

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 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

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

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – There was no Executive Session. Old Business 2, the Facility Condition Assessment Report, has been rescheduled to the February 11, 2019 meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Bills

2. CRMC – PUBLIC NOTICE:

An Application of Anildo & Maria Desenna, 60 Pine Street, Rehoboth, MA 02769, for a State of RI Assent to construct and maintain: Modifications to existing dock consisting of: “as-built” float lift; removal of piling; installation of boat lift. Both the Float Lift and Boat Lift require a variance to 1.3.1(P). Project Location: 29 Atlantic Avenue, Portsmouth.

Motion to receive and place on file all items on the Consent Agenda made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

SITTING AS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

Directions to view licensing applications: 1) Click on [Viewpoint](#), 2) Click Records and then type in the record number which is listed on the agenda, 3) Click on the highlighted record to view the application

1. PUBLIC HEARING: Liquor License Application

Class BVL Liquor License: KJK LLC d/b/a Thriving Tree Coffee House, 706 Park Ave

(#1378) – Motion to continue to the February 11, 2019 meeting made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by

Ms. Abbott. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Holiday License – Annual:

Sydney Providence LLC d/b/a Sydney Portsmouth, 8 Russo Road (#1391) – Motion to approve made by

Mr. Katzman, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Entertainment License:

Rhode Island Rugby Football Foundation, Beast of the East Collegiate Rugby Tournament,

Gardner Seveney Sports Complex, April 13 & 14, 2019 (#1403) – Motion to approve made by Mr.

Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

MINUTES

TCM 1/14/19 & Exec. – Motion to approve made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

TAX VOUCHERS

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20190128-01 to #20190128-27. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Portsmouth's support to the National Grid Gas Problem – We are all aware of the ongoing Aquidneck Island Gas Emergency. While Portsmouth was not directly affected, we did help in the Aquidneck Island relief effort. I'll highlight just a few of the things that have happened over the last week: We were first notified of the gas pressure problem last Monday morning; By Monday afternoon we were part of a unified response team comprised of Aquidneck Island municipal response organizations, the RI Emergency Management Agency and NGRID; By Monday evening, the PEMA had coordinated the designation of PHS as a back-up warming shelter; The Portsmouth EOC was activated Tuesday morning and during the day our EMA Director and Fire Chief helped in the establishment of a Unified Incident Command Post at the Newport PFD HQ; As the response force mobilized our PEMA was tasked to assist in finding a larger Command Post and the Unified Command was moved to Fort Adams on Wednesday. The PEMA also provided the UC with their Incident Command System kit used in the planning process and in development of the incident action plan; Portsmouth was designated a Liaison position within the Command staff and remained part of the Unified Command Staff throughout the response effort; On Saturday, as National Grid continued to recharge gas lines in Newport, the Unified Command requested, and Portsmouth supported, additional Building Inspectors and our Fire Marshall to assist if needed in assessing the safety of structures for reoccupation as gas systems are re-lit and water damage assessed; The Unified Command Post was deactivated this morning. Response efforts will continue which we can monitor from our own agencies. I'd like to publicly thank our Emergency Operations Team and Town Staff for their hard work, professionalism, and commitment to the support and safety of everyone on Aquidneck Island.

2. Report on RI League of Cities and Towns Convention – The RI League of Cities and Towns held their 2019 Convention last Thursday. The convention was attended by most Department Heads who were able to attend several seminars on subjects that included: Capital Financing; Solar Siting in RI; Evaluating Climate Change Risk; Short-Term Rental Management; School Construction Finance; Cyber Risks; Tax Assessment Issues; and Introduction to LEAN Government, just to name a few.

3. Update on Charter Review – The appointed members of the Charter Review Committee have been contacted and their first meeting will be held in Town Council Chambers at 5:30 this coming Thursday. I'd like to thank all the people who volunteered for this project. The Town Clerk and I prepared their first agenda, which is posted on our web site and with the RI Secretary of State. The Town Clerk and I will help conduct the meeting where they: will receive information on how to comply with the Open Meetings Act; how to prepare agendas and minutes; receive the previous Charter Committee's bylaws; and suggestions on how to proceed. At their first meeting they will appoint a moderator until a chair, vice-chair, secretary and by-laws are approved. We'll send an email synopsis of the first meeting to members unable to attend. After that, they are off and running.

4. Comprehensive Plan Update – To date: Drafts of all twelve elements of the Plan have been finished, sent to the Planning Board & Town Council, and posted on the Town website. There are some gaps and maps in several of the draft elements that are in the process of being filled in by the Planning Department and our Consultant. Two of the elements have been sent to Statewide Planning for preliminary review. Letters have been sent to the Town stating that "no issues or concerns that could be an impediment to State approval were identified in the material provided." We will continue to send individual elements up to the state for comment and review as they are made available by the Planning Board. The Planning Board is holding a workshop on Wednesday, January 30th to plan the next steps in the approval process. Additionally, our Planning Department and Consultant are currently working out the details of a public workshop to be held in the near future, prior to the Planning Board holding their mandatory Public Hearings.

5. Report on EMA Director visit to Senior Center – Our EMA Director recently met with the Portsmouth Senior Center to provide a brief on disaster preparedness. During his visit, he discussed the role of the Emergency Manager, toured the facility to assess its possible use during an emergency, offered to provide a family preparedness presentation to members and their families, and provided RI Department of Health Special Needs Registration Forms and brochures to be sent by the Senior Center to its 700 members. This registry helps in the Town’s planning for emergencies and disasters and the Fire Department uses the registry to conduct wellness checks during events we believe might pose a risk to this population.

Lastly, there was an accident at the transfer station on Saturday where there was damage to the guardrail and wall. The Town hopes to have it repaired by Wednesday.

REMOVALS, RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Removal:

a. Bristol Ferry Town Common Committee – Motion to accept Ms. Weissinger’s removal with regret made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Resignation:

a. Zoning Board of Review – Motion to accept with regret, and many thanks, Mr. Edwards resignation made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Appointment:

a. Economic Development Committee – Motion to approve Evin St. Laurent as a youth committee member made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Monthly police construction report. – Move in target date is still the weekend of March 1-3. No motions made.

2. Facility condition assessment report. – Moved to February 11, 2019 due to a family emergency.

3. Monthly finance report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Presentation of FY 18 Audit. – The Town received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association. There were no Material Weakness(es) Identified. No Significant Deficiencies Identified that are not considered to be Material Weakness(es). No Noncompliance Material to the Financial Statements Noted. The Town of Portsmouth qualifies as a low risk auditee. Motion to receive and place on file made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Clean Ocean Access public access update. – Ms. Eva Touhey was not able to attend but Mr. Dave McLaughlin was able to speak in her place. Mr. McLaughlin stated that there are 17 CRMC rights of way in Portsmouth and that a few need signs, some need some vegetation to be removed so that the path is visible. Long-term erosion is a constant concern and there is also concern with deterioration on the boat ramps in Island Park. No motions made.

3. Request to schedule and advertise for a Public Hearing and request an advisory opinion from the Planning Board for a proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to Article XIX for a “payment in lieu” option for low and moderate income housing requirements. – A motion to refer to the planning board for an advisory opinion was made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0. Motion to

schedule a Public Hearing on March 11, 2019 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Announcement of Portsmouth Prevention Coalition's Project Purple Week: January 21–February 1, 2018.

a. Request Approval of Project Purple Week Proclamation

Motion to approve made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Presentation of statewide data of youth substance use and mental health. – No motions made.

6. Community Banner Program. – Motion to approve the one-year pilot program of the Community Banner Program, provided the locations are limited and only Portsmouth businesses are allowed to advertise, made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 5-2. Ms. Ujifusa and Mr. Katzman opposed.

7. Request to advertise and schedule Public Hearing and request an advisory opinion from the Planning Board for Zoning Ordinance amendment related to the measurement of building height in special flood hazard areas. – Motion to approve the request for an advisory opinion from the Planning Board and a request for a Public Hearing on February 25, 2019 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Portsmouth Safety Committee Training on Personal Readiness. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Feb 11 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Feb 25 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Mar 11 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 9:52

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk