

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00PM

At 6:15 p.m., an Anticipated "Non-Meeting" with Counsel was held regarding a Personnel Matter.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sirrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Sirrell, Assistant Mayor Hanson, Councilors Grasso, Lown, Hynes, Pantelakos, Whitehouse, Marconi and St. Laurent

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Sirrell asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer in memory of George Christopher Brady who passed away over the weekend.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Hynes led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENTATION

1. Mr. Edwardo DelValle - \$500.00 donation to the Portsmouth Recreation Department

Mr. DelValle through Hewlett-Packard presented Mayor Sirrell and City Manager Bohenko with a \$500.00 donation to the Portsmouth Recreation Department.

2. "Sons of Civil War Veterans" - \$550.00 donation for the restoration of the Goodwin Park

Mr. Meehan of the "Sons of Civil War Veterans" presented Mayor Sirrell and City Manager Bohenko with a \$550.00 donation for the restoration of the Goodwin Park Monument.

MAYOR'S AWARD

1. Paula Glynn, Chair of the City-Wide Neighborhood Group

Mayor Sirrell presented Paula with the Mayor's Award in recognition of her outstanding work as the Chair of the City-Wide Neighborhood Group.

Paula thanked Mayor Sirrell for this award and recognition. She said that it has been an honor to work with the City-Wide Neighborhood Group. She informed the City Council that there are presently 30 different neighborhood groups.

Councilor St. Laurent commended Paula for her hard work on the City-Wide Neighborhood Group.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – JANUARY 6, 2003

Councilor Marconi moved to accept and approve the City Council minutes of the January 6, 2003 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Ed Lawrence said that the revaluation report should have been unacceptable because it was not a reasonable revaluation and the increases were out of line. He said that this was the highest rate increase in Portsmouth ever.

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to suspend the rules in order to take up Item IX A.2. – Request to approve the Employment Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and Deputy Police Chief David M. Young.

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to approve the Employment Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Deputy Police Chief, David M. Young, effective 1/3/03 through 1/3/08. Seconded by Councilor Grasso. On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

VII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Mr. Edwardo DelValle - \$500.00 donation to the Portsmouth Recreation Department

Councilor Marconi moved to accept the \$500.00 donation from Mr. DelValle for the Portsmouth Recreation Department. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

- B. “Sons of Civil War Veterans” - \$550.00 donation for the restoration of the Goodwin Park Monument

Councilor Marconi moved to accept the \$550.00 donation from the “Sons of Civil War Veterans” for the restoration of the Goodwin Park Monument. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

VIII. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

- A. Letter from Shelley Coughlin, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, requesting permission to hold the annual Seacoast Safari for CF on Saturday, July 19, 2003 – Sunday, July 20, 2003

Councilor Hynes moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

- B. Letter from Kathie Lynch, Portsmouth Little League, Inc., requesting permission to place temporary signage at the Plains and Hislop Park baseball fields during the 2003 baseball season

Councilor Lown moved to authorize the Portsmouth Little League to place temporary signage at the Plains and Hislop Park baseball fields for the period beginning April 26th through July 31st, 2003, as requested. Seconded by Councilor Grasso.

Assistant Mayor Hanson requested that City Manager Bohenko approve the placement of the signs.

Motion passed.

- C. Letter from David Kniola, AIDS Response Seacoast, requesting permission to hold the annual AIDS Walk on Sunday, May 4, 2003

Councilor Whitehouse moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

- D. Letter from Hopi Stradling, The One Hundred Club, requesting permission to operate valet parking from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m., seven days a week, in the loading zone on the Hanover Street entrance to 100 Market Street

Councilor Grasso moved to authorize the City Manager to establish a 6-month pilot program for valet parking in downtown Portsmouth and, to negotiate and execute a licensing agreement with the One Hundred Club for that purpose. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Hanson.

City Manager Bohenko said that the One Hundred Club went before the Parking Committee to request to operate a valet service. He advised the City Council that Parking and Transportation Director John Burke reviewed this matter and contacted other cities and towns of our size to find out what procedures they have in place for this type of service. Most of the cities require a flat permit fee based on an hourly amount with proper signage for the service. He is recommending a 6-month pilot program with updates to the City Council on how the program is working.

Motion passed.

E. Renewal Requests for Sidewalk Obstruction Licenses from the following businesses with no changes from last year:

- Ceres Bakery – 4 benches
- Muddy River Smokehouse – 1 A-frame sign
- Rosa's Restaurant – 2 A-frame signs
- Stonewall Kitchen – 1 A-frame sign
- Me & Ollies Café – 10 Tables, 30 Chairs and 1 A-frame sign
- Dolphin Striker – 1 A-frame sign
- Izzy's Frozen Yogurt – 1 bench
- Café Kilim – 1 bench
- Metro Restaurant – 1 A-frame sign
- Belle Peppers – 2 Tables and 4 Chairs
- Madd Matt's Ice Cream – 1 A-frame sign
- Market Street Tub Shop – 1 A-frame sign

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to approve the Sidewalk Obstruction License Requests as presented. Seconded by Councilor Grasso.

Councilor Whitehouse asked that Me & Ollies Café tables and chairs not impede upon pedestrians from walking on the sidewalk.

Motion passed.

- Sidewalk Obstruction License from the following business with no changes from last year - Geno's Coffee Shop – 1 A-frame sign

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to approve the Sidewalk Obstruction License Request as presented. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted. Councilor Marconi abstained from voting.

F. Letter from Amy Brisebois, Strawberry Banke, requesting permission to hold the 225th anniversary celebration of the proclamation of the French Alliance in Portsmouth on Saturday, June 7th and Sunday, June 8th

Councilor Grasso moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

G. Letter from Jeanine Sylvester, Runner's Alley, requesting permission to hold the 2003 Runner's Alley/Redhook Brewery Memorial 5k Roadrace/Healthwalk on Sunday, May 25th

Councilor Marconi moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Councilor Lown said that an article appeared in the Union Leader regarding this event that said an ambulance should be on hand during the event if needed. He requested that City Manager Bohenko consider this when granting approval for the event.

IX. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

1. Request for Use of FY02 Contingency Funds for Snow Operations

City Manager Bohenko informed the City Council that 100% of the snow removal budget has been consumed. He recommended authorizing the expenditure of \$100,000.00 from the FY02 Contingency Fund for snow removal operations. He said that this might not be enough funding for the remainder of the season; however, we need to have funds in the account.

Councilor Marconi moved to authorize the City Manager to expend \$100,000.00 from FY02 Contingency for snow removal operations. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent.

Councilor St. Laurent asked how much would remain in the FY02 Contingency Fund. City Manager Bohenko responded that there would be \$30,949.00 remaining in FY02 and that there is \$177,000.00 in the FY03 Contingency Fund.

Councilor Grasso said that this is a safety measure and the City Council needs to support the City Manager. She expressed her thanks to the Public Works Department for the excellent job they have done with the storms and the removal of snow.

Councilor Marconi urged the newspapers to report how much the City has expended from the snow removal budget because it is important for the public to be aware.

Motion passed.

City Manager Bohenko advised the City Council that Student Government Day would be held on Thursday, March 27th and the students will be sitting with the City Council at their March 17th meeting.

Councilor Whitehouse urged all City Council members to attend the County Budget Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. with City Manager Bohenko.

B. MAYOR SIRRELL

1. Appointments/Resignation

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to accept with regret the resignation of Judy Nerbonne from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Cemeteries. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

The City Council considered the reappointment of David Bangs to the PEDLP Review Committee and the appointment of Steven Berg as an alternate to the Board of Adjustment. These appointments will be voted on at the February 10, 2003 City Council meeting.

Councilor Marconi moved to appoint Irwin Bierhans to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Cemeteries. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

Councilor St. Laurent moved to appoint Linda Browning to the Portsmouth Housing Endowment Fund Advisory Board until June 17, 2006. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

2. NHMA 2003 Regional Dinner Series

Mayor Sirrell announced that the NHMA 2003 Regional Dinner Series would be held on Thursday, March 6th at the Inn at Hampton and Thursday, March 20th at the Governor's Inn in Rochester. She encouraged all members of the City Council to attend the dinner on March 6th at the Inn at Hampton.

3. Reports

Mayor Sirrell announced that the afghans made and donated by the anonymous donor have been given to the Cross Roads House. She read a thank you letter from Cross Roads House to her and the anonymous donor for their generosity.

C. ASSISTANT MAYOR HANSON

1. Traffic & Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the December 19, 2002 meeting

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to approve and accept the Traffic & Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the December 19, 2002 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

2. Parking Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the January 16, 2003 meeting

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to approve and accept the Parking Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the January 16, 2003 meeting. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 p.m., Councilor St. Laurent moved to adjourn. Seconded and voted.

KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK