

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
DATE: THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010

PORTSMOUTH, NH  
TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Ferrini called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Ferrini, Councilors Lister, Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer, Coviello, Kennedy and Smith

Absent: Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh

### **III. INVOCATION BY FATHER KERPER, CORPUS CHRISTI PARISH**

Father Kerper of Corpus Christi Parish conducted the invocation. Members of the Portsmouth Fire and Police Departments Honor Guard held a procession and posted the colors.

### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Ferrini led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **STAR-SPANGLED BANNER**

Wendell Purrington of the Portsmouth School Department sang the Star Spangled Banner.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

City Clerk Barnaby administered the Oath of Office to the following officials who were elected at the November 3, 2009 Municipal Election.

#### **A. FIRE COMMISSION**

Commissioner Richard Gamester  
Commissioner Paul Wentworth

#### **B. POLICE COMMISSION**

Commissioner John Russo  
Commissioner Gerald Howe

**C. SCHOOL BOARD**

Carol Chellman, Leslie Stevens, Kent LaPage, Mitchell Shuldman, and Thomas Martin

**D. CITY COUNCIL**

Councilors Robert Lister, Jerry Hejtmanek, Eric Spear, M. Christine Dwyer, Anthony Coviello, Esther Kennedy and Kenneth Smith

1. Assistant Mayor Nancy Novelline Clayburgh

City Clerk Barnaby announced that the Assistant Mayor was unable to attend this evening's ceremony due to a prior commitment.

2. Mayor Thomas G. Ferrini

**V. ADDRESS BY MAYOR THOMAS G. FERRINI**

Good Evening Everyone and Happy New Year.

Welcome School Board Members, Fire Commission Members, Police Commission Members, City Councilors, City employees, family and friends. Thank you to the Police and Fire Departments Honor Guard, Wendell Purrington, Fathers Kerper and Pappas; and our City Clerk Kelli Barnaby for making this a pleasant evening for all.

I am glad to see you all here in the early hours of the New Year because you demonstrate the commitment the citizens of Portsmouth have to making City government and the quality of life of its citizens better. We are fortunate to have a community where input from our many accomplished and creative citizens helps us engage in and create public policy that makes our City government, its policies and its management truly exemplary. I thank you all for your participation over the years and I look forward to another two years as we go forward.

The two years ahead of us are decidedly different than many years we have faced in our recent past. The previous Council had to contend with the beginning of economic difficulties. Now we are, I believe, presented with economic challenges that extend out into time. Because of significant increases in governmental costs, I believe we must look at the structure of our local government and determine together what is in the best interest of Portsmouth's citizens, taking into consideration needs of the community for services and the ability of the community to pay the cost of those services. Because the picture is bleak in terms of increasing costs, I believe that our review of the City's governmental structure will have to be in-depth and may well require sacrifices on the part of our community in order to reach an equitable cost for government for everyone that we serve.

This means that no one department, no one program or no particular initiative should take precedent over the concerns we all have on behalf of the common good of all of our citizens and whether they can afford their local government. Beginning my seventh year as a City Councilor, I believe that the strength of our local democracy is what will see us through these difficult times. I know this because I have seen our community in action. We have to embrace our celebrated City's culture of open and intelligent public process, and use that as a tool to address these long term impacts upon how our government will operate in the future. We have to do business differently. To do that, we have to think differently. This will require all of us to understand each other's different points of view, but never doubt each other's goodwill and good faith.

This will be a challenging process. It will require us to trust each other when we disagree, to respect each other when we have information that appears inconsistent and to remember that we are all working together towards the common goal of making Portsmouth the best city possible as a place to live and work.

The strengths of our community are what will see us through. We have a community that is recognized nationally for its democratic process and public discourse. We have a strong local economy in a difficult national economy. We have excellent relationships with our state government, albeit that the state government faces challenges we face now as well. I believe we can more effectively work with our county government and our state government to achieve a positive result for our citizens because of our ability to create unity in the voice with which we speak for our City.

We are not just members of the City Council, or the School Board, Police Commission or Fire Commission, but, rather, we are 21,000 people who share, at least, a common belief that Portsmouth should be the best community we know, though we may differ on the path in continuing to achieve that goal.

One of the pleasures of serving in local government in Portsmouth is experiencing the civility with which our elected bodies conduct themselves. We have been able to achieve much as a City because of this civility. The decision to move forward on the Middle School, last year's budget and the successful passage of a new zoning ordinance are a testament to this remarkable civility. The hallmark of this mature political culture is fact-based, reasonable dialogue that is based on discussion of ideas and not personal attacks. Our national government would do well to take a page out of Portsmouth's book. This civil political culture will serve us well as we face the challenges of the next two years and beyond, because many decisions we are called upon to make will affect Portsmouth for years to come.

I ask everyone here, the citizens watching and everyone in our community to assist us in our endeavors in the next two years as you always do. We will need your help, your skills, your creativity, your goodwill and your patience. This is how we have done things for some years in Portsmouth and this is how we must do it going forward. If we use our community's strengths, we will continue to have the outstanding city government and exemplary quality of life that we all enjoy.

I want to thank my wife, Jane, and my children, Eddy and Lucy Bin, for helping me do my job. I want to thank all our elected officials, all City employees, and our community for making Portsmouth a better City every year.

God bless you and have a Happy New Year.

## **VI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

### **A. MAYOR FERRINI**

1. Acceptance of Rules and Orders of the City Council (*See Attached*)

Mayor Ferrini announced that the policies of the City Council will be presented for adoption at the January 19, 2010 City Council meeting.

Councilor Smith moved to accept and approve the City Council Rules and Orders as presented. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy and voted.

2. Committee Assignments for City Councilors

Mayor Ferrini announced that Committee Assignments for the City Council have been submitted and no action is necessary from the City Council.

#### **Committee Assignments:**

**Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh** – Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Commission, Fee Schedule Study Committee, and Vendors' Committee

**Councilor Lister** – Pease Development Authority Liaison, Safe Routes to School Committee, Taxi Commission, and Veterans' Affairs Organization Liaison

**Councilor Hejtmanek** – Cooperative Alliance for Seacoast Transportation (COAST), and Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee

**Councilor Spear** – Legislative Delegation Subcommittee, Planning Board and Recreation Board

**Councilor Dwyer** – African Burial Ground Blue Ribbon Committee, Economic Development Commission, Legislative Delegation Subcommittee and Rockingham Planning Commission

**Councilor Coviello** – Historic District Commission and Recreation Board

**Councilor Kennedy** – Fishing Fleet Blue Ribbon Committee, Pease Development Authority – Port Subcommittee, Peirce Island Committee and Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee

**Councilor Smith** – Legislative Delegation Subcommittee, Parking Committee, Traffic & Safety Committee and Veterans' Affairs Organization Liaison

**Informational Items**

1. Meetings for January
  - January 14, 2010 – Work Session – Committee of the Whole – *Thursday at 6:30 p.m.*
  - January 19, 2010 – Regular City Council Meeting – *Tuesday with work session beginning at 6:00 p.m. prior to regular meeting*

**VII. BENEDICTION BY THE REVEREND FATHER PAPPAS, SAINT NICHOLAS CHURCH**

The Reverend Father Pappas performed the benediction.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:45 p.m., Councilor Smith moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy and voted.



Kelli L. Barnaby, CMC/CNHMC  
City Clerk