

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2003

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00PM

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 prayers in observance of the troops serving in the Middle East.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Poet Laureate of Portsmouth – *Reception to follow in Conference Room A*

Mayor Sirrell presented a Proclamation naming John Perrault as Poet Laureate of Portsmouth for a one-year term renewable for a second year.

John Perrault thanked Mayor Sirrell and the City Council for the Proclamation and the honor of being selected as Poet Laureate of Portsmouth.

Mayor Sirrell announced that there is reception in Conference Room A for the Poet Laureate Committee.

2. National Community Development Block Grant Week – April 21-27, 2003

Assistant Mayor Hanson read the Proclamation declaring April 21-27, 2003 as National Community Development Block Grant Week. Mayor Sirrell presented the Proclamation to Robert Layton, Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee for CDBG.

Robert Layton thanked Mayor Sirrell and the City Council for the Proclamation and briefly explained the role of the Citizens Advisory Committee for CDBG.

3. Municipal Clerks Week – April 27 – May 3, 2003

Councilor Grasso read the Proclamation declaring April 27 – May 3, 2003 as Municipal Clerks Week. Mayor Sirrell presented the Proclamation to our Municipal Clerk Kelli Barnaby.

City Clerk Barnaby thanked Mayor Sirrell and the City Council for the Proclamation.

PRESENTATION

1. Mayor's Awards – Dondero School Red Basketball Team – Division A Championship

Mayor Sirrell presented Mayor's Awards and the key to the City to the players, coaches and the Principal of Dondero School Red Basketball Team in recognition of their Division A Championship.

Coach Barton thanked Mayor Sirrell and the City Council for the awards and key to the City. He said that he is very proud of his team and their accomplishments throughout the season.

Jill LaMay, Principal of Dondero School, thanked Mayor Sirrell and the City Council for this recognition. She said that she is very proud of the students and their success this year.

2. John Burke, Parking and Transportation Director Re: Route One Trolley

John Burke, Parking and Transportation Director and Steve Wells, Executive Director of Coast provided a presentation regarding the new Route One Trolley service. The new service will start on Monday, May 19th.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – MARCH 31, 2003

Councilor St. Laurent moved to accept and approve the City Council minutes of the March 31, 2003 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Donald Green said that he favors hunting in natural areas and in the Great Bog. He said that you need hunting to maintain the Great Bog's ecology. He said that hunting also limits the spread of Lyme Disease.

Suzanne Fournier, Milford, NH resident, spoke in support of banning hunting in the Great Bog. She said that she has submitted a letter to the City Council outlining her opinions on the issue.

Ed Lawrence said that everyone should read the Gettysburg Address. He said that President Abraham Lincoln was the master of ideas and he sees the same qualities with President George W. Bush. He said that we need to support President George W. Bush and his efforts.

Peter Bresciano thanked the City Council for rejecting the Anti-war Resolution. He said that America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. He thanked all the troops for their efforts and said that he prays for their safe return.

VII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Acceptance of Grant from Partnership for Effective Nonprofits to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee for Cemeteries

Councilor Pantelakos moved to accept the \$4,000 grant to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee for Cemeteries. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

VIII. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

- A. Letter from Donald Green regarding addressing the deer overpopulation problem in the Great Bog

Councilor Pantelakos moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

- B. Letter from Graham Kent supporting hunting in the Great Bog

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

- C. Letter from Jennifer Slade, Attrezzi, requesting permission to close the parking lot on the corner of Market and Hanover Streets for a Downtown Open House & Spring Cleaning Sidewalk Sale Day on Saturday, May 17th or Sunday, May 18th

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to refer to the City Manager with power as a pilot program with the understanding there will be no cost to the taxpayers. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent.

Councilor Whitehouse said he would not support the motion because there is not a specific date for the event as part of the motion.

Councilor Marconi asked who owns the parking lot that Ms. Slade is requesting to use for this event.

City Manager Bohenko said that the parking lot belongs to the City.

Councilor Marconi said that we have a shortage of parking and we are discussing closing a lot with parking for this event.

Mayor Sirrell asked if the parking meters would be bagged and paid for by the businesses that are participating in the event.

City Manager Bohenko said that Ms. Slade indicated that they would bag the parking meters and pay for the costs involved in doing so.

Councilor Pantelakos said that she is in favor of the event because it involves 35 businesses in the downtown area.

Councilor Lown said that he is open to the idea but would like to know if the other businesses in the downtown are in favor of this proposal.

Councilor Whitehouse said that he would support the event being held on Sunday, May 18th from noon to 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Marconi said that she would like to know what other businesses are involved.

Councilor Hynes said that there are issues associated with the request, however the City Manager will exercise his good judgement as always.

Councilor Grasso suggested that a minimum of 20 businesses would need to take part in the event before the parking lot is closed off.

Mayor Sirrell passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Hanson.

Mayor Sirrell said that she is not against the request but would like to receive more information.

Mayor Sirrell moved to refer this matter to the City Manager for a report back at the May 5th City Council meeting with the names of the businesses that will participate in this event. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

Councilor St. Laurent said that he would like to receive a recommendation from the City Manager as part of the report back to the City Council at the May 5th meeting.

City Manager Bohenko said that he would speak with the business owners and the Chamber of Commerce to discuss this event further.

On a roll call vote 8-1, main motion passed as amended. Mayor Sirrell, Councilors Grasso, Lown, Hynes, Pantelakos, Whitehouse, St. Laurent and Assistant Mayor Hanson voted in favor. Councilor Marconi voted opposed.

Assistant Mayor Hanson passed the gavel back to Mayor Sirrell.

- D. Letter from Pamela Ruo, American Diabetes Association, requesting permission to hold the annual America's Walk for Diabetes on Saturday, October 11, 2003

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

- E. Letter from Suzanne Fournier regarding the facts favor a hunting ban on Great Bog

Councilor Pantelakos moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted.

IX. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

- 1. Request to Adopt the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2004-2009

City Manager Bohenko said he is requesting that the City Council adopt the Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2004-2009. He said that a public hearing was held on the CIP at the March 31, 2003 City Council meeting. He reported that there is no new bonding scheduled for FY 04.

Councilor St. Laurent moved to adopt the FY 2004-2009 Capital Improvement Plan as presented at the public hearing on March 31, 2003. Seconded by Councilor Marconi.

Councilor Whitehouse said that he is pleased that there is no new bonding with this plan.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

2. Public Art Project for Earth Day 2003

City Manager Bohenko said that Tim Gaudreau, a local Portsmouth artist, is requesting approval to display six small temporary pieces of art called Nature Viewers on Saturday, April 19th, and Sunday, April 20th, in celebration of Earth Day. Mr. Gaudreau explained that the nature viewers are framed transparency containing an image of our local natural landscape; a tree, a flower, or an undeveloped field. He said each nature viewer would also hold a map providing the locations of other pieces and a brochure that will provide access to the intent of the work.

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

City Manager Bohenko reminded the City Council that Portsmouth Listens Phase II Kick-Off Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15th at 7:00 p.m. He also announced that the City's website has a schedule of the 2003 upcoming construction projects and that the Recycling Center is now issuing vehicle stickers for residents to allow for easier access to the Recycling Center. He said effective July 1, 2003 stickers would be required in order for residents to gain access to the Recycling Center.

Assistant Mayor Hanson asked what would happen if a resident borrows a family members truck from outside of the state or City of Portsmouth to bring items to the Recycling Center and the vehicle does not have a sticker, will it be allowed access.

City Manager Bohenko said that the he and the staff would work on developing a policy to allow for those circumstances.

B. MAYOR SIRRELL

1. Donations to the Coalition Legal Fund

Mayor Sirrell passed her gavel to Assistant Mayor Hanson.

Mayor Sirrell moved to accept a \$1,000 contribution from the Town of Dublin, \$2,500 contribution from the Town of Hampton Falls, \$1,500 contribution from the Town of Grantham and \$2,000 from the Town of Lincoln to be placed in the Coalition Legal Fund. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

Assistant Mayor Hanson passed the gavel back to Mayor Sirrell.

2. Appointments

Councilor Grasso moved the reappointment of Carlton McNeil to the Conservation Commission until April 1, 2006. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Councilor Whitehouse moved the reappointment of Charles Cormier to the Conservation Commission until April 1, 2006. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Councilor Grasso moved to appoint Dennis Moulton as an alternate to the Building Code of Appeals until July 1, 2008. Seconded by Councilor Lown and voted.

Councilor Lown moved to appoint James Melfi to the City-Wide Neighborhood Committee as a Steering Member until April 1, 2005. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

Councilor Grasso moved to appoint Robin McIntosh to the City-Wide Neighborhood Committee as a Steering Member until April 1, 2005. Seconded by Councilor Whitehouse and voted.

Councilor Pantelakos moved to appoint Paula Glynn as the Chair of the City-Wide Neighborhood Committee until April 1, 2006. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Assistant Mayor Hanson requested that the City Council receive a copy of the City-Wide Neighborhood Committee Bylaws.

Councilor Grasso moved to appoint William St. Laurent to the City-Wide Neighborhood Committee as a Steering Member until April 1, 2005. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted. Councilor St. Laurent abstained from voting.

Councilor St. Laurent moved to appoint Diane Lavigne to the City-Wide Neighborhood Committee as a Steering Member until April 1, 2005. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

Councilor Pantelakos moved to appoint Mark Lavoie to the City-Wide Neighborhood Committee as a Steering Member until April 1, 2005. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Councilor Hynes moved to reappoint Patrick McCartney to the Recreation Board until April 1, 2006. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Councilor Pantelakos moved to reappoint Carl Diermer to the Recreation Board until April 1, 2006. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Councilor Grasso moved to reappoint Stephen Wrenn to the Cable Commission until April 1, 2005. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to reappoint Ruth Griffin to the Portsmouth Housing Authority until April 1, 2008. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted.

3. Reports

Mayor Sirrell announced that the City of Portsmouth was listed in the Men's Journal as the 45th best place to live in the United States out of 50 and AARP has listed the City as the 13th best place to live in the United States out of 15.

X. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

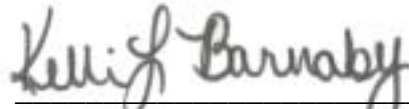
City Manager Bohenko announced the Budget Work Sessions schedule as follows:

- *Monday, April 28th – School Department Budget*
- *Thursday, May 1st – Police Department Budget*
- *Thursday, May 8th – Fire Department Budget*
- *Monday, May 12th – Municipal Budget*

Councilor Grasso announced that the annual tree planting for Earth Day will be held on Thursday, April 24th at 2:15 p.m. in Haven Park and invited all to attend.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 p.m., Councilor Whitehouse moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.



KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK