

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Becksted, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor and Trace.

III. INVOCATION BY CHAPLAIN PELKEY, PORTSMOUTH FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Chaplain Pelkey conducted the Invocation.

POSTING OF THE COLORS

Members of the Portsmouth Police and Fire Departments Honor Guard held a procession and posted the colors.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Harold Whitehouse, Former City Councilor

Harold Whitehouse led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

STAR-SPANGLLED BANNER

Performed by the Portsmouth Holiday Ensemble – Steve Circillo

Steve Circillo conducted the Portsmouth Holiday Ensemble in 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 5, 2019 Municipal Election.

A. FIRE COMMISSION

Commissioner Michael Hughes

City Clerk Barnaby announced that Commissioner Hughes is unable to join us this evening due to a prior commitment.

B. POLICE COMMISSION

Commissioner Stefany Shaheen

C. SCHOOL BOARD

Pip Clews, Ann Walker, Margaux Peabody and Hope Van Epps

D. CITY COUNCIL

1. Councilors Deaglan McEachern, Peter Whelan, Cliff Lazenby, Esther Kennedy, Petra Huda, John Tablr, Paige Trace
2. Assistant Mayor James Splaine
3. Mayor Rick Becksted

V. ADDRESS BY MAYOR RICK BECKSTED

Mayor Becksted indicated he observed many Inaugurations, the last 4 or 5 Mayor's where and some sat and some stood at the podium and his style is more of walking with the microphone.

He thanked Chaplain Pelkey for being here this evening, the Portsmouth Fire and Police Honor Guards, and the Portsmouth High School with Steve Cirillo, and thanked Portsmouth for being here tonight.

He stated that this has been an overwhelming journey, six years for himself and his family. He said he believed that something needed to change and he started coming to meetings and addressing concerns, which picked up some momentum. He said he ran for City Council and did ok. Six years later, this has been unbelievable and overwhelming. He stated he is so humbled and honored to be here, for somebody that grew up in Portsmouth, graduated from Portsmouth High School, and married his high school sweetheart. He spoke to his daughter Kaitlyn, graduated last year from Portsmouth High School and that his son is a sophomore at the high school that will be graduating in a few years from Portsmouth High School too.

He stated the things that are important to him in Portsmouth is its history. History is value, history is what draws people to our town. We're a very unique town, unlike any other town. A town that is going to be celebrating a 400th Anniversary in merely three years. There are not many towns that can actually say that. I want to remind people that the visitors that are here, we seem to take advantage some times that we live here, I don't think we do, but we need to protect the history. He said the historical factor of this town, the old buildings are not just a museum, but is what draws people here. He said he and the Council understand the importance of that.

Now, as far as our present Portsmouth, he wants to make sure we protect our residents and neighborhoods. He said development is an important thing, but it has to be done in a certain manner. He said he has seen and lost too many friends and family members from generations, which unfortunately have had to leave because they can no longer afford this. It is not going to be easy and he doesn't have the answers, and he's not sure if everyone up here has the answers as well but, he is counting on the community, all of you here and on television. He stated there has been more involvement over the last 6 to 12 months, more so than ever, more than any meeting he has attended as a City Councilor or a land use board member, and we need to continue that. We cannot make the changes that he believes the residents of Portsmouth want without your help. We have great, smart, intelligent people in this town and we need to harness that, and take advantage of that, and he will be counting on all of you to help make that happen.

Lastly, is our future, he will be in this position for two years and he's going to make the best of it. He said he made the best of it over the last two years as a City Councilor no matter the outcome. He actually sat where Councilor Trace is right now and to go from that to this in two years, he's humbled and honored. We have a great Council. This city has a Council now that he believes is truly going to listen. He said not just himself but everyone up there will listen to your concerns, and your concerns are our concerns. He said those concerns will be addressed by us as a community. Mayor Becksted said everyone one of these people in front of you have a special unique gift whether it be from a financial perspective. He said we have a couple of financial gurus that are on the Council, historians and an everythingologist because she knows a little bit about everything. Jim Splaine as far as our history, he knows where we came from and that is an important thing to be able to move forward. He is so looking forward to meeting with Deagan. He's smart, energetic and ready to get into this. Peter, he's learned so much from him, his business sense and he's looking forward to working with Peter. Councilor Lazenby, we have worked together the last two years, you're a very smart individual, and he's looking forward to your advice and perspective on things.

He would like to thank his family and his wife. He said he doesn't know whether it has been easy over the last six years of this journey. He said the meetings took place at night so it was pretty easy, his wife is a school teacher and goes to bed fairly early and there is nothing to do and this is better than watching television. He spoke to his wife stating from the bottom of his heart, thank you for giving him the opportunity, he hopes to make her proud of him, Portsmouth is proud of him, and he hopes she will continue to be proud of him and support him over these next two years. He stated he loves his wife.

City Clerk Barnaby read letters of congratulations from Senator Shaheen and Hassan to Mayor Becksted and the City Council.

Following the Mayor's Address the Holiday Ensemble performed America the Beautiful and Ode to Joy.

Mayor Becksted introduced new City Manager Karen Conard. He said Karen has been with us since December 16th and Karen stood out during the interview process right from the very beginning and did for the previous City Council and the City as a whole. He said we have only just begun to see what Karen's possible of she is learning the ropes and he expect great things from Karen and welcome to Portsmouth.

Mayor Becksted thanked everyone for their part in the Inauguration and said City Clerk Barnaby will be helping him the next few meetings until he gets adjusted to his new position. Following the Benediction, he invited everyone to please join us in the Portsmouth Room for light refreshments.

VI. BENEDICTION BY CHAPLAIN PELKEY, PORTSMOUTH FIRE & POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Chaplain Pelkey performed the Benediction.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:40 p.m., Councilor Kennedy moved to adjourn. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine 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/CNHMC
City Clerk