

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 7, 2019 MINUTES

7:00 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, Linda L. Ujifusa, Keith E. Hamilton, J. Mark Ryan, Leonard B. Katzman, Andrew V. Kelly and Daniela T. Abbott

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Emily Copeland, Frederick Faerber, Thomas Vadney, Allen Shers, Karen McDaid, Catherine Holtman and Juan Carlos Payero

LEGISLATORS: Senator James Seveney, Representative Susan Donovan, Representative Terri Cortvriend

Time: 7:00 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a Moment of Silence for our men and women serving around the world in harm's way.

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Legislative Priorities for 2019 – No votes taken. The Town Council and the School Committee discussed their priorities with our Legislature.

Portsmouth Town Council

- 1) *Improve Safety on State Roads*
- 2) *Fix the broken legislative process*
- 3) *Amend the general laws to clarify the tax appeal procedures*
- 4) *Seek infrastructure funding that can help local businesses*
- 5) *Support improvements to State roads and encourage implementation of "Complete and Green Street" principles*
- 6) *Support initiatives that improve alternative transportation on Aquidneck Island*
- 7) *Protect our citizens' health and welfare*
 - a) *Do not cut Medicaid funding*
 - b) *Support single payer improved "Medicare for all" health insurance*
- 8) *Help close RI budget deficits by reversing past failed "trickle down" tax cuts to the wealthy*
- 9) *Support initiatives that encourage and fund food composting efforts*
- 10) *Increase efforts and funding to support projects that address the impacts of sea level rise*
- 11) *Work on economic development programs to help integrate Portsmouth into Aquidneck Island tourism programs*
- 12) *Work with DEM to understand results of State's SCORP survey and how recreational deficiencies should be addressed*
- 13) *any recreational cannabis legalization structure should include a taxation element dedicated to the local host municipalities*
- 14) *School Aid Formula*

Portsmouth School Committee

- 1) *Support all initiatives to prevent drug abuse in our community*
- 2) *Oppose all legislation that would impede local governments' ability to negotiate and form contracts with their bargaining units*
- 3) *Protect and improve sources of school funding*

The School Committee added one item to their priorities and that had to do with the State and Local Regulation Commission under General Law §45-13.1 which is not being funded and should be. Both Brian Daniels from the RI League of Cities and Towns and Tim Duffy from the Rhode Island School Committee Association are working towards getting the commission funded again, to help with State Aid for Schools. Regarding the safety of the State Roads, Senator Seveney said that it is an ongoing process with RIDOT. The Town can follow both TIP ID's (1379 and 1380) with regards to Portsmouth's requests. Representative Cortvriend is going to be testifying to reform rules in the House of Representatives on January 8th. Senator Seveney is working a pension reform bill for military retirees, substance abuse, DUI charges, gun safety regarding the loophole on conceal carry permit law at schools, the Every Student initiative and mental health legislation. He is also working on a bill to increase Personal Income Tax by 2% for those making over \$300,000 and looking at the inheritance tax for spouses. Representative Donovan sat on a commission on food composting. Right now, we do not have places to take it to. Representative Donovan said that she'd help anyway she can and was asked to send the information from the study commission to Councilor Abbott.

Break: 8:32

Return: 8:41

2. Joint Town Council/School Committee Budget Priorities Presentation – The Budget Priorities were presented by Town Administrator Richard Rainer and School Finance Director Christopher DiIuro. The final draft will be ready at the end of March. No votes taken.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Jan 14 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Jan 28 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Feb 11 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Feb 25 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

Time: 8:54

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk