

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

September 26, 2016

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

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

President Hamilton announced that the Council met in Executive Session on September 14th and voted 4 to 0 to direct our legal staff, Mr. Gavin, to explore the possibility of appealing the decision of the PUC for the rates at the Prudence Island Ferry.

MINUTES

TCM 9/14/16 and Exec.

Ms. Pedro noted a typo on the bottom of page 9 where three was spelled tree.

Ms. Pedro and Mr. Robicheau abstained from voting on the minutes of TCM 9/14/16 and Exec. due to their absence at those meetings.

A motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Seveney, to approve with correction the minutes of TCM 9/14/16. The motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Robicheau and Ms. Pedro abstaining.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to approve the minutes of the Exec. session. The motion carried 4-0 with Mr. Robicheau and Ms. Pedro abstaining.

BILLS

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to pay all just and due bills in the amount of \$124,568.03. All voted in favor of the motion.

TAX VOUCHERS

Request Approval for Tax Vouchers #20160926-01 to #20160926-07. / M. Helfand

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Report on DPW Snow Plow Rodeo – on 9-14-16 two teams from Portsmouth Public Works participated in the Rodeo. Neal Belliveau and Joel Kosegarten took First Place in backing a compressor. Elmer Nunes and Scott Smith took Third Place in the snow slalom and Third Place overall.
2. Town Hall Space Study Began – A review of the utilization of space in the Town Hall.
3. Beginning HR Consulting Process – Starts next week with a review of job descriptions, positions, a revamping of the employee handbook and a review of the HR Process.
4. Proposed Matrix Tank Farm Study Dates for Brief – The results of Matrix's study will be presented to the Staff on November 2nd and the Council on November 3rd.
5. Report on Trip to Narragansett Bay Research Reserve Site on Prudence Island – Mr. Rainer took a tour of the operations covering approximately 70% of Prudence Island. Research and outreach programs are being conducted on marshlands and their replenishment, effects of potential climate change, invasive species, forestry, and environmental sea life.

OLD BUSINESS

OB 1 - Request Approval to Award the DPW Salt Shed Contract. / B. Woodhead (5)

Brian Woodhead, acting Director of DPW announced that the RFP was issued on 8/19 and bids were opened on 9/15. It will be all engineered blocks and galvanized steel with fabric covering it. There are no extras, DPW will be doing any other work. It meets DEM requirements.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve awarding the contract to Urban Construction for \$177,600. All voted in favor of the motion.

OB 2 - Request Acceptance of Lilac Lane Extension and Release of Road Bond. / L. Lesinski (5)

Brian Woodhead stated he has inspected the road and everything is good.

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

OB 3 - Request Approval to Award Elmhurst Park Contract. / J. Lathrop (5)

Finance Director James Lathrop recommended the Council award the contract to East Coast Landscaping and Construction for \$252,000. He stated that \$32,000 would be charged to the paving budget and \$100,000 would be coming from the DEM grant.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to award the contract to East Coast Landscaping and Construction for \$252,000. All voted in favor of the motion.

Town Administrator Rainer announced that it has been planned so that after each step of the project is done, the park will look like it has been completed.

NEW BUSINESS

NB 1 - Discussion/Action – Request an Ordinance to Allow Property Owners with Historical Cemeteries on Their Property an Abatement on Their Taxes According to RIGL 44-3-63. / E. Wheeler, Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries (10)

Ms. Wheeler handed out the newly approved ordinance from Narragansett. She stated that Rhode Island is the first State in the Union to consider this.

Matthew Helfand, Tax Assessor/Collector, stated there are 78 historic cemeteries in town. 22 are owned by the town and listed on our roll and 22 have never been located, whereas some are recorded. If all 78 were privately owned, it would mean an \$80 credit for each with an impact of 73 cents on the average tax bill.

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to authorize Solicitor Gavin to prepare an ordinance.

A motion to amend by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Ms. Pedro, to add the wording “without deed restrictions” to the ordinance. All voted in favor of the amendment.

All voted in favor of the main motion as amended.

Solicitor Gavin stated it is the custom of the Council to advertise non-zoning ordinances one time.

NB 2 - Discussion/Action – Portsmouth Garden Club Request for Financial Assistance. / M. Brockway, President (10)

Ms. Brockway requested the Council provide \$1,000 to help cover some of the expenses of the Garden Club. She stated that the Garden Club plants flowers at Legion Park, the Senior Center, the Library, and provides Holiday decorations for the Town Buildings.

To raise money, the Garden Club has plant sales and receives a percentage from a one day sale at Island Garden Shop.

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Seveney, to move \$1,000 from the Tree budget to the Garden Club this one time. All voted in favor of the motion.

NB 3 - Request Approval to Present Certificates of Appreciation to Portsmouth Veterans Who Served During Operation Just Cause (Panama) at the November 14, 2016 Town Council Meeting. / C. Evans-Carbery (5)

A motion by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Mr. Seveney, to approve the Town Council meeting date of November 14th at 6 pm for the Veterans' award ceremony. All voted in favor of the motion.

NB 4 - Request Approval of Glen Farm Special Events Fields Applications. / T. Dunbar (5)

- a. Brown University Ultimate Frisbee, Tim Phantavang, 225 Hope Street, Providence, RI for the Annual Ultimate Frisbee Tournament October 15-16, 2016

Tim Dunbar, Recreation Director, stated that Brown University has requested a change in the dates of the Frisbee Tournament to October 22 and 23, 2016.

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve the Tournament on the amended dates of October 22nd and 23rd, 2016. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Change of Date Request: Rhode Island Rugby Football Foundation, Susan Ely, 21 Allen Avenue, Barrington, RI for the Annual Beast of the East Rugby Tournament, from April 8-9, 2017 to April 22-23, 2017

A motion by Mr. Seveney, seconded by Mr. Robicheau, to approve the date change for the Beast of the East to April 22 and 23, 2017. All voted in favor of the motion.

NB 5 - Notice of Temporary Disruption of Services on October 12, 2016 at the Town Clerk's Office. / J. Mower (5)

Town Clerk Joanne Mower announced that the Clerk's office will be closed on October 12th and possibly October 13th for a technology upgrade of equipment. Xerox is replacing all of the cashiering and land evidence equipment in the office including two cashiering stations, a scanner, printer, and three stations for indexing or searching documents.

No action.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Invitation to Attend a State and Municipal Officials' Briefing Regarding the Source Water Protection Initiative for Newport's Drinking Water Reservoirs. The Meeting Will Take Place at 10:00 AM, October 12, 2016 in the Community Room at the Middletown Fire Department. / B. Zalewsky, RIDEM Office of Water Resources
2. Thank You Card for the Contribution Towards the Senior Class Post Prom Party. / 2016 PHS Post Prom Committee
3. Offering of R. Buckminster Fuller's Iconic Geodesic Dome for Public Use. / R. Corio, Dome Restoration, LLC

A motion by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Seveney, to receive correspondence 2 and 3 and place on file. All voted in favor of the motion.

A motion by Mr. Robicheau, seconded by Mr. Gleason, to place correspondence 1 on the next agenda. All voted in favor of the motion.

