

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 27, 2016 (Wednesday)

7:00 PM – TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL, 2200 EAST MAIN ROAD

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith E. Hamilton, James A. Seveney, Kevin M. Aguiar,
David M. Gleason, Elizabeth A. Pedro and Joseph W. Robicheau

Members Absent: Michael A. Buddemeyer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

A moment of silence for our men and women around the world in harm's way.

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

SITTING AS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

1. Peddler License – Annual

Jessica Case d/b/a Presto Strange O Coffee, 26 Newton Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve. All voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners. All voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURN

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - None

MINUTES

TCM 4/11/16

TCM 4/12/16

A motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to approve the minutes of TCM 4/11/16 and TCM 4/12/16 as written. All voted in favor of the motion.

TCM 4/13/16

Mr. Gleason requested the following two changes on page 6:

To change “Mr. Crosby responded that policy and regulatory work is needed before a review is started.”

To “Mr. Crosby discussed the importance that policy and regulatory work is needed before a review is started. “

And to change “President Hamilton suggested the Town use the \$2,500 on the prep work this year.”

To “President Hamilton suggested the Town use the \$2,500 that is in this year’s existing budget on the prep work for the review of right of ways.”

A motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to approve the minutes of TCM 4/13/16 with the corrections noted. All voted in favor of the motion.

BILLS

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to pay all just and due bills in the amount of \$96,428.46. All voted in favor of the motion.

TAX VOUCHERS

Request Approval for Tax Vouchers #20160427-01 to #20160427-08. / M. Helfand

Mr. Helfand explained that the person listed had no longer qualified for a military exemption.

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to approve. All voted in favor of the motion.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Update on the Town Administrator’s Meeting with Commerce RI – A proposed municipality initiative to eliminate any unnecessary burdens on licensing, permitting and administrative processes by lean process coaching and customer service training to help streamline cumbersome regulations at a very small cost to the town (approximately \$500).

2. Wind Turbine Update –our wind turbine is in transit, police detail fees have been paid and building permits issued. The closing was held on Friday. Wire transfer information has been communicated to WED for payment to Town. An incentive payment issued to WED of \$67,500 as a credit will be turned back to the Town for a public project such as a playground.
3. Recreation Department Update – The Summer Recreation program is growing. We have already received \$6,500 in check and online paypal payments. Sandy Point Beach will be cleaned 5/7 through 5/14 and will be open on weekends beginning May 17th. The final application day for summer workers is April 28th.
4. Update on the Portsmouth Citizens Interested in the Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee – their first meeting was Monday April 25th. They will meet the first and third Mondays of each month initially. The goals, policy and implementation items of element five was posted today on the Town’s website.
5. Brown House Update – The project manual was received last week from Union Studio Architects, following that we issued an RFP for contract work. Bid packages due before 2 pm on June 1st.
6. Dog Park Update – The Rhode Island Foundation has approved a Centennial Community Grant of \$10,000 for the Dog Park.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignations:

- a. Lower Glen Farm Preservation Committee – J. DeCosta

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to receive with regret. All voted in favor of the motion.

2. Appointments:

- a. Dog Park Planning Committee (No Set Number of Members)

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Gleason to appoint Michael Mineese. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Glen Manor House Authority (1 Vacancy)

A motion by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to appoint Carolann Doherty Brown. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Portsmouth Citizens Interested in the Comprehensive Community Planning Process Committee

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to appoint Frederick Marano and Edward Dowski. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Economic Development Committee (6 Vacancies)

e. Economic Development Committee (Re-Appt.) – A. Fiore

A motion by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to appoint Nancy Howard and re-appoint Ann Fiore to the EDC. All voted in favor of the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

OB 1 - Discussion/Action - Burrillville Town Council Resolution in Support of Legislation Restoring Funding for the State Aid to Libraries to the Full 25 Percent. / L. Phaneuf, Burrillville Town Clerk & J. Seveney (FR: 4/11/16) (5)

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to support the Legislation. All voted in favor of the motion.

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
RESOLUTION # 2016-04-27- C
IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION RESTORING FUNDING FOR THE STATE AID
TO LIBRARIES TO THE FULL 25 PERCENT**

WHEREAS: for many people, public libraries are their only means of access to computer services and all forms of media essential for fulfilling and productive lives; and

WHEREAS: in recognition of the importance of libraries in our society, the State of Rhode Island passed legislation setting the level of state aid for library services at a minimum of 25% of the amount spent from local tax funds and the library's private endowment; and

WHEREAS: due to the level funding the past several years, the actual funding percentage of library aid has been reduced to between 21 and 22%; and

WHEREAS: the Board of Directors of the Portsmouth Free Library support 25% state aid for libraries and have sought the support of the Portsmouth Town Council in realizing this objective; and

WHEREAS: the Town of Portsmouth supports fully funding State Aid to Libraries at the 25% level in FY 2017.

NOW THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth, do hereby support legislation which would restore funding for state aid to libraries to the full 25% required in Rhode Island General Laws § 29-6-2(a) and urges the Portsmouth delegation to the General Assembly to work diligently for its passage.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL
ACTION April 27, 2016

Keith E. Hamilton, President
Portsmouth Town Council

OB 2 - FY 2016 Budget Update: July 2015 – March 2016. / F. Chan (5)

Deputy Finance Director Fung Chan noted that a surplus of \$71,000 was projected. As our pension assets have underperformed we are putting out an RFP at the end of the summer for investment advisory services.

In response to Ms. Pedro's concerns that the Glen Manor House revenues are being projected too high, Mr. Rainer stated that they have been in discussion with the Wilkinsons, managers of the Glen Manor House, about more ways to bring in income.

Ms. Chan stated that when looking at their history they have been bringing in surpluses. A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to receive and place on file. All voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1 - Request the Town of Portsmouth Make Application for a Special Use Permit to Give all the Abutters Notice of the Plans for the Newly Acquired Mt. Hope Park. / K. Alves & L. Butler, 24 Bayview Avenue, Portsmouth (10)

Kenneth Alves addressed his concerns that the Town is exempt from having to seek a special use permit for changes made to the property. He stated that the conservation easement allows for a quarter of the property to be set aside for a limited commercial use.

A motion by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to make sure that the item is addressed in the RFP (that the engineer will have to notify abutters and interested parties). All voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Pedro agreed that the final plan must be approved by the Town Council.

Mr. Rainer will have the conservation easement placed on the Town's website.

Web Wilson addressed concerns that the Bristol Ferry Town Common will become a parking lot for the Park. He reminded the Council that the Town Common is a separate property and needs to maintain its integrity as an historic town property.

NB 2 - Request Approval of Resolution in Support of the Green Economy Bond. / C. Allot, Executive Director, Aquidneck Land Trust & T. Ardito, Executive Director, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission. (10)

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Aguiar, to authorize the Council President to sign the Portsmouth resolution supporting the Green Economy Bond. The motion carried 4-2 with Mr. Robicheau and Ms. Pedro opposed.

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
RESOLUTION # 2016-04-27 A
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN ECONOMY BOND**

WHEREAS: state partnership programs to help municipalities protect their special places and farmland, develop parks, establish bike paths and remediate/redevelop contaminated brownfields sites have long been effective in helping Portsmouth make important economic and quality of life investments in our community's future; and

WHEREAS: the Comprehensive Community Plan for the Town of Portsmouth documents the Town's objectives for open space protection, parks and outdoor recreation facilities, transportation infrastructure, stormwater management and flood prevention; and

WHEREAS: investments in land conservation, parks and bike paths are fundamental to Portsmouth's quality of life, strengthen our community, and enhance the health of our community's residents; and

WHEREAS: protected open spaces and parks are a cornerstone of our tourism and outdoor recreation industry that attracts visitors and supports businesses and employment in our community; and

WHEREAS: protecting the remaining farmland in Portsmouth is critical to providing healthy, locally grown food for our residents and retaining the character of our community; and

WHEREAS: completing the state's network of bike paths will: enhance connections between communities, workplaces and parks; promote health and fitness; and increase the State's appeal as a tourist and outdoor recreation destination expanding this sector of our economy; and

WHEREAS: our community needs to leverage public and private resources to improve stormwater management and better protect the waters of our rivers, ponds, coastlines and drinking water reservoirs and to prevent and manage flooding; and

WHEREAS: funding for remediation and redevelopment of brownfield sites in our community will create jobs, protect public health, and help us to revitalize our urban/town/village centers by transforming liabilities and underused or abandoned properties into productive places generating increased local tax revenue; and

WHEREAS: the citizens of the Town of Portsmouth overwhelmingly voted in November 2012 to approve by a margin of 66.5% in favor of the Farmland, Open Space Conservation, Parks and Bay Restoration Bond; and in November 2014 overwhelmingly voted to approve by a margin of 67.3% in favor of the Clean Water Open Space and Healthy Communities Bond; and

WHEREAS: municipal projects financed in part with past state Open Space and Recreation Bond funds have enabled the Town to implement our adopted Comprehensive Community Plan, preserve our community character and enhance our quality of life by protecting the special places and improving parks and outdoor recreation facilities in our community including the Glen; and

WHEREAS: the Governor’s fiscal year 2017 budget proposes a \$35 million Green Economy Bond for open space protection, parks and bikeway development, stormwater management and brownfield restoration programs;

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED: that the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth respectfully requests that the Rhode Island General Assembly include an authorization in the State Fiscal 2017 Budget for the \$35 million Green Economy Bond referendum proposed by Governor Raimondo for voter consideration at the November 2016 General Election.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL
ACTION April 27, 2016

Keith E. Hamilton, President
Portsmouth Town Council

NB 3 - Discussion/Action – Participation in the 2016 Round of CDBG Grant Funding Opportunities. / G. Crosby (15)

- a. Request Prioritization of the List of Projects Developed by Church Community Housing Corporation.

**PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
2016 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**

The Town of Portsmouth is preparing an application for a Community Development Block Grant for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 to undertake the following activities and programs:

- 1) **Public Facilities:** Provide funding for a 15,000 gallon cistern to enhance water supply for firefighting operations on Prudence Island. Amount: \$79,620
- 2) **Housing Rehabilitation:** Provide funding for the Town of Portsmouth's Septic Loan Program to help Portsmouth residents replace outdated septic systems and cesspools. Amount: \$0
- 3) **Public Facilities:** Provide funding for window, bathroom, and driveway repairs and renovations to the Child & Family Services group home for foster children located in Portsmouth. Amount: \$40,380
- 4) **Public Services:** Provide operating support for the Community Housing Resource Board / Housing Hotline of Newport County to provide housing counseling, referral services, and education and outreach to affirmatively further Fair Housing in Newport County. Amount: \$2,000
- 5) **Public Services:** Provide funding for East Bay Community Action Program's East Bay Skills Alliance to support the technical skills training aspect of the CNA program. Amount: \$2,000

- 6) **Public Services:** Support for Women's Resource Center for housing and community services related to domestic violence. Amount: \$2,000
- 7) **Public Services:** Provide support to Operation Stand Down for their veteran employment specialist specifically to focus on job opportunities for low income and homeless veterans. Amount: \$2,000
- 8) **Public Services:** Provide funding to support the Boys and Girls Clubs of Newport County's R3 Reading Reaps Reward (R3) program which is designed to maintain literacy and math skills for students throughout Newport County. Amount: \$2,000
- 9) **Public Services:** Provide funding support to the St. Elizabeth's Community Cornerstone Adult Services that provides adult day health services to frail elders and adults with disabilities and those with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Amount: \$2,000
- 10) **Housing Operating:** Support for Church Community Housing Corp. operating the Regional Revolving Loan Fund, Foreclosure Prevention, Homeowner Assistance, RI Housing Home Repair programs, Commercial Rehabilitation, neighborhood revitalization and loan servicing. Amount: \$15,000
- 11) **Housing Development:** Authorization to for CCHC to apply for the CDBG Affordable Housing Set Aside Funds to acquire, rehabilitate, preserve, and develop properties for ownership and rental housing to benefit low and moderate income households Amount: \$-0-
- 12) **Administration:** Town of Portsmouth Administration of Grant Programs Amount: \$3,000

Town Planner Gary Crosby stated that item two is a place holder so when applications come along, they do not have to be entered individually.

- b. Request Approval of Resolution Relating to the 2016 Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Aguiar, to approve the list and authorize President Hamilton to sign the resolution. The motion carried 4-2 with Ms. Pedro and Mr. Robicheau opposed.

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
RESOLUTION # 2016-04-27 B

Resolution Relating to the 2016 Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program

WHEREAS: funds are available under the Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the Department of Administration, Division of Planning, Office of Housing and Community Development; and,

WHEREAS: the Governor of the State of Rhode Island has authorized the Director of said department to disburse such funds; and,

WHEREAS: it is in the interest of the citizens of the Town of Portsmouth that application be made to undertake a local Community Development Block Grant Program.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH: That the filing of this application for the amount of \$150,000 to implement the activities proposed herein hereby authorized and that the Town Administrator is hereby authorized and directed to file this application with the Office of Housing and Community Development, to provide any additional information or documents required by said office, to make any assurances required in connection with this program, to execute an agreement with the State of Rhode Island, and to otherwise act as the Representative of the Town of Portsmouth in all matters relating to this application and any award which may be based upon this application.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL
ACTION April 27, 2016

Keith E. Hamilton, President
Portsmouth Town Council

NB 4 - Request Donation for the 19th Annual Post Prom Party. / C. Mohr, K. Aleicho, J. French, PHS Post Prom Committee (5)

President Hamilton recused himself due to a possible conflict of interest.

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve a donation of \$1,000 from the Council contingency fund. The motion carried 5-0 with Mr. Hamilton recused.

NB 5 - Request Approval of Glen Farm Special Events Fields Applications. / T. Dunbar (5)

- a. USA Soccer League, Dylan McSparren, 271 Carriage Drive, Portsmouth, RI for Men's Rhode Island Recreational/Amateur Sunday Soccer League 4/24/16, 5/15/16 & 5/22/16.

A motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve. All voted in favor of the motion.

- b. Portsmouth Youth Lacrosse, Marshall Huggins, 52 General Sullivan Circle, Portsmouth, RI for Youth Lacrosse Jamboree, May 21, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve. All voted in favor of the motion.

- c. RI Elite Lacrosse (Metacomet Lacrosse), Stuart MacDonald, 360 Nayatt Road, Barrington, RI for Girls Lacrosse Tournament, June 5, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve. All voted in favor of the motion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

May 9 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting - Provisional Approval of Budget
May 23 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Seveney, to adjourn. All voted in favor of the motion.

ADJOURN

Time: 8:20 PM

Joanne M. Mower, Town Clerk