

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 12, 2021 (Tuesday)
MINUTES

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Linda L. Ujifusa

Time: 7:01 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – There was not an Executive Session held.

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

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. Gunsmith/Gun Dealer License – Annual, New:

Aquidneck Gunsmithing LLC d/b/a Max-Ord Rifles, 179 High Point Ave (#2001)

Motion to forward to the next meeting made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

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

9/18/21

9/27/21 & Exec.

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

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20211012-01 to #20211012-08.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Chamber AV renovation update – The renovation of the Chamber AV system is scheduled to start November 23rd and finish December 2nd, with staff training the week following completion. This is contingent on receipt of ordered parts in time for the work to begin.

2. Report on Portsmouth Purple Heart Ceremony – A ceremony was held at Legion Park last Friday to honor Portsmouth recipients of the Purple Heart. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to those who generously helped make the event possible: Ms. Carolyn Evans-Carbery, Senator James Seveney, Representatives Terri Cortvriend and Michelle McGaw, the Town Council, the Director of Public Works,

Brian Woodhead, our Chief of Police, Colonel Brian Peters, and the men and women of our public works and police departments.

3. Streetlight conversion proposal update – I reported previously that the RI DOT has offered to take ownership of all streetlights located on State Roads, contingent on their conversion to LED lighting. These lights approach 40% of the streetlight inventory in Portsmouth. As it stands now, we are responsible for the electricity costs on all streetlights. LED conversion of all streetlights combined with a significant reduction in the inventory of lights the Town is responsible for represents a significant potential cost savings to the Town. We are discussing how such an initiative could work in Portsmouth and will prepare a Streetlight Conversion RFP for your review at a future council meeting.

4. DEM Outdoor Recreation Grant announcement – DEM has announced the availability of \$4M in outdoor recreation funding to help communities build and expand local recreation resources. The grant applications are due December 17th. We are working on proposals for Portsmouth and will present those for your review at the second council meeting in November.

5. Report on Portsmouth Climate Resilience Planning & Financing Strategy Public Workshop – The SNEP public workshop was held last Thursday evening. To refresh your memory, SNEP is the SOUTHEAST NEW ENGLAND PROGRAM NETWORK. The Network brings together 16 partner entities who work collaboratively to provide access to free training and technical assistance to advance storm water management and ecological restoration goals across the region. Our submission for SNEP assistance in developing a town-wide Climate Resiliency Planning and Financing strategy was approved in May 2020. Since then, SNEP has been facilitating work to refine and prioritize our highest priority capital needs. The workshop's goal was to refine a climate resiliency Capital Improvement Plan, and lay the groundwork, which will provide the basis for financing options.

6. Financial Audit update – The Audit team completed their fieldwork last Thursday evening. Things have been progressing smoothly and we expect the final report to be completed well before the DEC 31st due date.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignation:

a. Tree Commission – Motion to accept the resignation of John Parquette with regret made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Appointments:

a. Conservation Commission – Motion to appoint Marc Smith made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

b. Parks & Recreation Committee – Motion to appoint Caitlin Duffy made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

c. Town Council – Motion made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to nominate Leonard Katzman for the appointment to the Town Council. Motion made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Abbott, to nominate Sondra Blank for the appointment to the Town Council. Motion to appoint Leonard Katzman passed 3-2. Mr. Hamilton and Ms. Abbott in dissent. Motion to appoint Sondra Blank failed 2-3. Mr. Kelly, Dr. Ryan and Mr. Aguiar in dissent.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Resolution Urging Support of the General Assembly in the Renovation and Beautification of the Stone Bridge Abutment and Teddy's Beach in Portsmouth, RI. – Motion made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan to approve the resolution and to send it to our state legislators, the General Assembly, the directors of RIDOT and RIDEM and to our federal legislators. Motion passed 5-0.

2. Island Park playground update. – Motion to approve O'Brien & Sons to renovate the Island Park playground made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

3. Request to approve \$35,000 for the Island Park basketball court upgrade. – Motion to approve up to \$35,000 for the Island Park basketball court upgrade from the Town's Capital Reserve Fund made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request approval for an easement across Ormerod Avenue for the purpose of installing a sewer line at Tax Assessor's map 25, lots 16 & 9. / J. Lynch, Moore, Virgadamo & Lynch (10) – Letter withdraw by Attorney Lynch.
2. Request the reaffirmation of the 1996 policy regarding the snow plowing of private roads. – Motion to reaffirm the policy made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
3. Newport Polo Contract. – Motion to approve the contract made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.
4. Police MOA. – Motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Portsmouth and Local 302, International Brotherhood of Police Officers, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

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

1. Monthly RIRRC Report. / Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp.
2. Portsmouth Water and Fire District Quarterly Financial Report. / N.J. Larsen, Senior Accountant
3. Public notice of proposed rulemaking: Rules and Regulations Governing the Protection and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in the Vicinity of the Coast. / CRMC

FUTURE MEETINGS

Oct 25 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Nov 8 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Nov 22 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 7:42

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk