

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 27, 2021  
MINUTES

6:00 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, Daniela T. Abbott, Keith E. Hamilton and J. Mark Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda L. Ujifusa and Andrew V. Kelly

Time: 6:00 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 4-0.

1. RIGL§42-46-5 (a)(2) – Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. - Police
2. RIGL 42-46-5 (a)(2) – Potential Litigation

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn and seal the minutes made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 4-0.

Time: 6:40 PM

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

Time: 7:00 PM

Time: 7:00 pm Mr. Kelly arrives

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – There was an Executive Session held prior to this meeting. No votes were taken.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Purple Heart Veterans’ Appreciation Week Proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

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

2. CRMC – Public Notice 2021-08-061

Luke Higgins & Cori Oliver, 511 Massachusetts Avenue #1, Boston, MA 02118 – for a State of Rhode Island Assent to construct and maintain: Residential Boating Facility

consisting of a fixed pier to a ramp and float extending 75 feet beyond Mean Low Water (MLW), requesting a Variance to 650-RICR-20-00-1.3.1(D)(11)(1) 50 feet beyond MLW Standard. Facility has received letters of no objection for intrusion within the 25 foot Property Line extension in accordance with 1.3.1 (D)(11)(k) from each affected property owner. Project Location: 7 Seaconnet Avenue.

3. CRMC – Public Notice 2019-03-064

Boynton Reed Allen, 30 Wolcott Avenue, Middletown, RI 02842 – for a State of Rhode Island Assent to: Continue a 1000 square foot commercial viability shellfish aquaculture site in East Passage off of Carr Point in Portsmouth for an additional 18 months; a commercial viability site requires a Council Category B decision after the initial 18 months of operation – see 650-RICR-20-00-1.3.1(K)(5)(a)(14)(AA)(i). Project Location: Narragansett Bay.

MINUTES – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 5-0. 8/10/21

TAX VOUCHERS – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20210927-01 to #20210927-13.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Fire Grant – The Portsmouth Fire Department was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant from FEMA for \$117K. The grants are to help pay for equipment, training, and fire prevention programs. Our grant will be used to fund new radio repeaters for command vehicles and thirty new 800 Mhz portable radios.

2. Rugby Event – The National Collegiate Rugby organization will host a tournament for 20 to 40 teams at the Seveney Sports fields on Saturday, Nov. 6th. Details are going through the rec director.

3. American Rescue Plan (ARP) Public Outreach – As reported previously, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) was signed into law last spring. ARP will provide Covid relief funds to state and municipal governments which are meant to help overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, address the negative economic consequences of the pandemic, and provide resources to help economic and social recovery from the pandemic. Portsmouth has been allocated \$1,803,021 in municipal funds and \$3,345,949 in state distributions based on our population in Newport County, for a total of \$5,148,969. We have received \$2,574,485 to date. The remaining half will be received next year. These funds can be utilized: To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband structure; To address negative economic impacts caused by COVID-19; For the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue due to the pandemic; To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 emergency. The Council has already allocated a portion of these funds for public safety and for AV upgrades to the council chamber. Starting next week and running through the end of October we will solicit public input on how the remaining funds of approximately \$4.5M should be spent based on the ARP goals. The survey will be posted on our Town website and the results will be briefed to the Town Council in November.

Additionally, there will be a ceremony at Legion Park (in front of Town Hall) honoring Portsmouth Purple Heart Veterans. The ceremony will be Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00.

REMOVALS, RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Removal:

a. Glen Manor House Authority – Motion to accept with regret the removal of Frank Wyatt made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Resignations:

- a. Conservation Commission – Motion to accept with regret the resignation of John McDaid made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Parks & Recreation Committee – Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Scott Moody made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Appointments:

- a. Dog Park Committee (Re-Apppt) – Motion to re-appoint Richard Gottlieb made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
- b. Glen Manor House Authority (Re-Apppt) – Motion to re-appoint Claudia Divoll made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
- c. Tree Commission (Re-Apppt) – Motion to re-appoint Teresa Pinto made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
- d. Discover Newport, Portsmouth Representative – Motion to appoint Matthew Gray made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
- e. Glen Manor House Authority – Motion to appoint Jennifer Collins made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
- f. Harbor Commission – Motion to appoint Carol Mello made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
- g. Juvenile Hearing Board – Motion to appoint Carol Silvia made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. School Bond Referendum update. – No votes taken.
2. Monthly Finance Report and request to allow the monthly reports to be reported after month end close. – Motion to approve monthly finance report to be reported one month in arrears made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0. Motion to receive and place on file the monthly report as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Planning Board Advisory Opinion to Town Council regarding proposed amendments to the Zoning Ordinance related to solar energy system regulation (Ordinance #2020-12-14). – Motion to have a Public Hearing on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request for a resolution to provide funding for improvements to our Stone Bridge Abutment and the need for Portsmouth to acquire the land known as Teddy's Beach. – Motion to bring a resolution on 10/12/21 to the Council for approval made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed 5-0.
2. Request to have a living history event at Butts Hill Fort on October 17, 2021. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Request to award the bid for RFP #P22-002 for Statistical Reappraisal Services. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Request Town Council reaffirm the expected return on investments for the Pension Fund. – Motion to reaffirm the expected return on investment at 6.75% made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 5-0.
5. Request approval for the selection of the Pension Investment Advisory firm. – Motion to approve Principal as the pension investment advisory firm made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

CORRESPONDENCE – Motion to receive and place on file made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Monthly RIRRC Report. / Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp.
2. Thank you from Meals on Wheels of Rhode Island. / M. Grady, Exec. Director
3. Proclamation declaring the month of October as Dysautonomia Awareness Month. / Bristol Town Council
4. Invitation to the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Rock the Mansion to Benefit Newport Mental Health on Thursday, October 7 from 6:00 – 10:00 pm at Ocean Cliff, Newport. / J. Lehane, Newport Mental Health
5. Resolution in support of Block Island Pride September 16-19, 2021. / New Shoreham Town Council
6. Please consider a safe bike path for the people of Portsmouth. / K. Chaves, Girl Scout Cadette, Troop 730.
7. Resolution recognizing October 3<sup>rd</sup> as a “Day of Remembrance for Amy Jarret in the Town of North Smithfield.” / North Smithfield Town Council

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 12 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting (Tuesday)  
Oct 25 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting  
Nov 8 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 5-0.

Time: 7:49 PM

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Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk