

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, March 17, 2025
5:30 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Town Council Members present were as follows: Nancy A. Beye, Erik Brine, Mary Meagher, Mary G. Glackin, and E. Edward Ross.

Also, in attendance: Town Administrator Edward A. Mello, Solicitor Peter Ruggiero, Finance Director Christina Collins, Public Works Director Michael Gray, Chief Howie Tighe, Chief Jamie Campbell (arrived at 7:40 p.m.) and Town Clerk Roberta Fagan.

II. ROLL CALL SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roll call of the School Committee was taken at 5:32 p.m. Members in attendance: Kristine Lapierre, Christian Cowan, Andrew C. Allsopp, Lisa Tuttle and Joshua Furtado. Also, in attendance: Superintendent David Raleigh and Finance Director Jane Littlefield.

III. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Beye called the joint meeting of the Jamestown Town Council and School Committee to order at 5:33 p.m. in the Jamestown Town Hall Rosamond A. Tefft Council Chambers at 93 Narragansett Avenue and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Joint Town Council and School Department Budget Work Session and Hearing for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 (July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026).

- A) School Operating Budget
- B) Capital Improvement Program
- C) Review and Discussion

See attached presentation.

A motion was made by Kristine Lapierre with a second by Andrew Allsopp to adjourn the School Committee from the Joint Work Session at 6:10 p.m.

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

See Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners Meeting Minutes.

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

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

Mary Lou Sanborn, 21 Bay View Drive, asked Public Works Director Michael Gray why the North reservoir cannot be banked like the one on West Main Road in Middletown/Portsmouth, which would allow for increased capacity and accommodate more users.

Public Works Director Michael Gray explained that in 1993, the Town Council established a water study committee to address issues with the reservoir. They examined reservoirs, wells, and other options for increasing the water supply. The dam, built in the late 1890s, does not meet modern standards, being an earthen embankment. The committee considered raising the dam's height to boost capacity but concluded that its structural integrity could not support any additional water. Tests showed it could not handle increased loads, and digging into the reservoir was not a viable option due to the ledge beneath it. In the late '90s, some capacity was added by installing boards to the spillway, but further increases were not feasible. Furthermore, any significant work on the public water supply would mean temporarily depriving the town of water, which would be highly problematic. Nowadays, public water supplies are more commonly developed through drilling wells rather than building new reservoirs.

B) Report of Town Officials: Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote:

- 1) Pumping Report
- 2) Town Project Reports
 - a) Town Wells

JR-1 is in service.

b) Water Treatment Plant

Veolia has been making improvements to the chemical feed systems to the water treatment process. Their team is also assisting with the evaluation of the existing chlorine dioxide pre-treatment system at South Pond.

Pare Corporation is finalizing the bid documents for the meter replacement project for advertising.

The water department received grant funding from the EPA to replace the water main within North Road between Narragansett Avenue and the water plant. The scope of work includes the marsh crossing, where RIDOT is currently investigating alternatives for roadway reconstruction. Until there is a design for the road improvements, the water main replacement project will be delayed. Ed Mello and Public Works Director Michael Gray met with the project manager from EPA about eliminating the marsh crossing from the scope and adding Narragansett Avenue from North Road to West Ferry. They reviewed our grant agreement and accepted this change to the scope of work. The EPA grant funding will now include replacing the water main in Narragansett Avenue between North Road and West Ferry and replacing the water main in North Road from Narragansett Avenue to 200' south of the marsh, as shown in the attached figure. Both projects are designed and the Town has received RIDOT approval for work within the State Right of Way. Pare Corporation is working on the Environmental Impact Document and Section 106 Archaeological Review that is required by the EPA before any work can begin.

Public Works Director Michael Gray is working with Pare on an update to the Clean Water Infrastructure Replacement Plan that is due to the RI Department of Health at the end of April. The document provides a detailed maintenance plan for all major components to our water system.

The Town Administrator has finalized the grant agreement from the RI Infrastructure Bank to begin our water study project. The study includes investigating interconnection feasibility, studying existing water wells that were drilled to determine if there are any that can be used for public water sources, and completing a hydraulic study of the existing water distribution system

c) Transfer Pumping/Reservoir

No water has been transferred from South Pond.

d) Distribution System

South Pond@ 6 MG

North Pond @60 MG

Usable Storage, 6 Million Gallons

Usable Storage 59 Million Gallons

Annual water flushing will begin in the next few weeks. Staff will also be preparing Fort Getty's water system for the coming season.

e) Wastewater Treatment Facility

The monthly average daily flow at the treatment plant for February was 0.23 million gallons per day. The monthly average allowed by our discharge permit is 0.73 million gallons per day. The peak daily flow was 0.99 million gallons per day.

Public Works Director Michael Gray received the 50% design documents for the improvements to the Wastewater Facility and Pump Stations. The wastewater superintendent and Public Works Director Michael Gray will review the plans.

Weston & Sampson will be mobilizing a team to begin the collection system investigation work on April 7th. Work will begin with TV inspections of existing sanitary sewer piping.

C) Letters and Communication: No items at this time.

D) Unfinished Business: No items at this time.

E) New Business:

- 1) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Application of Freebody LLC (115 Bayview Drive; Plat 8, a portion of Lot 760-Parcel A for Utility Service Connection (Sewer only)).

Public Works Director Michael Gray explained 15 Bayview Drive has an existing single-family dwelling. The owner is moving forward with a subdivision to create a vacant lot and must prove that the lot is buildable, either by a septic system or sewer connection. The applicant has opted for a sewer connection, which is the request being presented. While a well is indicated for water on the plans, the sewer connection is essential. All homes on the street are connected to the sewer, so Public Works Director Michael Gray recommended this option. There are conditions outlined in Public Works Director Michael Gray's letter, including that the well must be metered for billing, and the applicant will bear those costs.

Atty. Christian Infantolino, representing Freebody LLC, stated that there is a line running through the property, and the discharge estimates were based on a proposed four-bedroom home using DEM regulations. His client is willing to comply with all recommendations. Regarding compliance with sections 13a and 13b, the applicants are following the requirements. The property is currently in the rural district but will be part of Jamestown with the new plan. The property has not yet been officially subdivided until the applicants can secure well availability and the sewer connection. If approved tonight, Freebody LLC will finalize the plans (mylar) and get it recorded. The approval is contingent on the sewer connection and leaves the applicant with an existing single-family house on a larger lot with a substantial driveway. A meeting is set for Wednesday at 9 am with Planning and Zoning to address ongoing concerns.

Town Administrator Mello stated, just to clarify, there is a pending violation regarding the driveway that remains unresolved. Addressing this violation is a condition for subdivision approval.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meagher with a second by Commission Vice President Brine to approve the application of Freebody LLC (115 Bayview Drive; Plat 8, a portion of Lot 760-Parcel A for Utility Service Connection (Sewer only)). Vote: Commission President Beye, Aye; Commission Vice President Brine, Aye; Commissioner Meagher, Aye; Commissioner E. Ross, Aye; and Commissioner M. Glackin, Aye.

A motion was made by Commissioner Meagher with a second by Commissioner Brine to approve the consent agenda. Vote: Commission President Beye, Aye; Commission Vice President Brine, Aye; Commissioner Meagher, Aye; Commissioner E. Ross, Aye; and Commissioner M. Glackin, Aye.

- F) Consent Agenda
 - 1) Adoption of Minutes:
 - a) January 21, 2025 (regular meeting)
 - b) February 24, 2025 (regular meeting)
 - 2) Finance Director's Report: Water and Sewer Comparison Budget to Actuals as of February 28, 2025.

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

VI. OPEN FORUM

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

Marian Falla, 75 Green Lane, had several questions regarding the bonds and capital expenditures. During the bond workshop, a ten-year capital program of \$961,000 was discussed. Will there be another workshop for the additional bonds? The Jamestown Press reported that there are \$5,000,000 and \$4.1 million, but Ms. Falla stated she is confused because she thought only \$961,000 was addressed in the workshop. Will there be more discussion on this?

Councilor Meagher stated, the \$961,000 is part of the capital improvement plan and is not bonded.

Town Administrator Mello, stated yes, that's correct. The \$961,000 is the capital project proposal, while approximately \$3,800,000 is proposed for maintenance of facilities and equipment bonding and a second bond for \$1,700,000 for recreational uses.

Vice President Brine commented the Town Council approved \$1.7 million out of \$2.6 million, which includes \$200,000 for the Lawn Avenue gym and \$1,500,000 for the bike path. Further discussion on the Eldred Field plan will follow later in the agenda.

Ms. Falla also referenced in previous Town Council minutes that Councilor Meagher raised concerns about the Eldred Field. She asked for a breakdown of the costs. Why weren't the Lawn Avenue improvements included in the school capital planning or bonds? Is there a new process where school-related projects are handled under town planning instead?

Vice President Brine addressed the concern, highlighting that many were not present during earlier discussions. He explained why he requested \$200,000 for the Lawn Avenue Gym to be part of the town recreation bond instead of the school bond. Vice President Brine asserted that this facility is

a town asset, not just a school asset, as it serves multiple community purposes. In addition to school activities, the gym hosts adult programming, scouting events, and financial town meetings. It is the town's largest gathering space and serves as a refuge during emergencies, equipped with essential features like showers for preparedness. For these reasons, Vice President Brine stated it's important to share funding responsibility with the school, especially since the facility has not seen significant investment in 28 years.

Ms. Falla discussed the recreation bond, suggesting it could be broken down so taxpayers could vote on individual items, like funding for pickleball, rather than a single bundled package. She expressed concern that areas, such as Mackerel Cove, which lack funding, should be prioritized over pickleball. The idea of bundling all bonds together for a single vote was raised, allowing for broader participation. She also questioned about whether bond proposals would only be presented at the Financial Town Meeting or also during the two-year election cycle. It was pointed out that not everyone can attend the Financial Town Meeting, making alternative voting options important for ensuring community input.

Town Administrator Mello discussed the ongoing initiatives at Mackerel Cove, which have differing objectives. The town has received around \$200,000 in grant funds for the replenishment and replanting of the sand dunes. Second to that, the State of RI, through a Protect Grant has applied for a \$1,000,000 grant to explore engineering solutions for the roadway in conjunction with Warren. Separate and apart from that, URI students are conducting a non-engineering project that will provide useful insights, but are not acting as engineers for the initiative. Additionally, Mackerel Cove is now part of a multi-year development and funding effort through the State Transportation Infrastructure Program (STEP), though overlapping grants indicate that a viable solution is still a way off, especially concerning costs.

Councilor Meagher noted that Mackerel Cove's roadway improvement status on the DOT's danger list has improved from 104th to around the 20th position, easing concerns among residents.

Mary Lou Sanborn, 21 Bay View Drive, representing the Tax Payers Association of Jamestown (TAJ).

Escalating property assessments and taxes are creating a financial strain for many Jamestown taxpayers. Household incomes are not rising in line with taxes and living expenses, necessitating cost-cutting measures in the town and school budgets, including potential bond issuances.

With Jamestown's year-round residents now making up less than 50% of total households, the Town should consider closing Lawn Avenue School, which has become financially burdensome. Closing this school could eliminate \$201,000 in bonds and associated costs. Similarly, closing Lawn Avenue School could reduce the operating budget by about \$5 million, despite some costs involved in relocating students to Melrose. Additionally, offering school choice vouchers for grades six through eight could provide broader opportunities for students.

In terms of the town budget, we must uphold a 4% tax levy cap to prevent overspending. With declining school enrollment, many students are traveling off-island for sports. Modernizing Eldred Field at a cost of \$900,000 isn't feasible, and we recommend deferring senior center upgrades until a decision is made regarding Lawn Avenue School, which could be repurposed as a senior center, recreation and or community center to save \$885,000 in bond costs, plus interest.

Ms. Sanborn stated the Town must also maintain the Fort Getty RV park, which is the second-largest revenue source for the Town. Eliminating the RV park would negatively impact revenue.

Revenue income for the Fort Getty Pavilion and the golf course clubhouse and other town properties should be disclosed.

The proposed \$1.5 million bond for bike paths should be reconsidered as they are mainly used by walkers, not cyclists. The TAJ suggests deferring the affordable housing bond until more public details are available; the current balance in the affordable housing trust is \$900,000, plus \$100,000 in the proposed capital budget for 2025-2026.

Future capital expenditures will likely require bonds for sewer facility upgrades costing around \$6 million and a new ladder truck costing \$2.5 million. Reducing these suggested items would help lower the proposed budget and bond debt over time.

In closing, the TAG believe that the town and school planning require a more thorough review before any approval is granted.

Patrick Gaines, 19 Columbia Lane, stated he regularly uses the new bike path in the North End, and believes it's becoming a vital part of our community. Many bikers take advantage of this path as it connects downtown to Eldred Field. It is his hope the bike path is supported in the Recreation Bond, especially as a parent of two children in the North End. Mr. Gaines's kids are finishing their last year at Melrose School and will move to Lawn School next year. Eldred Field is a key resource for his family; his kids use it every weekend for their U-11 soccer team, and they rely on it each spring and fall. He wondered if investing in recreational facilities could help attract more families to our town since a substandard soccer field may not encourage new residents. He hopes the community recognizes the importance of maintaining and expanding recreational resources, as these facilities appeal to people of all ages. In the southern part of town, there is a significant population density, and it seems the north end is underserved in terms of recreational options for children. Expanding recreational facilities—like tennis courts—would benefit everyone, from children to seniors. While there may be differing opinions on sports priorities, the commitment to enhancing recreational resources is crucial for the community's overall quality of life.

Jay Sisson, 160 Narragansett Avenue, and President of Jamestown Soccer Association (JSA). JSA is grateful to be included in the bond issue for improvements to Eldred Field and its surroundings. Over the years, JSA has established strong partnerships with the recreation department and was close to receiving a grant for field enhancements. Mr. Sisson had previously gathered estimates for gradation checks and surveyed the area, collecting historical data on the field's layout. Fred Pease, a former Town Council member, helped negotiate an important agreement with the State of Rhode Island/Bridge Authority regarding the field's condition. As president of Jamestown Soccer for about twenty years, he has witnessed a significant demand for soccer for local children. Parents want their kids to play in a safe environment, and while the field is usable, it could be better. JSA has worked hard to keep participation fees low and provide a fun experience for everyone. The initial estimate for improvements was around \$196,000, which today would be approximately \$265,000, including switching from seed to sod to reduce downtime. He appreciates the opportunity to share this historical context. Jamestown Soccer has actively cleared brush and worked to improve the fields and looks forward to the Town Council's support in making further enhancements. He thanked the Town Council and the recreation department for all their efforts.

Brad Parsons, 660 West Reach Drive, stated he wanted to share some data. This fall, he ran the recreational soccer program, which had 137 kids signed up from pre-K to sixth grade. Of those, 74 were in pre-K or kindergarten, making up 54% of the participants. This data indicates that, contrary to concerns about losing kids, JSA had a substantial number participating.

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

- A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Proclamation 2025-10 declaring May 2025 Mental Health Month

Vice President Brine read Proclamation 2025-10 declaring May 2025 Mental Health Month aloud.

A motion was made by Councilor Meagher with a second by Vice President Brine, to approve Proclamation 2025-10 declaring May 2025 Mental Health Month. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor Ross, Aye; and Councilor M. Glackin, Aye.

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

VIII. PUBLIC HEARINGS, LICENSES, AND PERMITS

- A) Public Hearings: Town Council Sitting as the Alcohol Beverage Licensing Board
Notice is hereby given by the Town Council of Jamestown, being the Licensing Board in said Town:

- 1) Pursuant to RIGL §3-7-14, the following license application (F-25-6) has been received under said Act for a one-day license on April 24, 2025:

CLASS F (NON-PROFIT)

Jamestown Arts Center

18 Valley Street

Jamestown, RI 02835

- a) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote for Approval of the one-day CLASS F (NON-PROFIT) LIQUOR LICENSE (Number 4 of 12 licenses per calendar year issued per RIGL§3-7-14)

A motion was made by Councilor Meagher with a second by Vice President Brine to approve the JAC One-Day Class F Liquor License scheduled for April 24, 2025 taking place at JAC, 18 Valley Street. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor E. Ross, Aye; and Councilor M. Glackin, 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 2025 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 Councilor Meagher with a second by Vice President Brine to grant the CLASS G LIQUOR LICENSE Conanicut Marine Services, Inc., for service of liquor while at dockside at East Ferry for the 2025 season no more than 30 minutes prior to scheduled departure for the following marine vessels: The Jamestown, MV Katherine, and The Coastal Queen. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor E. Ross, Aye; and Councilor M. Glackin, Aye.

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

IX. COUNCIL, ADMINISTRATOR, SOLICITOR, COMMISSION/COMMITTEE COMMENTS & REPORTS

- A) Town Administrator's Report: Edward A. Mello
 - 1) NAGE 68 Contract- For your consideration is the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement for NAGE 68 (New Business)

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion, and Possible Action on the FY2025-2026: Town Administrator's Proposed Budget; Possible action to adopt and recommend proposed FY2025-2026 Town Budget of \$30,841,871 for consideration at the Annual Financial Town Meeting on June 2, 2025:
 - 1) Town Administrator's Proposed Town General Fund Budget of \$14,006,265 and the Town Administrator's Proposed School Budget of \$16,835,606

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for April 7. The town staff is looking forward to either an adopted budget or a recommended budget from the council. Finance Director Tina Collins has a significant amount of work to do to process the recommended budget. This includes preparing it for the FTM, managing various warrants, and obtaining approval from the state, among other tasks. This process does take some time. If the council has any feedback, recommendations, or proposed amendments to the budget, Town Administrator Mello asked the Town Council to share them as soon as possible. It would be helpful to address those tonight, as it is on your agenda for consideration. Town Administrator Mello stated that adopting the budget by April 7 is crucial. This timeline ensures Town Staff can proceed with the necessary follow-up work afterward.

Discussion ensued. Councilor Meagher stated she was not prepared to vote on the budget and bonds tonight.

As a reminder, the Town Administrator's proposed budget—and now the Town Council budget—includes only the debt service for the \$3,800,000 facility and equipment replacement. Town Administrator Mello removed \$500,000 from the Fort Getty investment per the council's direction. The budget does not include the \$1,700,000 for the proposed Recreation Bond, nor any potential funds for the proposed Affordable Housing bond. If the Town Council wishes to incorporate these bonds into the debt service, cuts will need to be made elsewhere, as the proposed budget is already at the 4% cap.

Alternatively, if the Town Council decides to increase the debt service for these bonds and seek relief from the cap, it may be difficult since neither project is sufficiently developed for the Town to take on that debt this fiscal year. If advanced, the full debt service for the proposed Affordable

Housing and Recreation Bonds would need to be evaluated in FY '27 to see if it requires relief from the cap.

The Town Council had a lengthy discussion and concluded that an additional Budget Work Session is needed. It was agreed to schedule the meeting on March 25th at 5 p.m.

- 2) 2026 Proposed Bonds- Review, Discussion and/or Action and/or Vote:
Authorization to prepare Resolutions and Warrants for Bonds:
 - a) \$3,883,000 Facilities and Maintenance Projects
 - b) \$1,700,000 Recreation

Vice President Brine made a presentation on the proposed Recreation Bond. See attached.

The priorities for the Eldred Field proposed improvement were discussed. The Lawn Avenue fields are in poor condition, making them unsuitable for soccer. The focus at Eldred Field would be adding storage, concessions, and bathrooms since the existing porta potty is far from ideal. Immediate improvements mentioned by Jay Sisson indicate the field is above grade from previous work, allowing the Town to proceed with upgrades without significant issues.

The Town Council discussed the deed restrictions at the Eldred Field. There are several, primarily due to known archaeological concerns, which require approval from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Act for any extensive studies or alterations. While deed restrictions limit certain activities, they don't entirely prevent modifications as long as the proper processes are followed. In 1985, historical artifacts were found. No permanent structures like bathrooms or lighting are allowed, and the field size cannot be increased into the woods. While there are restrictions, there may be the potential to ease or remove some of them. However, the Town Council must also consider the concerns of the neighbors, as any development should respect the surrounding environment.

Vice President Brine stated, the Department of Transportation has provided a letter stating they would remove the deed restrictions if a favorable study is conducted.

Town Administrator Mello made clarifying statements. In 2022, the Town Administrator and the Planner worked on adding pickleball courts, as shown on the slide, along with plans to expand the parking lot. The Town has documentation from DOT and Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission (RIHPHC), and has previously engaged the Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL) for a Phase II archaeological assessment. However, this phase has not begun due to the lack of a permit from RIHPHC, which has set additional requirements, including assurance from the State Properties Commission that they would consider lifting some restrictions if there is no adverse archaeological impact. Currently, the proposed work is limited to the pickleball courts and parking lot expansion. If the Town wants to explore different objectives, such as forgoing the courts in favor of a bathroom, concession stand, or field improvements, the approval process will need to start over. The existing permissions are based on specific requests that do not include water, a well, or irrigation, which are all restricted by the deed. Town Administrator Mello stressed the importance of clarifying what the new objectives are to ensure Town staff are following the right path moving forward.

Councilor Glackin the following comments. Not everyone plays soccer, and the Town should also focus on investing in the downtown baseball field. In response to Patrick Gaines' remark, more discussion on how elders are involved in this issue. While Councilor Glackin supports improving

the soccer field, the town must consider the perspectives of the senior population. It's important to hear from those who will be funding these improvements but may not use the facilities. She agrees with investing in a senior center. Many seniors attend soccer games to watch their grandchildren, and incorporating pickleball in the plans could be beneficial, as community interest in it has been noted in surveys. Incremental changes may be the best approach. Councilor Glackin stated, tomorrow night, the Town Council will be discussing the Fort Getty initiative. If the Town Council decides to prohibit RVs, utilizing that area for other recreational activities should be considered. It's challenging to vote on a bond with so many moving parts. Councilor Glackin is comfortable moving forward with the field improvements but believes more research needs to take place before making further decisions.

Marian Falla, suggested a meeting with the school to discuss this further. It needs more investigation before moving forward.

Justin Siroton, 34 Green Lane. Address some key points about the fields as a former competitive director for JSA. The fields are available for anyone to use. JSA typically occupies the field from September 1 to October 31 and again from April 1 to June 1. However, between June 1 and September 1, the fields are primarily used by adults and camps, leaving little opportunity for other sports like lacrosse. Unfortunately, there are currently no playable grass fields on the island. Lawn Avenue is essentially a dirt bowl, and Eldred is often waterlogged, making it difficult to hold practices or games. JSA'S goal is to improve these fields, establish reliable grass growth, and create spaces that can accommodate various sports. While this discussion has focused on soccer, it's important to note that other grass-based sports need support as well. Lawn Avenue is not viable, but if Eldred fields can be improved, JSA could develop quality fields for soccer and other sports, as well as walking paths.

Richard Smith, 1258 North Road, had a question regarding the recreation bond. When it was first introduced, it was at 2.6 million. However, the Jamestown Press reported it as 1.7 million. Will there be another statement released for the public that details all these changes? Since it seems the Town Council might be adding amenities like pickleball and other facilities, will there be a final total that the public can review before the vote takes place? Can you clarify?

Christian Infantolino, 28 Reservoir Circle, made a point that his son broke his ankle at the Lawn Avenue field, which is in terrible condition. Unfortunately, he believes not much can be done about them due to various restrictions, likely related to tribal approvals concerning the grass. He stressed the importance of focusing on outdoor recreation, as the comprehensive plan suggests. Eldred Field has potential for transformation, and while hurdles exist, the Town has made progress toward improvement. The Recreation Center offers limited activities, and the town needs to invest more in community recreation.

The Town Council continued the discussion and decided they needed more time to vote on the proposed Recreation Bond.

No action taken.

President Beye recused from agenda item XI) New Business, A) and left the dais.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

- A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: Authorize Town Administrator Mello to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement contract for NAGE 68, effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028.

Town Administrator Mello gave a brief overview of the NAGE 68 contract revisions.

A motion was made by Councilor Meagher with a second by Councilor Glackin to authorize Town Administrator Mello to sign the Collective Bargaining Agreement contract for NAGE 68, effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2028. Vote: Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor Ross, Aye; and Councilor M. Glackin, Aye.

President Beye rejoined the meeting and returned to the dais.

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 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. for Proposed Amendments to the Code of Ordinances, regarding Chapter 70-Article IV Section 87, Prohibited or Restricted Parking on Specified Streets.

Town Administrator Mello described the proposed amendments.

A motion was made by Councilor Meagher with a second by Vice President Brine to ***Order to Advertise*** in the Jamestown Press; Notice of a Public Hearing to take place on April 7, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. for Proposed Amendments to the Code of Ordinances, regarding Chapter 70-Article IV Section 87, Prohibited or Restricted Parking on Specified Streets. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor Ross, Aye; and Councilor M. Glackin, Aye.

XIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A) Adoption of Town Council Meeting Minutes
 - 1) February 24, 2024 (Regular Meeting)
- B) Minutes of Boards/Commissions/Committees
 - 1) Harbor Management Commission, January 8, 2025.
 - 2) Jamestown 250th Commission, February 12, 2025.
- C) Finance Director's Report: Comparison Budget to Actuals as of February 28, 2025.
- D) Approval of Pole Placement Request by The Narragansett Electric & Verizon New England, Inc. Respectfully asks permission to locate and maintain poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustain and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by you petitioner along and across the following public ways: Watson Ave, Relocate P14 (15') East of existing location and permission to erect and maintain poles and wires together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures

as they may find necessary, said poles erected or to erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked Plan WR # 31016317

- E) 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: Jamestown Community Farm (JCF)
Event: JCF Farm to Table Dinner (ENT-25-10)
Date: September 7, 2025
Location: 40 Eldred Avenue
 - 2) Applicant: Jamestown Arts Center (JAC)
Event: Screen Dance Road Show (ENT-25-11)
Date: April 2, 2025
Location: JAC, 18 Valley Street
 - 3) Applicant: Jamestown Arts Center (JAC)
Event: JAC TALK: Women Artists in the Age of Revolution (ENT-25-12)
Date: April 6, 2025
Location: JAC, 18 Valley Street
 - 4) Applicant: Jamestown Arts Center (JAC)
Event: Of Our Collapsed and Expanding Breath (ENT-25-13)
Date: April 25, 2025
Location: JAC, 18 Valley Street
 - 5) Applicant: Jamestown Arts Center (JAC)
Event: JAC Out Loud Poetry Reading (ENT-25-14)
Date: April 27, 2025
Location: JAC, 18 Valley Street
- F) Ratification of the Administratively approved Short-Term Rental application(s) for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, duly advertised in the February 27th and March 6th editions of the Jamestown Press; upon resolution of debts, taxes, State approval, and appropriate signatures:
- 1) STR-51 Vishal Sharma 11 Bryer Avenue
 - 2) STR-96 Charles Beal 53 Standish
 - 3) STR-134 Albert Nichols 39 Grinnell Street

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

A motion was made by Councilor Meagher with a second by Vice President Brine to accept the Consent Agenda. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor E. Ross, Aye; Councilor M. Glackin, Aye; and Councilor Meagher, 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: J. Christopher Powell
Dated: March 12, 2025
Re: Proposed Building at Ft. Getty
- 2) Copy of article to: Town Council
From: Marian Falla
Dated: March 3, 2025
Re: As vacation season nears; short-term rental issues unsettled
- 3) Copy of email to: Town Council
From: Ann Kuhn
Dated: February 20, 2025
Re: Conservation Commission Chair duties.

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

- 1) Resolution of the Town of Westerly, In Support of House Bill H5457 Entitled “An Act Relating to Public Records- Access to Public Records’.
- 2) Joint Resolution of the Burrillville Town Council and Burrillville School Committee, Resolution No. 25-01, Requesting Support and Subsidy for Transportation of Homeless Students.
- 3) Resolution of the Burrillville Town Council, Resolution No. 25-02, in support of Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns 2025 Legislative Priorities.
- 4) Resolution of the Burrillville Town Council, Resolution No. 25-03, in support of House Bill 2025-H 5371, Relating to State Affairs and Government- Public Notice Act.
- 5) Resolution of the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee, Requesting Support and Subsidy for Transportation of Homeless Students.
- 6) Resolution of the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee, Requesting Support of Full Funding of Categorical Transportation Aid As outlined in RIGL§16-7.2-6
- 7) Resolution of the Town of Charlestown, in support of House Bill 2025-H5315, An Amendment to the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, To Allow For the Temporary Service of Election Officials After Retirement.

XV. OPEN FORUM

A) Continued (If necessary)

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

XVI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Council may seek to enter into Executive Session for review, discussion and/or potential action and/or vote on the following:

A) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote in Executive Session and/or open session pursuant to § 42-46-5(a) Subsection (2) Collective Bargaining (NAGE 69).

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

It was announced that no votes were taken.

The Town Council reconvenes the regular meeting.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice President Brine with a second by Councilor Ross to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Vote: President Beye, Aye; Vice President Brine, Aye; Councilor Meagher, Aye; Councilor E. Ross, Aye; and Councilor M. Glackin, Aye.

Attest:

/s/ Roberta J. Fagan

Roberta J. Fagan, CMC, Town Clerk