

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 6:15PM

At 6:15 p.m. a Public Dialogue Session was held.

Public Dialogue Session – One Group

PRESENT: Mayor Blalock, Assistant Mayor Lazenby, Councilors Roberts, Pearson, Dwyer, Denton, Perkins, Reynolds and Becksted (6:45 p.m.)

The members of the public were asked to introduce themselves and begin discussing their concerns and/or questions related to their individual topics.

Bernard Mulligan asked what happen with his request for a Resolution from the City Council stating they would not close off Chestnut Street.

Councilor Pearson said the Council and staff are still gathering information from residents and businesses downtown.

Mr. Mulligan spoke regarding the need for two-way traffic on Congress Street.

Mayor Blalock said access would be allowed in and out of 18 Congress Street.

Mr. Mulligan said the City can't close the square without closing Daniel Street. He also indicated that he was unable to access information from the City's website and there are issues relating to printing of documents.

Councilor Pearson said the closure would be between Penhallow Street and Market Square.

Councilor Reynolds said the City Council would bring forward the request with staff recommendations. He said access to all buildings will exist and Porter Street will remain open.

Paige Trace spoke regarding our website and items that are available to the public.

Councilor Roberts said that there was an issue with the website over the weekend.

Ms. Trace expressed concern regarding the rezoning of 15 Middle Street and Mr. McSharry's proposal to have a hotel and restaurant at the location. She also spoke regarding the lack of parking at the site.

Planning Director Walker said parking is not required for an Inn at that location. She said if Mr. McSharry cannot meet the requirements of the ordinance he would be required to obtain a conditional use permit for parking.

Councilor Dwyer said the plan for 15 Middle Street is valet parking.

Linda Mulligan said that businesses downtown are not aware of the pedestrian event scheduled to take place with the closure of streets.

Mr. Mulligan once again spoke to the matter of printing issues with the City's website.

Councilor Roberts said documents in pdf version are easy to print but other software versions are more difficult.

David Noard spoke opposed to the increase in the budget and to collective bargaining agreements for employees.

Councilor Reynolds said in this budget there are unknowns because we are still in negotiations with 12 collective bargaining units.

Mr. Noard said he would like to know the reason why payroll keeps increasing. He said that City fees for permitting developments should increase.

Mayor Blalock said we will be having several work sessions this month on the budget and Mr. Noard should attend to hear more about the process and preparation of the budget.

Councilor Pearson said the Economic Development Commission is doing research on fees for buildings in the City. She said developers are paying fees and permits to get their buildings up to the strict codes. She spoke to the cost burden that has been placed on municipalities for health insurance and retirement costs.

Councilor Dwyer suggested Mr. Noard review the budget and the data. She explained that the Council can't have a fee that is seen as a tax.

Harold Whitehouse asked about the hotel fee being considered by the Legislature.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby spoke to the hearing held last week on the hotel bill. He said the Chamber of Commerce wrote a letter in support of the legislation and indicated that the hotels in the City are in favor of the fee. He said there is positive momentum for a formula for the meals and room tax which, has not been collected correctly by the State.

Ms. Trace spoke regarding her support of the meals and room tax. She said the City is not receiving what it should be from the State. City Manager Bohenko stated that the City only receives 29% of what is collected.

Mayor Blalock said the State has collected millions of dollars in meals and room tax from the City.

Ms. Trace said she does not understand how the State is getting away with the lack of distribution of fees to the City.

Councilor Perkins said that the Governor could place the tax in his budget but we have tried that and it did not work.

At 6:50 p.m., Mayor Blalock closed the Public Dialogue Session.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Blalock, Assistant Mayor Lazenby, Councilors Roberts, Pearson, Dwyer, Denton, Perkins, Raynolds and Becksted

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Blalock asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Blalock led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Honoring the Civic Service of Nancy Beck

Mayor Blalock read the Proclamation honoring the civic service and many accomplishments of Nancy Beck.

2. Police Week – Peace Officers’ Memorial Day – May 15, 2019

Councilor Roberts read the Proclamation declaring the week of May 12th to May 18th as Police Week in Portsmouth and further called upon all citizens of Portsmouth to observe May 15, 2019 as Peace Officers’ Memorial Day. In addition, let us recognize and pay respect to the survivors of our fallen heroes by lowering all City, State and American flags in Portsmouth to half-staff on Wednesday, May 15, 2019. Police Chief Merner and members of the Portsmouth Police Department accepted the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation. Chief Merner announced that the department has earned the highest CALEA Accreditation.

3. Small Business Week – May 5th – May 11th, 2019

Mayor Blalock read the Proclamation declaring May 5th – May 11th as Small Business Week in Portsmouth. Nicole Gagliardi of The Spice & Tea Exchange of Portsmouth accepted the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation.

4. National Bike Month

Councilor Raynolds read the Proclamation declared May 2019 as Bike Month. Anne Rugg of COAST accepted the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation.

5. 100th Anniversary of Atlantic Heights Neighborhood

Mayor Blalock read the Proclamation wishing Happy 100th Anniversary to the Atlantic Heights. Kevin Lafond accepted the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation and informed the City Council he will be placing the 75th Anniversary and this 100th Anniversary Proclamations on display at the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

PRESENTATION

1. Senior Activity Center Re: Cottage Street Location f/k/a Paul A. Doble Army Reserve Center – Brinn Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan spoke to the Senior Subcommittee of the Recreation Board that has been working on the future Senior Activity Center. She informed the City Council the Subcommittee has met 22 times in 4 years with an average of 5 meetings a year to help the project move forward. She said there has been a great deal of community input on the Senior Center. She reviewed the various areas of the future Senior Center and pointed out the clear drop off for visitors and outdoor patio. Ms. Sullivan reviewed the goals for the present and future:

- *Inviting, inclusive & comfortable drop-in space for informal gathering*
- *Extensive array of programs for all interests and abilities*
- *Safe, well organized, fun space for activities both indoors and outside*
- *Programming to include Arts & Culture, Health & Fitness, Diversity, Educational, & Social*
- *Vibrant, modern hub for seniors and the community to gather*
- *The senior subcommittee supports a vision for a 50+ activity center serving both the current senior population and the soon-to-be senior. To continue to building membership and serve 5 decades of older adults. This innovative and inclusive philosophy encourages a multigenerational environment which offers layers of support and creates a dynamic atmosphere.*

Ms. Sullivan reviewed the timeline moving forward with the Council:

<i>February 2019:</i>	<i>Acquisition of 125 Cottage Street property</i>
<i>April 2019:</i>	<i>Asbestos Abatement completed</i>
<i>Spring 2019:</i>	<i>Bid documents publically noticed by the City</i>
<i>Summer 2019:</i>	<i>Commence construction</i>
<i>Spring/Summer 2020:</i>	<i>Completed construction</i>

Mayor Blalock thanked Councilor Becksted for his service as the City Council representative to the Recreation Board.

Councilor Denton moved to authorize the City Manager to request from the Trustees of the Trust Fund, \$1,525,200.00 from the Daniel Street Trust to be used for senior center construction costs. Seconded by Councilor Pearson.

Councilor Becksted said he supports the project and that this is one step of many to come forward.

Councilor Dwyer asked City Manager Bohenko to identify the Daniel Street Trust. City Manager Bohenko said it is from the sale of the Connie Bean Center. He stated the funds are to be used toward a recreational purpose. He indicated another \$500,000.00 in funding came from the CDBG. City Manager Bohenko said the next step is to hold a public hearing for the \$2.5 million bond.

Motion passed.

Councilor Pearson moved to establish a public hearing for May 20th to consider and recommend \$2.5 M bond to be used for senior center construction costs. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – APRIL 15, 2019

Councilor Dwyer moved to approve and accept the minutes of the April 15, 2019 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

VI. PUBLIC DIALOGUE SUMMARY

Assistant Mayor Lazenby gave a brief summary of the topics discussed during Public Dialogue which included the Downtown Pedestrian Zone Experiment, Reuse of former Salvation Army building, City's website and the Budget.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTES ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS

A. Public Hearing – 15 Middle Street Zoning

Mayor Blalock read the legal notice for 15 Middle Street Zoning.

• PRESENTATION

Planning Director Walker said that this is a citizen request to rezone 15 Middle Street. She indicated the request is to rezone from Civic District to Character District 4. She reviewed the zoning map for the downtown area and stated there are four primary Character Districts in the downtown CD4-L, CD4-W, CD4, and CD5. She stated that the Character District Zoning was adopted in 2014 for the downtown. She said the districts downtown provide specific dimensional and development standards so that new buildings and re-development will fit in with the surrounding context. She outlined the current zoning – Civic District purpose is to preserve existing buildings and uses which are open to the general public and owned and operated by a not-for-profit organization other than the City of Portsmouth. She stated that if a property is owned by the City, it is zoned Municipal, not Civic. Planning Director Walker outlined permitted uses in the Civic District to the general public and dedicated to arts, culture, education, religion, recreation, government, transit, gardening, horticulture, public gathering, assembly or meeting. She reviewed the list of current properties zoned Civic:

1. Moffat Ladd House (154 Market St)
2. St. John's Church (100 Chapel St)
3. Warner House (150 Daniel St)
4. North Church (2 Congress St)
5. Temple Israel (200 State St)

6. Gov. John Langdon House (143 Pleasant St)
7. Unitarian Universalist Church (292 State St)
8. Salvation Army (15 Middle St)
9. Portsmouth Historical Society (43 Middle St)
10. Middle Street Baptist Church (16 Court St)

Planning Director Walker reviewed the purpose of Character District 4 Zoning which is to promote the development of walkable, mixed-use, human-scaled places by providing standards for building form and placement and related elements of development. She advised the City Council that this purpose statement is for all Character Districts. She said the description is for medium-to-high-density transitional areas with a mix of building types and residential, retail, and other commercial uses. She said there are shallow or no front yards and medium to no side yards, with variable private landscaping. She indicated streets have sidewalks and street trees or other pedestrian amenities, and define small to medium blocks. She spoke to building placement standards, building / lot occupation standards and building form.

Roof Types: flat, gable, hip, gambrel, mansard

Building Types: live/work building, small commercial building, large commercial building, mixed-use building, flex space building, community building

Façade Types: stoop, step, shopfront, officefront, recessed-entry, dooryard, gallery, arcade

Community Space Types: park, greenway, pedestrian alley, wide pedestrian sidewalk, square, plaza, pocket park, playground, recreation field or court, common or green community garden or farm, outdoor dining café, courtyard

Building Height: 2-3 Stories with Maximum building height 40'

Planning Director Walker outlined and reviewed land uses for the zoning whether they are permitted, conditional use permit or special exception.

Councilor Becksted asked what the existing height of the building is currently. Planning Director Walker said the building is 38 feet.

Attorney Phoenix spoke on behalf of Mr. McSharry and advised the Council that Mr. McSharry has entered into a contract with the Salvation Army. He indicated the building will be a 28 room hotel with a restaurant.

Wayne Semprini spoke to the history of the Salvation Army building. He advised the Council he was the realtor for the property and said two appraisals were completed on the building. He indicated that there needs to be a commercial component of the building for it to be successful.

• CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS

Councilor Becksted said he is concerned that the building has no parking. Attorney Phoenix said the parking will be a valet service. Councilor Becksted said civic space is hard to get and he would have a hard time to allow the zoning change.

- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**

Mayor Blalock opened the public hearing and called for speakers. With no speakers, Mayor Blalock closed the public hearing.

- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

Councilor Becksted asked City Attorney Sullivan whether this request is considered spot zoning because we are rezoning on specific property. City Attorney Sullivan said it was not and spoke to the definition of spot zoning.

Councilor Becksted asked Planning Director Walker how many CD4 properties line Middle Street. She indicated there are none on the south end.

Councilor Perkins moved to pass second reading and schedule third and final reading for the May 20, 2019 City Council meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Councilor Becksted said there are no CD4 on Middle Street. Planning Director Walker said there is a transition in this area where Porter Street and State Street which is where the downtown core is.

Councilor Dwyer said the building is already 38ft and will not get much higher. She said if anyone was to restore it could be an option to go back to civic. She stated that this is a pilot.

Councilor Becksted said he feels the usage will be intense and more than what is allowed today. He would recommended CD4-L and will not support the motion. He stated once this is approved the City will see more requests to come forward.

Councilor Denton said he lived a block from Middle Street for 6 years and feels the building should have been repurposed long ago and that the boards will address the concerns.

Motion passed. Councilor Becksted voted opposed.

- B. First Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6.202 – BILLIARDS AND BOWLING HOURS

Councilor Perkins moved to pass first reading and schedule second reading and a public hearing for the May 20, 2019 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Pearson.

Mayor Blalock passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Mayor Blalock said he received a letter from the new owner of Bowl-O-Rama stating bowling was not allowed on Sunday's before 1:00 p.m. He recommended the City Council pass the first reading of the ordinance, as this is a reasonable request.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby returned the gavel to Mayor Blalock.

Motion passed.

VIII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

A. Acceptance of Community Development Block Grant Funds

Councilor Perkins moved to accept and expend a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$526,934.00 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Councilor Becksted asked if some of this funding would be used towards the Senior Center. City Manager Bohenko said that funding was used from FY19 for the Senior Center and none of these funds would be going towards that project and reviewed the various requirements and restrictions for the use of CDBG funds. He indicated that he could have Elise from Community Development come and provide a presentation for the Council.

Motion passed.

Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules in order to take up Item XI. A.3. – CIP Request Re: New Franklin Elementary School Facility Improvements. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

XI. A.3. CIP Request Re: New Franklin Elementary School Facility Improvements

City Manager Bohenko said New Franklin School is the last elementary school to be rehabbed and the request for bonding is \$2,000,000.00. He said that construction is planned to take place over the summer.

Superintendent Zdravec said that this is the last stage of rehabbing elementary schools for the City. He spoke to the various upgrades and priorities for the school.

Councilor Denton asked if a dishwasher would be included as part of the rehab. Superintendent Zdravec said it is not included because they are looking at dishwashers across the district.

Councilor Becksted moved to establish a public hearing on Monday, May 20, 2019 for bonding of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for New Franklin Elementary School Improvements. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Roberts removed Item B. 2019 Omnibus Sidewalk Obstruction Renewals from the Consent Agenda in order to take action separately.

- A. Letter from Donna Hepp, Granite State Wheelmen, Inc., requesting permission to hold the 46th annual Seacoast Century Bicycle Ride on Saturday, September 21, 2019 and Sunday, September 22, 2019 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)

- C. Request for License to Install Projecting Sign for Simchik-McGovern III, LLC, Corene McGovern & Michael Simchik owner of The Chamfered Corner for property located at 140 Penhallow Street (***Anticipated action - move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request***)

Planning Director's Stipulations

- ***The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;***
 - ***Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at no cost to the City; and***
 - ***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***
- D. Request for License to Install Projecting Sign for Albert Fleury owner of The Green Room for property located at 41 Vaughan Mall (***Anticipated action - move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request***)

Planning Director's Stipulations

- ***The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;***
- ***Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at no cost to the City; and***
- ***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***

Councilor Perkins moved to adopt the Consent Agenda, as presented. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.

- B. 2019 Omnibus Sidewalk Obstruction Renewals (*See attached list*)

Councilor Roberts moved to approve and accept the 2019 Omnibus Sidewalk Obstruction Renewals. Seconded by Councilor Denton.

Councilor Roberts requested that City Manager Bohenko look into making the placement of flowers an exemption to the Sidewalk Obstruction License.

Councilor Raynolds requested that there be limitations developed to ensure that it is for the beautification of the City.

Councilor Raynolds suggested staff develop parking requirements and designate parking spaces for mopeds. City Manager Bohenko said he would have staff review this matter.

Motion passed.

X. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

- A. Email Correspondence

Councilor Dwyer moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

- B. Letter from Margaret L. Riffe regarding Carey Cottage

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

- C. Letter from Debra Oliver, The Clip Joint Barbershop thanking the City Council for reconsidering date of the Pedestrian Zone Events

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

XI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

1. Approval of AFSCME Local A-1386 Re: Collective Bargaining Agreement

City Manager Bohenko stated that this was a 3 year contract and reviewed the highlights of the agreement with AFSCME Local A-1386.

Councilor Roberts moved to approve the tentative three year collective bargaining agreement with the Portsmouth City Employees – Local A-1386 (to expire on June 30, 2022). Seconded by Councilor Pearson.

Councilor Becksted said that these are important people and provided many services to the public.

Councilor Dwyer said there are good concessions in the agreement. She suggested holding a session with the public to inform them of the collective bargaining process. City Manager Bohenko said he will look at when we can fit a session in for the Council to hold with the public.

Councilor Denton would like to see if the unions are willing to swap out Columbus Day with Election Day.

Motion passed.

2. Proposed Longmeadow Road Extension Project

City Manager Bohenko said Public Works is proposing to extend Longmeadow Road to intersect with Lang Road near Route 1/Lafayette Road. He stated the proposed extension would pass over two lots owned by Service Credit Union. He informed the Council that this is part of a multi-phase process for State administration of Federal funding for infrastructure improvements. City Manager Bohenko said these Federal funds will finance the majority of this initiative. He indicated the project will require eight separate conveyances from Service Credit Union for the purpose of these conveyances, Lot 1 will refer to the lot at the corner of Lang Road and Route 1 containing the Service Credit Union offices, and Lot 2 refers to the adjacent, undeveloped lot. He reviewed the various easements with the Council.

Councilor Becksted moved to authorize the City Manager to negotiate, execute, deliver and record an necessary documents required to complete the extension of Longmeadow Road in accordance with the plans approved by the Planning Board; and further, that the City Manager be authorized to negotiate, discharge and extinguish any outstanding easements and covenants that may interfere with the extension of Longmeadow Road. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Councilor Becksted said he would like to make sure the land use boards are aware of this change and that this will change the volume of cars and the intersection.

Motion passed.

4. Request to Establish a Work Session for May 20, 2019 Re: Update on Coakley Landfill

City Manager Bohenko advised the City Council that Eric Spear, Chairman of the Coakley Landfill Executive Committee would like to have a Work Session regarding Coakley on May 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to schedule a work session for a report back presentation regarding Coakley Landfill at the May 20, 2019 City Council meeting at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

5. Source Water Protection Re: Acquisition of 3.11 of Undeveloped Proposed Adjacent to the Greenland Well

City Manager Bohenko said that the City's Water Division has negotiated the purchase of a 3.11 acre parcel of undeveloped land that is located within the sanitary protective area (SPA) of the Greenland Well. He further stated grant funds from the New Hampshire Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund has been awarded by the Governor and Council for this purchase. He reported the amount of 48% of the purchase cost, up to a maximum of \$90,000.00 has been awarded. He indicated the acceptance of these funds requires the addition of deed restrictions to prevent uses that could affect the groundwater quality. City Manager Bohenko said the parcel will also need to be surveyed and appraised, and a baseline report of the parcel conditions will need to be prepared.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to approve the following:

- **Authorize the City Manager to execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement for the subject parcel for the total of \$220,000.00, with the understanding that reimbursement for up to \$90,000.00 from the New Hampshire Drinking Water & Groundwater Trust Fund will be requested;**
- **Establish a public hearing for May 20, 2019 to fund the purchase of land through a use of water enterprise fund net position;**
- **Enter into a Grant Agreement with the State of New Hampshire's Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund to receive up to \$90,000.00 to partially reimburse costs of the purchase; and**
- **Refer this matter to the Planning Board for a report back**

Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

6. 150 Route 1 Bypass Water Access Easement

City Manager Bohenko spoke to the water access easement and advised the City Council that the Planning Department and Legal Department recommend the easement.

Councilor Dwyer moved to accept an access easement to 150 Route 1 Bypass, as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby and voted.

City Manager's Informational Items

1. Upcoming FY20 Budget Work Sessions

City Manager Bohenko announced that next week's FY 2020 Department Budget Work/Listening Sessions will be held on Wednesday, May 8th at 6:30 p.m. for the School Department, and Thursday, May 9th at 6:30 p.m. for the Public Safety/Police & Fire Departments

2. Report Back Re: Parking Principles

City Manager Bohenko said there is a report back regarding parking principles for Council review.

Planning Director Walker said the summary was provided and the staff is looking towards the City Council to adopt or advise what direction the Council would like to proceed.

City Manager Bohenko said he could bring these back after adoption of the budget.

Councilor Dwyer said the City Council need to take these up and have them put in place. She suggested that Boards/Commissions review the red line version and provide input to staff on what they would like to see moved forward.

3. *Portsmouth Receives Silver Walk Friendly Community Designation – April 16, 2019*

City Manager Bohenko presented Mayor Blalock with the Silver Level Walk Friendly accreditation the City received. He reported that Portsmouth is the smallest Silver Level Walk Friendly Community Designee in the nation, devoting more energy and staff time to pedestrian issues than many other larger communities.

At 8:55 p.m., Mayor Blalock declared a brief recess. At 9:00 p.m., Mayor Blalock called the meeting back to order.

B. MAYOR BLALOCK

1. Appointments to be Considered:
 - Jeffrey Mattson as an Alternate to the Building Code Board of Appeals
 - Margot Doering as an Alternate to the Historic District Commission
 - Reagan Ruedig to the Historic District Commission
 - Jonathan Wyckoff to the Historic District Commission
 - Kory Sirmaian to the Recreation Board

The City Council considered the appointment/reappointments listed above which will be acted upon at the May 20, 2019 City Council meeting.

2. Appointment to be Voted:
 - Reappointment of Robert Capone to the Cable Television & Communications Commission

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to reappoint Robert Capone to the Cable Television & Communications Commission until April 1, 2022. Seconded by Councilor Becksted and voted.

3. Resignation of Kelly Weinstein from the Citywide Neighborhood Committee

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to accept with regret the resignation of Kelly Weinstein and express our thanks and appreciation for her service to the City. Seconded by Councilor Roberts and voted.

4. The City Manager Search Subcommittee Report / RFP

Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said your packets this evening have the RFP and we will have the firm help us design the process to move forward in finding a new City Manager. She said that final selection will be made by the City Council.

Councilor Becksted said this is a start of the process to find a firm.

Deputy City Manager Colbert Puff said this will recruit a firm to establish a process.

Councilor Pearson said the Committee said they did not want to put parameters on the process.

Councilor Becksted said he watched the meeting and he wanted to inform the public of what took place.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to approve the RFP for executive recruitment consulting services related to the search for a City Manager. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

5. Bike Ride with the Mayor – May 8th at Noon

Mayor Blalock invited individuals to join him, City Officials and staff on a bicycle tour of recent and planned bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Wednesday, May 8th leaving from City Hall at Noon.

C. COUNCILOR ROBERTS, COUNCILOR DWYER & COUNCILOR PERKINS

1. McIntyre Subcommittee Request to Establish Work Session with Financial Consultant

Councilor Roberts advised the City Council that Councilor Dwyer was voted as Chair of the McIntyre Subcommittee.

Councilor Dwyer said the subcommittee met with David Eaton who has been negotiating on our behalf. She said that the Subcommittee is ready to meet in a Work Session on May 15, 2019. She said the Work Session could be combined with the General Government Budget Work Session. She indicated that we expect to hear from the National Park Service on Thursday or Friday and then we will know whether this work session would move forward.

Councilor Dwyer moved to establish a Work Session on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 regarding the McIntyre Project Financial Plan and combine the Monday, May 13, 2019 General Government Budget Work Session with the Water & Sewer Departments Budget. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

D. COUNCILOR PEARSON

1. Letter regarding The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Councilor Pearson said this is a revised version of the letter Portsmouth Advocates wanted from the City Council.

Councilor Pearson moved to send a letter to Jane Difley, President/Forester of The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests regarding the Proposed Demolition of Carey Cottage. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

City Manager Bohenko said the letter will be sent if approved by the Council. He would discuss with staff and the City Council would weigh in if necessary. He reported that the demolition hearing is tomorrow.

Motion passed.

E. COUNCILOR DENTON

1. Proposed Rule Change – Rule 7 Order of Business

Councilor Denton moved the City Council to vote on May 20, 2019 on proposed change to Rule 7 of the Revised Rules and Order of the Portsmouth City Council and if amended it take effect on June 17, 2019. Seconded by Councilor Perkins.

Councilor Denton said the rule change would become effective after the passage of the budget. He said the order would move policy decisions forward and to have a set spot for City Council to move items forward. He also indicated Volunteer Committee Reports would be before any comments or public hearings.

Councilor Dwyer said that Approval of Grants/Donations, Consent Agenda and Presentation and Consideration of Written Communications and Petition should go at the end of the meeting. She said the City Manager brings policy items forward which should be before the end of the meeting.

Councilor Perkins said she would put the City Manager after the City Councilors. She said she does not like staff to stay until the end of the meetings.

City Manager Bohenko said you could make the changes and we will add them to the May 20, 2019 City Council Agenda.

Councilor Becksted said he would like to know if we could try it before we amend the rule.

Mayor Blalock passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Lazenby.

Mayor Blalock said Public Dialogue and Public Comment Session will remain in its place on the Agenda.

Councilor Denton said that is correct.

Assistant Mayor Lazenby returned the gavel to Mayor Blalock.

Motion passed.

F. COUNCILOR RAYNOLDS

1. Our Working Port and Renewable Energy in New Hampshire

Councilor Raynolds reported that a large cargo ship is in port carrying large components of wind turbines that are going to Antrim, New Hampshire.

XII. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Perkins said she is looking for the City Council and Police Department to put forward a team for the Stiletto Race.

Councilor Dwyer said Mark Connelly sadly passed away and the services are Wednesday, May 8th at Noon.

Councilor Roberts said that Larry Cataldo wants a two week extension for the Islington Creek Neighborhood to present the signatures for the neighborhood parking pilot program. City Manager Bohenko said after the signatures are collected the City Clerk will check the signatures.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:30 p.m., Assistant Mayor Lazenby moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Perkins and voted.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelli L. Barnaby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC, CMC, CNHMC
CITY CLERK