

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, PORTSMOUTH, NH
DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 TIME: 7:00PM

AGENDA

- **6:15PM – ANTICIPATED “NON-MEETING” WITH COUNSEL RE: NEGOTIATIONS – RSA 91-A:2, I (b-c)**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER [7:00PM or thereafter]**
- II. **ROLL CALL**
- III. **INVOCATION**
- IV. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

PRESENTATIONS

1. 2009 NH State Champion Little League Team
2. 2009 NH State Champion Babe Ruth 13-year old Team
3. Proposed Amendment to Building Code Ordinance – Richard Hopley, Chief Building Inspector

- V. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – AUGUST 3, 2009; AUGUST 10, 2009 AND AUGUST 17, 2009**

- VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

- VII. **APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS**

- A. Acceptance of Homeland Security Grant Program Award to the Portsmouth Fire Department - \$11,279.00
- B. Acceptance of Grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the ARRA CAC Task Force Program to the Portsmouth Police Department - \$475,306.00
- C. Acceptance of Donations for the Explorer Cadet Post
 - Charitable Division of the Rotary Club - \$3,000.00
 - Portsmouth Crimeline, Inc - \$1,000.00
 - Tech Enterprise - \$75.00
- D. Acceptance of Donation to the PAL Summer Basketball Program from the Strider Sulley family - \$25.00
- E. Acceptance of Donation from Betty LaBranche Real Estate, Inc. to National Night Out 2009 - \$50.00

- F. Acceptance of Grant from the NH Highway Safety Agency for the Portsmouth SMART Radar Trailer - \$6,000.00
- G. Acceptance of Grant from the NH Highway Safety Agency for the Portsmouth Laser Radar Speed Control Program - \$1,635.00
- H. Acceptance of Grant from the Office of Justice Program for Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program - \$215,000.00
- I. Acceptance of Donation to the summer PAL Basketball Program
 - Portsmouth Detective Rochelle Jones - \$100.00
 - Ms. D. Bushe - \$10.00

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

There are no items under this section of the Agenda

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WOULD BE IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Letter from Pawn Nitichan and Taylor Ferguson, City Year New Hampshire, requesting permission to hold the 2009-2010 City Year New Hampshire Opening Day on Thursday, October 1, 2009, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Market Square (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)
- B. Letter from Nicole Gregg, New Hampshire Film Festival, requesting permission to use the Connie Bean Center gymnasium and lobby for the NH Film Festival October 15, 2009 – October 18, 2009 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)
- C. Renewal of Sidewalk Obstruction Licenses with no changes from last year
 - Choozy Shooz / Le Club Boutique – 1 A-Frame sign
 - 3 West Provisions, Inc. – 1 A-Frame sign

(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power)

X. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

- A. Letter from Michael Harvell and Patricia Lynch, The Music Hall, requesting that a section of Chestnut Street in front of the theater (between Congress Street and Porter Street) be renamed Music Hall Way (***Sample motion– move to refer to the Planning Board for report back***)
- B. Letter from Brian Codagnone, The Sports Museum at TD Garden in Boston, requesting permission to explore the possibility of establishing a maritime museum in the South Meeting House (***Sample motion – move to refer to the City Manager for report back***)

- C. Sidewalk Obstruction License Request of Robert Loechler

XI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

City Manager's Items Which Require Action Under Other Sections of the Agenda

1. Sidewalk Obstruction License Request of Robert Loechler (***Action on this matter should take place under Section X of the Agenda***)

City Manager's Items Which Require Action

1. Proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union
2. Proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Association
3. Proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Ranking Officers Association
4. Proposed Work Session with the Trustees of the Trust
5. Request for Approval of Pole License Agreements #63-0467 and #63-0468
6. Request for a License from Ted Mountzuris of The Page for property located at 172 Hanover Street to install a projecting sign
7. Request for a License from Samantha Finigan and Whitney, co-owners of Gus & Ruby Letterpress, LLC for property located at 206 Market Street to install a projecting sign
8. Request for a License from Jason Scott for property located at 78 Congress Street to install a projecting sign
9. Request for a License from Benjamin Nutter Architects for property located at 10 Commercial Alley, Suite 3 to install a projecting sign
10. Report Back Re: Donation of Conservation Land on Banfield Road
11. Request for Special City Council Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2009
12. Proposed Stimulus Grant Re: Water System Improvements totaling \$55,000.00

Informational Items

1. Events Listing
2. Sagamore Bridge Weight Limits

B. MAYOR FERRINI

1. Request to Expand Membership of Safe Routes to School Committee (*See attached Memorandum*) **Sample motion – move to accept the recommendation of the Safe Routes to School Committee to create three at-large positions**
2. Appointments to be Considered:
 - Ryan Baker – Appointment to Citywide Neighborhood Steering Committee
 - James Horrigan – Reappointment to Conservation Commission
 - George Melchior – Reappointment to Historic District Commission (Alternate)
 - Calvin Couch – Reappointment to Housing Endowment Fund Advisory Board
 - Jeff McLean – Appointment to Portsmouth Economic Development Loan Program
 - Joli Foucher – Appointment to Safe Routes to School (At-Large member)
 - Drew Martin – Appointment to Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices
 - Brett Pasinella – Appointment to Blue Ribbon Committee on Sustainable Practices
3. Resignation – Everett Eaton from PEDLP
4. *Reports

C. COUNCILOR SMITH

1. Parking Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the August 13, 2009 meeting (**Sample motion – move to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the Parking Committee August 13, 2009 meeting**)

D. COUNCILOR SPEAR

1. Proposed Amendment to Taxi Ordinance (**Sample motion – move to bring back Proposed Amendment to Section 7.210 – Permits and Inspections Required of the Taxi Ordinance for first reading at the September 14, 2009 City Council meeting**)
2. *Request to Establish a Work Session on Parking Master Plan

XII. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT [AT 10:00PM OR EARLIER]

**KELLI L. BARNABY, CMC/CNHMC
CITY CLERK**

(*Indicates verbal report)

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Conservation Commission minutes of the June 10, 2009 meeting
2. Planning Board minutes of the July 9, 2009; July 16, 2009; July 23, 2009 and August 6, 2009 meetings
3. Zoning Board of Adjustment minutes of the June 16, 2009 and July 21, 2009 meetings

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC WHO ARE HEARING IMPAIRED: Please contact Dianna Fogarty at 603-610-7270 one-week prior to the meeting for assistance.

**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH
PORTSMOUTH, NH 03801**

Office of the City Manager

Date: August 28, 2009
To: Honorable Mayor Thomas G. Ferrini and City Council Members
From: John P. Bohenko, City Manager
Re: City Manager's Comments on September 1, 2009 City Council Agenda

6:15 p.m. – Non-meeting with counsel.

For details on this matter, please refer to the confidential envelope inserted in the inside pocket of your binder.

Presentation:

1. **Proposed Amendment to Building Code Ordinance.** On Tuesday evening, Chief Building Inspector Richard Hopley will be making a presentation to the City Council explaining the need to adopt updates to our local model construction codes. These updates would affect changes to existing City Ordinance Chapters 5, 12 and 15 which are the Fire Code, Commercial Building Code, Residential Building Code and Plumbing/Mechanical Code Ordinances.

The aforementioned City ordinances were last updated in 2003 through the adoption of the national model codes. In 2007 the State of New Hampshire mandated communities adopt the updated 2006 national model codes and the City is now ready to initiate that process.

After the short presentation, the Chief Building Inspector, Deputy Fire Chief Steven Griswold and Planning Director Rick Taintor will answer any questions the Council may have. Our goal would be for the Council to set a date for the first reading of these ordinance amendments.

I would recommend the City Council move to establish first reading of these amendments at their September 14, 2009 meeting.

Acceptance of Grants/Donations:

1. **Acceptance of Fire Department Grant.** Attached under Section VII of the Agenda is a [copy of a letter](#) to the Portsmouth Fire Department from the New Hampshire Department of Safety notifying the City of a Homeland Security Grant Program award in the amount of \$11,279.00 for the purchase of a Navigator II Night vision Camera with monitor to enhance the use of the Fire Boat purchased with 2005 Homeland funds.

I would recommend the City Council move to approve and accept the grant to the Portsmouth Fire Department, as listed. Action on this matter should take place under Section VII of the Agenda.

2. **Acceptance of Police Department Grants & Donations.** Attached under Section VII of the Agenda is a [memorandum](#), dated July 15, 2009, from Gerald W. Howe, Chairman of the Portsmouth Police Commissioners, and former Police Chief Michael J. Magnant requesting that the City Council approve the following grants and donations:

- a. A grant in the amount of \$475,306 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for the ARRA ICAC Task Force Program. This is the major funding grant that allows us to continue our investigation and apprehension of online child predators. This grant is disbursed to support all ICAC task forces in the State of New Hampshire.
- b. Donations in support of the Explorer Cadet Post as follows:
 1. \$3,000 from the Charitable Division of the Rotary Club of Portsmouth.
 2. \$1,000 from Portsmouth Crimeline, Inc.
 3. \$75.00 from New Tech Enterprise
- c. A donation to the PAL Summer Basketball program in the amount of \$25.00 from the Strider Sulley family.
- d. A donation in the amount of \$50.00 from Betty La Branche Real Estate, Inc. to National Night Out 2009.

The Police Commission is submitting this information pursuant to City Policy Memorandum #94-36 for City Council approval and acceptance.

I would recommend that the City Council approve and accept the grants and donations to the Portsmouth Police Department, as listed. Action on this matter should take place under Section VII of the Agenda.

3. **Acceptance of Police Department Grants & Donations.** Attached under Section VII of the Agenda is a memorandum, dated August 19, 2009, from Gerald W. Howe, Chairman of the Portsmouth Police Commissioners, and Police Chief David J. Ferland, requesting that the City Council approve the following grants and donations:
- a. A grant in the amount of \$6,000 from the NH Highway Safety Agency for the Portsmouth SMART Radar Trailer traffic safety equipment.
 - b. A grant in the amount of \$1,635 also from the NH Highway Safety Agency for the Portsmouth Laser Radar speed control program.
 - c. A grant in the amount of \$215,000 from the Office of Justice Programs. This is a 12-month continuation of our existing Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.
 - d. Donations in support of the summer PAL Basketball Program as follows:
 1. \$100.00 from Portsmouth Detective Rochelle Jones.
 2. \$10.00 from Ms. D. Bushe.

The Police Commission is submitting this information pursuant to City Policy Memorandum #94-36 for City Council approval and acceptance.

I would recommend that the City Council approve and accept the grants and donations to the Portsmouth Police Department, as listed. Action on this matter should take place under Section VII of the Agenda.

Items Which Require Action Under Other Sections of the Agenda:

1. **Sidewalk Obstruction License Request of Robert Loechler.** Under Section X of the Agenda is the sidewalk license obstruction request of Robert Loechler. Mr. Loechler is a musician who plays the hammered dulcimer. Because his musical instrument is placed on a table and he sits next to it in a chair, this license is necessary for him to lawfully play his instrument on the downtown sidewalks. The City Council has the authority to grant such licenses, “for any lawful purpose... and on such terms and conditions as [the Council] shall deem safe and proper”, City Ordinances at Chapter 8, Article I, Section 8.106. See also similar provisions at Chapter 9, Article V, Section 9.501 et. seq.

Mr. Loechler’s application has arisen due to a City enforcement effort which was in turn the product of a complaint made against him. Mr. Loechler has been playing his hammered dulcimer on Market Street and a Market Street resident complains that Mr. Loechler plays, “...on crowded sidewalks, for a prolonged period of time, disturbing the peace of many Market Street residents”.

To date, the granting of sidewalk obstruction licenses by the City Council has primarily related to sandwich board signs or single event activities. The granting of Mr. Loechler’s request to obstruct the sidewalk for the purpose of playing music at times and in locations

of his own choosing therefore presents a rather unique situation to the Council. Some of the specific issues are:

1. The sidewalk obstruction, in this case, also generates sound.
2. Unlike a sandwich board sign, sidewalk obstruction license for a hammered dulcimer in effect authorizes street performance on a nightly basis throughout the summer season.
3. It is unusual for any sidewalk obstruction license application to be generated by a citizen complaint.
4. Mr. Loechler has requested that the City Council waive its usual insurance requirement.

With respect to the foregoing policy determinations, the matter lies with the judgment of the City Council. However, with respect to the waiver of the City's normal \$2,000,000.00 insurance liability coverage, it is recommended that the Council deny the waiver. There is at least as much chance that a dulcimer table and chair could cause an accident as there is that a sandwich board sign would do the same. Action on this matter should take place under Section X of the Agenda.

City Manager's Items Which Require Action:

1. **Proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union.** Attached is a copy of the proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Patrolman's Union. Also, attached is a summary of the changes to the Agreement as provided by Labor Negotiator Thomas Flygare. This is a proposed six (6)-year Agreement expiring on June 30, 2014. On August 17, 2009, the City Council met with the Police Commission in a non-meeting with counsel to discuss this proposed Tentative Agreement. As a result of the review and discussion, the City Council determined that this Agreement was in excess of the economic goals that they had established, and therefore, it is recommended that this Agreement be rejected.
2. **Proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Association.** Attached is a copy of the proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Civilian Employees Association. Also, attached is a summary of the changes to the Agreement as provided by Labor Negotiator Thomas Flygare. This is a proposed six (6)-year Agreement expiring on June 30, 2014. On August 17, 2009, the City Council met with the Police Commission in a non-meeting with counsel to discuss this proposed Tentative Agreement. As a result of the review and discussion, the City Council determined that this Agreement was in excess of the economic goals that they had established, and therefore, it is recommended that this Agreement be rejected.

3. **Proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Ranking Officers Association.** Attached is a copy of the proposed Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth Police Commission and the Portsmouth Police Ranking Officers Association. Also, attached is a summary of the changes to the Agreement as provided by Labor Negotiator Thomas Flygare. This is a proposed six (6)-year Agreement expiring on June 30, 2014. On August 17, 2009, the City Council met with the Police Commission in a non-meeting with counsel to discuss this proposed Tentative Agreement. As a result of the review and discussion, the City Council determined that this Agreement was in excess of the economic goals that they had established, and *therefore, it is recommended that this Agreement be rejected.*

4. **Proposed Work Session with the Trustees of the Trust.** Councilor Laura Pantelakos has concerns about the manner in which Prescott Park Arts Festival collects donations. She discussed her concerns with the Trustees of the Trust at their August meeting.

After the Trustees and Councilor Pantelakos had discussed the matter for some time both she and the Trustees agreed that a Work Session should be scheduled at which the Trustees could provide the City Council with a complete update on Trustee matters, including the relationship between the Trustees and Prescott Park Arts Festival, the donation issue and the general financial standing of the funds under control of the Trustees.

I advised both Councilor Pantelakos and the Trustees that I would bring this matter to the City Council's attention so you might think about appropriate scheduling for the Work Session.

Therefore, may I suggest that the City Council move to establish a work session prior to the regular meeting on Monday, October 19, 2009 regarding this matter.

5. **Request for Approval of Pole License Agreements #63-0467 and #63-0468.** The City Public Works Department has reviewed pole location information provided by PSNH for Petition and Pole License Agreements #63-0467 and #63-0468. These requests are to license one replacement pole on Thornton Street, which is License Agreement #63-0467 and one replacement pole on Dennett Street, which is License Agreement #63-0468. Typically, these replacements do not require licenses but PSNH cannot verify any existing licenses for these poles and are requesting it now. These poles pose no impact to existing City infrastructure and the Public Works Department recommends approval of these licenses. Attached are the licenses and photographs of the poles.

I would recommend the City Council approve these requests from PSNH for Pole License Agreements #63-0467 and #63-0468, as recommended by the Public Works Department.

6. **Request for a License from Ted Mountzuris of The Page for property located at 172 Hanover Street to install a projecting sign.** Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Rick Taintor, Planning Director, outlining the Planning Board's recommendation

regarding a request from Ted Mountzuris of The Page for property located at 172 Hanover Street, to install a projecting sign (see attached photographs).

This request was received by the Planning Department on July 31, 2009, and reviewed by the Planning Board on August 20, 2009. The Board voted:

- 1) to recommend against approval of a license unless and until the Board of Adjustment grants a variance to allow the aggregate sign area to exceed the maximum for the lot; and
- 2) to recommend that if a license is approved, the projecting sign may only be illuminated by external illumination.

I would recommend the City Council move to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board with the aforementioned stipulations.

7. **Request for a License from Samantha Finigan and Whitney, co-owners of Gus & Ruby Letterpress, LLC for property located at 206 Market Street to install a projecting sign.** Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Rick Taintor, Planning Director, outlining the Planning Board's recommendation regarding a request from Samantha Finigan and Whitney, co-owners of Gus & Ruby Letterpress, LLC for property located at 206 Market Street, to install a projecting sign (see attached photographs).

This request was received by the Planning Department on July 29, 2009, and reviewed by the Planning Board on August 20, 2009. The Board voted to recommend approval of a revocable municipal license, subject to the following conditions:

1. The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;
2. Any removal or relocation of the projecting sign, for any reason, will be done at no cost to the City; and
3. Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason, shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.

I would recommend the City Council move to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board with the aforementioned stipulations and approve the request of Samantha Finigan and Whitney, co-owners of Gus & Ruby Letterpress, LLC to install a projecting sign at 206 Market Street and further authorize the City Manager to execute a License Agreement for this request.

8. **Request for a License from Jason Scott for property located at 78 Congress Street to install a projecting sign.** Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Rick Taintor, Planning Director, outlining the Planning Board's recommendation regarding a request from Jason Scott for property located at 78 Congress Street, to install a projecting sign (see attached photographs).

This request was received by the Planning Department on July 9, 2009, and reviewed by the Planning Board on August 20, 2009. The Board voted to recommend approval of a revocable municipal license, subject to the following conditions:

1. The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;
2. Any removal or relocation of the projecting sign, for any reason, will be done at no cost to the City; and
3. Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason, shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.

I would recommend the City Council move to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board with the aforementioned stipulations and approve the request of Jason Scott to install a projecting sign at 78 Congress Street and further authorize the City Manager to execute a License Agreement for this request.

9. **Request for a License from Benjamin Nutter Architects for property located at 10 Commercial Alley, Suite 3 to install a projecting sign.** Attached is a copy of a memorandum from Rick Taintor, Planning Director, outlining the Planning Board's recommendation regarding a request from Benjamin Nutter Architects for property located at 10 Commercial Alley, Suite 3, to install a projecting sign (see attached photographs).

This request was received by the Planning Department on July 29, 2009, and reviewed by the Planning Board on August 20, 2009. The Board voted to recommend approval of a revocable municipal license, subject to the following conditions:

1. The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;
2. Any removal or relocation of the projecting sign, for any reason, will be done at no cost to the City; and
3. Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason, shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works.

I would recommend the City Council move to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board with the aforementioned stipulations and approve the request of Benjamin Nutter Architects to install a projecting sign at 10 Commercial Alley, Suite 3 and further authorize the City Manager to execute a License Agreement for this request.

10. **Report Back Re: Donation of Conservation Land on Banfield Road.** As you will recall, at the August 3, 2009 City Council meeting, the Council referred the request of Paul S. Cincotta, Vice President of Packard Development, regarding the donation of conservation land on Banfield Road, to the Planning Board for report back to City Council. [Attached is a copy of a memorandum](#) from Rick Taintor, Planning Director, outlining the recommendation of the Planning Board regarding this matter. This parcel of land is known as Map 265, Lot 2E as indicated in the [attached map](#). Also, for your information, I have [attached a copy of the letter](#) from Mr. Cincotta.

I would recommend the City Council move to accept the recommendation of the Planning Board to accept the donation of the conservation land on Banfield Road.

11. **Request for Special City Council Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2009.** I am requesting the City Council establish a special meeting for Monday, September 21, 2009. The purpose of the meeting is outlined in the [attached memorandum](#) from Assistant City Attorney Suzanne Woodland; Deputy Public Works Director David Allen and City Engineer Peter Rice. The entire City Council special meeting would be a non-meeting with counsel for the purpose of negotiations as it relates to the recently executive consent decree.

I would recommend that the City Council move to establish a Special City Council Meeting on Monday, September 21, 2009 to commence at 6:30 p.m. in Conference Room A.

12. **Proposed Stimulus Grant Re: Water System Improvements totaling \$55,000.00.** The City of Portsmouth's Water Division is requesting to participate in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program for two water conservation projects. These projects are included in the FY10 Water Division's operating budget and totaling \$55,000.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides 50 percent grant for eligible green projects through the State Revolving Loan Fund program. Even though these projects were included in the FY10 operating budget for the Water Division, the State requires the City utilize the SRF loan program to get the \$27,500 in grant money. Currently the SRF interest rate for a five year loan is 1.17 percent. The loans will be immediately paid off at the completion of the projects with no long-term debt to show on the City's books.

These projects are part of the Water Division's on-going conservation efforts. In 2008, un-accounted for water was 24 percent of the water produced. The proposed \$15,000 leak detection equipment ARRA/SRF grant/loan will pay for the purchase of the leak detection equipment. This equipment will be used to pin point leak locations so Water Division crews will be able to target their water line repair and maintenance efforts.

The \$40,000 ARRA/SRF grant/loan for rain barrels is a follow-up to the water conservation kit program. The Water Division will be providing rain barrels to home

owners at a reduced price. This effort will empower homeowners to reduce water used for irrigation and reduce peak demand on the water system.

As stated above, both projects are included in the FY10 Water Division operating budget. However, since the grant money is disbursed through the SRF loan program, it is necessary to have Council authorization for the loans. The authorization for the loans would require two readings and a public hearing (September 14th and October 5th).

I would recommend the City Council move to authorize the City Manager to bring back for first reading the aforementioned SRF grant at the September 14, 2009 City Council meeting.

Informational Items:

1. **Events Listing.** For your information, [attached is a copy of the Events Listing](#) updated after the last City Council meeting on August 17, 2009. As you can see on the listing, I have highlighted those dates that will have two events going on at the same time.
2. **Sagamore Bridge Weight Limits.** For your information, the City of Portsmouth is lowering the posted weight limit on the Route 1A bridge that spans Sagamore Creek (Bridge No. 198/034) to 6 tons. Vehicles over 6 tons will no longer be able to cross the bridge and will have to take alternate routes. Recommended alternate routes for vehicles over 6 tons have been prepared by the City of Portsmouth DPW and are available on their website at www.cityofportsmouth.com and will be distributed to affected parties. Fixed signage has been installed as of Friday, August 28, 2009.

Vehicles such as passenger cars, SUV's, van type school buses and pickup trucks are still permitted to cross the bridge. Ambulances and rescue vehicles with gross vehicle weights up to 6 tons are also still permitted on the bridge. If there is any uncertainty regarding a vehicle's gross weight, the information is provided on the vehicle's registration.

The bridge previously had an 'E-2' posting which prohibited certified vehicles (typically large single unit trucks and combination trailers) from using the bridge. The bridge is inspected bi-annually and during an inspection conducted on August 17, 2009, the deterioration encountered necessitated that the posted limit be lowered.

The bridge, which was built in 1941 and repaired in 1984, is currently in the design process for replacement. The City is working with its consultants and the State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation to evaluate potential repair alternatives and an accelerated design and construction schedule. As you are aware, this bridge is scheduled in the Capital Improvement Plan in 2011 which would have an estimated cost of six million dollars. This is 80% state funded with a 20% local match.