestown Resolution in Support of 2020- H7755 & S 2756 Relating to Criminal Offenses Trespass & Vandalism
- 4) North Smithfield School Committee Resolution in Support of Funding of the Categorical Fund for High Cost Special Education.
- 5) North Smithfield School Committee Resolution in Support for Funding of RIDE Transportation Offset ESSA



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

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

- 1) Scheduled request to address – None
- 2) Non-scheduled request to address

Michael Cochran of North Road applauded the job done managing the meetings by Zoom.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Vice President Meagher with second by Councilor Beye to adjourn at 8:33P.M. Vote: President White, Aye; Vice President Meagher, Aye; Councilor Beye, Aye; Councilor Piva, Aye; Councilor, White, Aye**

Attest:

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Erin F. Liese, CMC, Town Clerk