

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2020 MINUTES

6:30 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniela T. Abbott

Time: 6:30 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) – Litigation/Newport tax appeals – One vote taken. Motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURN – Motion to seal the minutes and adjourn into Open Session made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

Time: 6:50 PM

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

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 an Executive Session prior to the meeting to discuss pending litigation. One vote was taken and passed 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

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. Bills – Motion to receive and place on file as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

MINUTES

TCM 2/10/20 – Motion to approve as presented made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Senior Center update – At the last meeting I informed you the Senior Center Building was to be re-inspected and a hearing with the State Fire Marshal before the State Fire Safety Code Board of Appeal and Review was scheduled. The State Fire Marshal has since confirmed 21 of 35 violations have been corrected. At the hearing, the board granted variances for 3 of the outstanding violations: Building Sprinklers; Headroom Clearance at the Front Door; and Kitchen plenum and duct system

work. These variances expire on June 30, 2021. Other remaining violations will be corrected within the next 60 days. This allows the Senior Center to continue using the building for another year. Over the next year, in conjunction with the Senior Center Organization, we will attempt to develop alternative courses of action for your consideration.

2. Upcoming recycling events – There are several recycling events scheduled over the next few months. A three-box limit shredding event for Portsmouth Residents is scheduled on May 9 at Clements' Market from 9 a.m. 12 noon. Electronic waste collection events for RI residents are scheduled April 11; June 13; Sept. 12; and Nov.14 at Portsmouth High School. A hard plastics collection for Transfer Station sticker holders will be held June 6 at the Hedly Transfer Station. And a scrap metal collection event for Town residents will be held July 18 in the lower area of the Hedly Transfer Station. More detailed information is posted on our website.

3. Report on Naval Station Community Leadership meeting – On February 13th, I attended the quarterly Community Leadership Meeting at the Naval Station. Of note for Portsmouth, we discussed that the next International Sea Power Symposium will be held in September. The ISS is co-hosted by the US Chief of Naval Operations and the President of the Naval War College and brings the world's maritime leaders together here on Aquidneck Island. People should expect enhanced security in and around the Naval Station and meeting sites. We also learned that veterans with a disability status will now be afforded access to the base for commissary and exchange privileges. Those interested should contact the Naval Station or the Veterans Administration for more information. Lastly, the long-term status of Stringham Road and Defense Highway were touched upon briefly and the Commanding Officer agreed there is a need to jointly explore the continued viability of these important roads.

4. Mt. Hope Park update – We had a meeting with the Aquidneck Land Trust last week to discuss their desire to apply for a grant to create a living shoreline which is outlined in the long-term vision for the park. There is anticipated funding for continued improvements at the park in the long-term CIP and there may be a way forward to jointly seek this grant request. There is nothing agreed to at this point and I'll keep the Council informed as this concept develops.

5. Ethics training – At the last Council meeting, I also reported the RI Ethics Commission informed the Town of the requirement to schedule a training session for municipal officials and employees. The Town Clerk has coordinated a training session for Wednesday, May 13th, at 7:00 PM in the Council Chamber. We will also inform and invite all Committee and Commission chairs.

6. Stonewall Initiative update – With respect to the Stone Wall Initiative to be undertaken at Linden Lane by the Town, the Newport Preservation Society, the Stone Trust, and Preserve Rhode Island, a call for volunteers will be issued within the next two weeks. We anticipate a need for 24 people, so space will be limited. A volunteer information session will be held Monday, March 30th, at 5:30 in the Council chambers. The Stone Trust will hold a training workshop on May 14th and May 15th 9:00 to 5:00. We anticipate stone wall work to run for seven weeks from June 1st to July 10th. The crews will accomplish as much as they can during that period. We anticipate another like event at the same time next year.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignation:

a. Conservation Commission – Motion to accept Christopher Reeves resignation with regret made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Appointment:

a. Tree Commission (~~Re~~-Appt) – Motion to appoint John Parquette to the Tree Commission made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0. (A typo was noted. Mr. Parquette is a new appointment not a re-appointment.)

b. Tree Warden (Re-Appt) – Motion to reappoint John Fitzgerald as Tree Warden made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request to rescind Resolution # 2019-05-28 authorizing the Police Department to charge for processing applications for concealed carry weapons permits. – Motion to rescind Resolution #2019-05-28 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 6-0.
2. Monthly finance report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Update on the status of the Dog Park. – The committee has paid off its final debt. The total cost was \$120,000. The planning committee raised over \$70K and have since raised an additional \$40K. Have formed a sub-committee to set priorities: get new trees, solar lighting, etc. Motion to allow the Dog Park Committee to go forward with grant applications made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.
2. Request approval of proclamation announcing Portsmouth Prevention Coalition's Wellness Week: March 1–7, 2020. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Resolution recognizing Public Schools Week. / Smithfield School Committee
 2. Report and update on AIPC activities and finances. / J. Shea, Executive Director, AIPC
 3. Information regarding fiber to the premises (FTTP) deployment in Portsmouth. / T. Pietz & A. Gonzalez, Aquidneck Light
- Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 6-0.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Mar 9 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Mar 23 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Apr 6 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0

Time: 7:26 PM

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk