

The August 3, 2020, Town Council Meeting was called to order by Denise L. DiFranco, President.

This was a Virtual Meeting using Zoom via Computer or Phone at 7:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

Denise L. DiFranco, President
Cheryl Hawes, Vice President
Chris Stone
Heidi Rogers
Bob Moreau

Also present:

Mark Tourgee
Susan Dillon
Kelli Russ
Jon Restivo
Patti Moreau

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

III. CHARTER CHANGES

Denise L. DiFranco recapped the previous meeting.
The following were not necessary to be on the ballot:

- **Article II, Town Council, Section 2.06. Vacancies, Forfeiture of Office, Filling Vacancies;**
- **Article II, Town Council, Section 2.16. Town Employees;**
- **Article III, Moderator, Section 3.03. Financial Town Meeting;**
- **Article IV, Town Clerk, Section 4.04. Powers and Duties;**
- **Article V, School Committee, Section 5.01. Membership, Term of Office and Vacancies;**
- **Article VI, Appointive Officers and Town Sergeant, Section 6.01. Director of Human Services;**
- **Article VI, Appointive Officers and Town Sergeant, Section 6.02. Tax Assessor;**
- **Article VI, Appointive Officers and Town Sergeant, Section 6.03. Tax Collector;**
- **Article VI, Appointive Officers and Town Sergeant, Section 6.10. Town Sergeant;**
- **Article VII, Public Works Department, Section 7.02. Director;**
- **Article VIII, Police Department, Section 8.02. Chief of Police;**
- **Article X, Financial Procedures, Section 10.03. Preparation of the Budget;**

Denise L. DiFranco said these three were voted to be put on the ballot:

- **Article II, Town Council, Section 2.01. Composition, Election and Terms;**
- **Article IV, Town Clerk, Section 4.01. Election;**

Denise L. DiFranco said the following were voted to not be placed on the ballot:

- **Article VI, Appointive Officers and Town Sergeant, Section 6.12. Town Manager;**
- **Article VI, Appointive Officers and Town Sergeant, Section 6.04. Sealer of Weights and Measures;**

And three more to move forward:

- **Article X, Financial Procedures, Section 10.10. Capital Reserve Fund;**

Heidi Rogers moved, Chris Stone seconded to place Article X, Section 10.10 on the ballot.

Discussion: Denise L. DiFranco said it is needed.

Heidi Rogers said people misunderstood its purpose last time it was on the ballot.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Bob Moreau, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye; Denise L.

DiFranco, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Chris Stone, aye.

- **Article XIII, Nominations and Elections, Section 13.05. Non-partisan Elections;**

Cheryl Hawes moved, Bob Moreau seconded, to place this item on the ballot.

Discussion: Cheryl Hawes said that she felt it was a good idea because it would bring out more people.

Chris Stone said he didn't understand that at all. If they don't have enough gumption to run as a

Republican or a Democrat, how are they going to sit on the council? Cheryl Hawes said they don't fit into either category. Chris Stone said they are thinking wrong. Cheryl Hawes said if they were independent it would be the same; she felt it would attract more people and it wouldn't be a revolving door of the same people. Heidi Rogers said it wouldn't be financially supported. Chris Stone said he wants the Republican Town Party to pay his way! Denise L. DiFranco said nine cities and towns out of the 39 have non-partisan. She stated that when she moved in to Foster, it was all Republican., there were no Dems. Then it started being Independents. She said you could run as an Independent and be supported by parties. Bob Moreau said he doesn't think people are at each other's throats because of politics but he doesn't see it that way. He doesn't think it would work and would cost the town a lot of money because of needing a primary. Elections are very expensive. He would rather give the people the option to vote for what they believe in.

Jon Restivo said he reached out to Narragansett to confirm how they do things there, the Committees are still active and can fund the candidate. It would not change that. As for elections it would be the same primary that happens at every. He felt it would calm down the vitriol and the people should choose what they want.

Susan Sprague, South Killingly Road, said she thought this was just to decide what to put on the ballot and leave it up to the voters. Not just to be decided by the council.

Solicitor Tourgee said they need to be careful because this is not a public hearing and they will get into trouble. Kelli Russ said every other meeting they get comments from the public. Denise L. DiFranco said she had announced they would not be hearing from the public. Heidi Rogers said there should be only four or five issues on the ballot.

Cheryl Hawes moved the question.

Motion failed 1 – 4.

Chris Stone, no; Heidi Rogers, no; Bob Moreau, no; Cheryl Hawes, yes; Denise L. DiFranco, no.

Denise L. DiFranco said Articles 11 are the change from Town Treasurer to Finance Director.

- **Article XI, Treasurer’s Department, Section 11.01. Appointment, Qualifications, Organization;**
- **Article XI, Treasurer’s Department, Section 11.04. Powers and Duties;**
- **Article XI, Treasurer’s Department, Section 11.05. Specific Powers;**
- **Article XI, Treasurer’s Department, Section 11.06. Compensations;**
- **Article XI, Treasurer’s Department, Section 11.07. Bonds;**

Heidi Rogers moved, Bob Moreau seconded, to change the Treasurer to Finance Director and place it on the ballot.

Cheryl Hawes thought that was one of the clerical changes that didn’t need to be voted on. Denise L. DiFranco said, no, that it was one that had to be moved forward.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Bob Moreau seconded, to place this item on the ballot.

Chris Stone, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Bob Moreau, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Denise L. DiFranco we move on to Articles 14.

Cheryl Hawes moved, Bob Moreau seconded to move this to the ballot.

- **Article XIV, General Provisions, Section 14.03. Removal From Office;**

Bob Moreau moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded to move it forward.

Bob Moreau stated there was no standard for recall. It looks like it’s at the whim of five people. He felt that the standards should be high. Heidi Rogers said it could cost a ton in legal fees. Cheryl Hawes asked about the standards. Jon Restivo said there are standards, the thinking was that if hundreds of people sign on to it, it would keep it simple. Two or three people might think of it but you would need hundreds

of signatures to accomplish it. The standards are in line with other communities. It was considered in conjunction with the four-year terms. The reasoning was that people would be more inclined to approve four-year terms if there was a mechanism for removal. Motion failed 1 – 4.

Chris Stone, no; Heidi Rogers, no; Cheryl Hawes, yes; Bob Moreau, no; Denise L. DiFranco, no.

Denise L. DiFranco stated that was everything on the agenda. Heidi Rogers said she wanted to discuss the Land Trust but Solicitor Tourgee said it would not agree with the last meeting so they could not discuss it as a public hearing.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Chris Stone moved, Cheryl Hawes seconded to adjourn.

Motion passed 5 – 0.

Chris Stone, aye; Heidi Rogers, aye; Cheryl Hawes, aye; Bob Moreau, aye; Denise L. DiFranco, aye.

Submitted by,

Susan M. Dillon, Town Clerk