

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
DATE: MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2011

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

I. CALL TO ORDER [7:00PM or thereafter]

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Ferrini, Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh, Councilors Lister, Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer, Coviello and Kennedy

Absent: Councilor Smith

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PROPOSED FY JULY 1, 2011 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2012 BUDGET

Mayor Ferrini announced that the City Manager and various staff will be making presentations on a number of budgets.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

- Budget Summary – City Manager Bohenko

City Manager Bohenko provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the FY12 Budget Summary. He stated that the budget was submitted to the City Council on April 8, 2011. He spoke to the guideline of a 0% increase to the tax rate as set by the City Council. City Manager Bohenko indicated that this budget has met the goals of the City Council but not without a hit to services. The FY12 Proposed Operating Budget is \$68,407,692.00 and the percent changes to the major departments are as follows:

<i>Municipal</i>	<i>-0.01%</i>
<i>Police</i>	<i>-0.94%</i>
<i>Fire</i>	<i>-0.21%</i>
<i>School</i>	<i>0.00%</i>

City Manager Bohenko reported that since FY10 we have had a reduction of 64 full time personnel which include a reduction of 8.9% positions for FY12. He further stated that salaries and benefits comprise 83.7% of the budget. In addition, he recommended that \$900,000.00 be set aside for future contracts. City Manager Bohenko addressed State and City retirement contribution rates and health insurance we have a reduction of \$154,761.00 for a -1.56% change due to the reduction in staff. City Manager Bohenko recommended that there be no new Rolling Stock, no new Bonding Resolutions and a reduction in the Capital Outlay.

- Police Department – Police Chief Ferland

Chief Ferland read the Mission Statement of the Police Department as follows:

“The Portsmouth Police Department actively works in partnership with our community to protect, prevent crime and respectfully, justly and compassionately help all people.”

Chief Ferland spoke to the number of services provided by the department. He also addressed reductions in the department since 2001 – present. The breakdown is as follows:

- 3 part-time positions
- 8 rank reductions
 - 4 ranking officer positions
 - 4 patrol/civilian positions
- 12 full-time positions
 - 6 civilian positions
 - 4 patrol positions
 - 2 ranking officer positions

Chief Ferland reported on fixed costs with retirement, health insurance, works compensation and contractual obligations which total \$401,383.00 that equate to a 4.7% reduction. The following is a breakdown of FY12 Proposed Reductions:

- 1 Detective Unfunded
- 1 Downtown Beat (3 of 4) Unfunded
- 1 Downtown Beat (4 of 4) Unfunded
- 1 Traffic Car Officer (1 of 2) Unfunded
- 1 Traffic car Officer (2 of 2) Unfunded

Chief Ferland said that the cuts continue to make structural changes without an impact to services.

- Municipal Departments
 - Library Director - Mary Ann List

Library Director List reported that the Library was established by ordinance in May 1881 as a free public library *"for the use of all of our citizens"*. It provided a gateway to reading, information, culture, community activities, and cultural heritage. Library Director List said that they will keep the hours of the Library and maintain the materials provided to the public. She indicated that there are 40 computers in the Library available for public use and that the community connection is important in the Library. In addition, she informed the Council that there is a steady growth in the Library and that 80% of the public in the City has a library card. Library Director List stated that the Library budget request is for FY12 is \$1,480,315.00, which reflects a level funded budget.

- Public Works Director - Steve Parkinson

Public Works Director Parkinson reported that the department maintains 73 sites and the acreage of sites maintained is 326. He outlined the responsibilities of the department and the various operations. He stated that the department maintains 136 road miles and 75 miles of sidewalk. He spoke to what comprises of solid waste: household trash pick up, bulky waste, yard waste, road side recycling, recycling center, trash removal of parks and parking lots. In conclusion, he stated that 59% of the budget is based on employees and the budget has a reduction of \$92,000.00 from FY11.

- Recreation Director - Rus Wilson

Recreation Director Wilson reported that the FY10 budget was \$1,126,912.00. The proposed FY12 budget is \$761,543.00, a reduction of \$365,369.00, a 33% reduction. The FY10 budget comprised of 7 full time staff and the proposed FY12 budget has a full time staff of 4, a 43% reduction. He spoke to the Comprehensive Recreation Needs Study that concluded there needs to be a consolidation of buildings and an upgrade to our facilities. Recreation Director Wilson stated that there have been no funds appropriated in the FY12 budget for the indoor pool. He indicated that they are currently exploring a lease agreement with SIPP (Save Indoor Portsmouth Pool) to begin January 1, 2012. If an agreement is not reached, the indoor pool will close at the end of this calendar year. He addressed the various facilities and programs provided by the Recreation Department. In conclusion, he thanked the Council for approving construction of the youth recreation center adjacent to the Middle School. He said it will be great for the Recreation Department, great for the Middle School and the community.

- Fire Department - Fire Chief LeClaire

Fire Chief LeClaire outlined the three major services comprised of the Fire Department – Fire Prevention, Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Services, Hazardous Materials and Marine Response. He stated that there are 4 shifts and 3 Fire Stations that provide 24/7 services. He reported that there were 2,852 EMS calls and 2,677 fire calls in 2010. Chief LeClaire reported that in 2010 \$675,552.00 was collected in ambulance gross revenues. He outlined the Fire Prevention and Inspection Activity for 2010 as follows:

- 140 Place of Assembly Inspections
- 347 Other Inspections
- 109 Public Education Events
- 136 Plan Reviews
- 2827 Public Contacts
- 53 Investigations
- 364 Prevention Related Activities

Chief LeClaire advised the City Council that the FY12 budget for the department is \$6,967,721.00 which represents a 3.6% reduction in operating budget plus \$99,000.00 or 1.46% shortfall in FY11 for a total 5.06% decrease or \$344,321.00. He also reported that the budget shows an elimination of the Fire Inspector position.

- School Department – Superintendent of Schools McDonough

Superintendent McDonough read the Mission Statement of the School Department:

“Educating all students by challenging them to become thinking, responsible, contributing citizens who continue to learn throughout their live.”

He stated that the School Department focuses on student learning and measured results. He also stated that 23.45% of students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program and there are 409 special needs students in the District. Superintendent McDonough said he is pleased to report that 80% of the staff has advanced degrees. In addition, Portsmouth has played in 30 playoff games and has earned 11 State Championship titles. He outlined the impacts of a level funded budget as follows:

General Fund Staff has been reduced by 11.93 full time positions

Central Office	Special Service Director
	Director of Technology
	1 Administrative Assistant
	1 Computer Technician
	1 Maintenance Technician
	.5 District-wide Psychologist
	.6 Speech

PHS: .5 Automotive
 .33 Art
 .5 Nurse
 1 Counselor

Pms: 2 English Language Arts
 2 Counselors

The FY12 budget request for the School Department is \$38,859,800 with 85% of the budget comprising of salary and benefits.

- Conclusion – City Manager Bohenko

City Manager Bohenko discussed the revenue portion of the FY12 budget and reported that the 2012 proposed tax rate reflects no increase from FY11 - \$17.41. He advised the City Council that the State continues to down shift costs to the communities. City Manager Bohenko said that the equalized tax rate is one of the lowest in the State and reported that we have suffered a loss of 28% of State revenues.

City Manager Bohenko thanked all the Departments for their work on the budget and maintaining the quality of life in the City.

Mayor Ferrini thanked the Departments for their presentations and hard work with the preparation of the FY12 budget.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT/INPUT

Mayor Ferrini read the legal notice, declared the public hearing open and called for speakers. Mayor Ferrini announced that the meeting is being broadcasted live on Channel 22 this evening. He also stated that the public hearing will be reconvened on May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Norm Olsen, Portsmouth resident, thanked the City Council and City Manager for presenting a level funded budget. He said that a level funded budget is much needed by the residents of the City. He also thanked the Department Heads for their work and cuts that have been made. He especially thanked Councilors Coviello, Hejtmanek, Kennedy and Spear for making sure this was a level funded budget. Mr. Olsen expressed concern with employee contracts and benefits. He said the City Council needs to stick to the idea of a level funded budget and take an aggressive stand on union negotiations.

Patrick Ellis, Portsmouth resident, thanked the City Council for their work on the budget. He urged the City Council and City Manager to have changes made on the State level to maintain costs. He also requested that the Council stay true to the School Department budget and expressed concern with the cuts the School Department is making. He said if a level funded budget is requested next year it would mean an increase in class sizes and a reduction in programs.

William St. Laurent, Association of Portsmouth Taxpayers, commended the City Council for a level funded budget. He stated that the Association has not had an opportunity to review the entire budget and will be back at the May 9th reconvened Public Hearing on the budget to further discuss items. Mr. St. Laurent said with the new assessment many residents will see a tax increase. He also expressed concern with further costs being shifted to the communities from the State. He provided copies of a packet of information that the Association has put together regarding FY12 budget issues.

Rick Condon, Portsmouth resident, spoke in support of the Fire Department budget and urged the City Council to support the department's budget. He requested that the City Council fully fund the Fire Department budget to keep Fire Station 3 opened.

VI. RECESS PUBLIC HEARING UNTIL MAY 9, 2011 AT 7:00 PM

After three calls and no further speakers, Mayor Ferrini recessed the public hearing on the budget until May 9th at 7:00 p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 p.m., Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh moved to adjourn. Seconded and voted.



Kelli L. Barnaby, CMC/CNHMC
City Clerk