

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 29, 2018 (Tuesday) MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith E. Hamilton, Kevin M. Aguiar, David M. Gleason, Paul F. Kesson, Elizabeth A. Pedro, Linda L. Ujifusa, J. Mark Ryan

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 held prior to the meeting. Mr. Hamilton thanked the Portsmouth Police Department, Portsmouth Fire Department and the RI State Police on the handling of the bomb threat at the Portsmouth High School on Tuesday, May 29, 2018. Mr. Hamilton signed a resolution in Opposition to H-7198, H-7370, and S-2927. It was too late to add to the agenda and if it was held to the next meeting, the bills would have already been heard by the General Assembly. This Council approved the same resolution last year.

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH  
RESOLUTION #2018-05-29

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO H-7198, H-7379 and S-2927  
AN ACT RELATING TO LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS – ARBITRATION – CONTINUANCE  
OF CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS

WHEREAS: House Bills H-7198 and H-7379 and Senate Bill S-2927, an Act Relating to Labor and Labor Relations – Arbitration – Continuance of Contractual Provisions are under consideration in the Rhode Island General Assembly; and

WHEREAS: these Bills require that contractual provisions contained in an otherwise expired collective bargaining agreement with certified school teachers and municipal employees continue until a successor agreement has been reached between the parties; and

WHEREAS: the practical effect of this legislation for Portsmouth and other Municipalities will be to place an unnecessary burden on the bargaining process between Town officials and certain unions; and

WHEREAS: contracts with unions represent a significant portion of Municipal budgets; and

WHEREAS: these contracts need to be renegotiated from time to time to serve the needs of Portsmouth’s and other town’s citizens; and

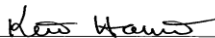
WHEREAS: these Bills may force the Town of Portsmouth to adhere to provisions of a contract long after it has expired; and


WHEREAS: these Bills will have the practical effect of retroactively modifying union contracts that are in place to, among other things, potentially make them permanent, or to require perpetual annual raises when those provisions were never the intent of the parties negotiating the agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Portsmouth Town Council respectfully requests that the House and Senate drop from consideration House Bills H-7198 and H-7379 and Senate Bill S-2927; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby instructed to submit a copy of this resolution to the Town of Portsmouth’s State Senator and Representatives in the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Senate President, the Speaker of the House, the Executive Director of the Rhode Island League of Cities and Towns, all the Cities and Towns in the State of Rhode Island and the Governor in consideration of their support to defeat this amendment to the General Laws.

Approved by Town Council Action  
May 29, 2018

  
Keith E. Hamilton, President  
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST:   
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Bills – Motion to receive and place on file made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Kesson in dissent.

## **SITTING AS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS**

1. Peddler License – Annual:

Brittany Rosenberg d/b/a Sweet B's Donuts, 102 Connell Highway, Newport, RI 02840 – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

**ADJOURN** – Motion to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Kesson. Motion passed 7-0.

## **MINUTES**

TCM 4/25/18 – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.

TCM 5/14/18 – Mr. Kesson had a correction for the Town Administrator's Report. Motion to table the 5/14/18 minutes until 6/11/18 made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

1. LED Street Light project update – National Grid has completed the inventory study of Portsmouth streetlights. They are reporting 938 lights, 53 non-distribution poles and various supporting equipment. The next step will be to reconcile the National Grid inventory with the inventory study completed by PRISM. Upon completion, we will be able to transfer ownership of the streetlight facilities to the Town. We will meet with PRISM next Monday to coordinate the details of the impending transfer.

2. Report on resident meeting with Green Energy – The meeting between residents and the Wind Turbine owner, Green Energy Development, took place on Wed. May 16<sup>th</sup>. The CEO of Green Energy, Mark DePasquale, and members of his executive staff were here as well as a rep from the manufacturer of the Turbine. Green Energy listened to the concerns of those who attended and committed to develop a plan to address specific complaints. Those who attended were encouraged to send Green Energy data they have collected as well as any other detailed information they may have regarding the operation of the turbine.

3. Summary of Police Awards Ceremony – The Police Dept. held their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony last week at the Glen Manor House. The Ceremony was well attended and made more special by the Portsmouth High School Vocal Ensemble who sang the National Anthem. Eight officers were promoted and three Probationary Patrol Officers were sworn in. I'd like to commend Patrol Officers Clinton Spurlock and Kimberly DaSilva for earning the Meritorious Service Award. And Detective Inspectors Lee Trott and James Francis, as well as Patrol Officer Michael Quinn, for earning this year's Chief's Commendation Awards.

4. Police construction report – MILESTONES THIS PERIOD: Masonry construction is still ongoing and has been accelerated due to a possible Mason strike starting this week; Rough

mechanical, electrical and plumbing work has commenced. Total construction billings to date are \$2,517,482.30. The project is still on budget and due to be substantially completed in October of this year. The project is approximately 25% complete.

Motion to Move New Business 1 before Old Business 1 made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro. Motion passed 7-0.

NB 1. Request to Appoint Student Representatives to the Canvassing Authority as Interns for the 2018 Midterm Elections. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. Discussion/Action – Report and Update on AIPC Activities and Finances; Request Approval of Municipal Support. – Motion to approve \$18,000 for AIPC made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Ms. Ujifusa made a motion to amend her motion so that the \$18,000 comes from the \$50,000 that would be used to take down the warrant debt. No second made. Mr. Hamilton asked Ms. Ujifusa to amend her main motion to state that if AIPC meets their milestones;

1. August 27, 2018 present their year-end report to the Council
2. November 13, 2018 present their 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report to the Council.
3. February 11, 2019 present their 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter report to the Council.

then the \$18,000 would be released subject to Council approval, seconded by Mr. Gleason. The amendment to the motion passed 5-2. Mr. Kesson and Ms. Pedro in dissent. Motion to approve the main motion passed 5-2. Mr. Kesson and Ms. Pedro in dissent.

2. Monthly Finance Report – Motion to receive and place on file made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Aguiar. Motion passed 7-0.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

2. Discussion/Action – Brown House Special Event Request – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-1. Ms. Ujifusa in dissent.

3. Discussion/Action – Request that the Portsmouth Town Council form a Dog Park Committee. – Motion to approve forming a Dog Park Operating Committee made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 7-0.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Portsmouth Water and Fire District's Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending April 30, 2018 – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro. Motion passed 7-0.

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- June 11 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting  
June 13 7:00 PM - Public Budget Hearing: Portsmouth Middle School, 125 Jepson Lane  
(Wednesday)  
June 25 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting & Final Budget Adoption  
July 9 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 9:23 PM

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Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk