

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

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

Remote Meeting via Zoom Conference Call

To register in advance for this meeting, click on the link below or copy and paste it into your web browser:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sg-uYL3KQTgAWtI8QKsi_g

You are required to register in advance to join the meeting over Zoom, a unique meeting ID and password will be provided once you register. Please note, this meeting will also be broadcast on the City's YouTube Channel. Public comments for the Council's consideration can be emailed in advance via the City's web site: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/citycouncil/contact-all-city-councilors>.

Per NH RSA 91-A:2 III (b) the Chair has declared COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-25, and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members will be participating remotely and will identify their location and any person present with them at that location. All votes will be by roll call.

At 6:00 p.m., an Anticipated Non-Public Session was held regarding 150 Greenleaf Avenue – Consideration of Litigation – RSA 91-A:3, II (e).

Mayor Becksted recited that this is a Remote Meeting via Zoom Conference Call. Per NH RSA 91-A:2 III (b) the Chair has declared COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-25 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members location. All votes will be by roll call.

- I. **WORK SESSION – *THERE IS NO WORK SESSION THIS EVENING***
- II. **PUBLIC DIALOGUE SESSION [*when applicable – every other regularly scheduled meeting*] – **POSTPONED****
- III. **CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:20 p.m. Mayor Becksted called the meeting to order.

IV. **ROLL CALL**

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

V. **INVOCATION**

Mayor Becksted asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer in memory of Tony Vaccaro who recently passed away at the age of 102 and the Council offered its thoughts to the family through their loss.

VI. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2021 & DECEMBER 21, 2020

Councilor Tabor moved to approve and accept the minutes of the February 8, 2021 and December 21 2020 City Council meetings. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Farewell and Thanks to Deputy City Manager Nancy Colbert Puff

City Manager Conard offered well wishes to Nancy Colbert Puff who will be departing from the City of Portsmouth and this is her last public City Council meeting. She thanked Nancy for all of her hard work and recognized her for the implementation of many projects while serving the City of Portsmouth.

B. Report from the Blue Ribbon Committee on Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation

Thomas Watson, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee and Cheri Ruane of Weston and Sampson reported on the proposed 2021 Master Plan which include the following:

- Stabilize and raise existing seawalls; improve and add tide gates
- Regrade Performance Lawn to temporarily hold above ground stormwater
- Regrade Water Street for preferential inundation pathways
- Raise and relocate the Shaw
- New addition beside the Shaw to accommodate mechanical systems (fire protection, etc.), accessibility requirements (Ph2)
- Based on resilient preservation approach the Shaw is raised and moved and the temporary stage is relocated to the vicinity of the “rail”

A review of the summary of changes were provided as outlined:

- Increased specificity of the necessary improvements create a resilient park, which informed the re-ordering of the implementation phases and included the relocation and raising of the Shaw Warehouse (Secretary of Interior’s Guidelines on Flood Adaptation for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings will be followed)
- A site change in the proposed relocation of the performing arts stage
- Re-assessment of the functionality of the Shaw Warehouse
- Re-ordering the phases of the Master Plan Implementation

Mr. Watson reported that the summary of changes were discussed with Co-Chair Richard Smith of the Peirce Island Committee over the weekend and he wished the Blue Ribbon Committee its best on their report to the Council.

Councilor Lazenby moved to accept the proposed changes to the Prescott Park Master Plan as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Committee on Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine.

Mayor Becksted said the Committee has done great work during these times and thanked them. He expressed concerns and said he wants to make sure we receive the biggest bang for our bucks with the project. He stated that he would rather see funds expended for other implementations of the plan rather than raising the Shaw building. Ms. Ruane spoke to the improvements needed to Water Street to accommodate infrastructure below grade and the Shaw building is part of that. Mayor Becksted said he is uncomfortable with relocating the stage and would like to amend the motion to exclude the stage relocation. Ms. Ruane spoke to the 15 meetings held on this plan and the input received from the public. Mr. Watson said let's not try to solve problems that might have solutions in the future. He stated in order to save the Shaw building we need to relocate the stage.

Councilor Kennedy stated that the stage is seasonal and not permanent. Mr. Watson said that is correct. She further stated there will be no increase in attendance with the plan. Mr. Watson said there is a defined seating area surrounded by paths and will have a natural number of seats. He further stated they cannot predict how many people will show up.

Councilor Huda would like the Committee to come back to the City Council with a better idea of what dollars will look like and estimates are probably conservative.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, motion passed.

Councilor Kennedy said moving forward the projects will come back on finances and we need to bring numbers for the amount of people and if parking needs to be looked at in the South End that need to be brought forward as well.

C. Presentation from the Blue Ribbon Committee to Reopen Portsmouth 2021 – Mark Stebbins

Mr. Stebbins said the goal is to focus on where they can be most effective and doing a better job this year. He reported permits have started to be accepted as of February 1st and we want to get people up and operating on the streets. He spoke to the beautification of concrete barriers and working with the Portsmouth High School on the design and painting of the barriers. He also spoke on installing planters at the top of the barriers and making them uniformed. Mr. Stebbins suggested having a budget of up to \$20,000.00 for working on the barriers.

Councilor Kennedy said at the meeting a figure of \$10,000.00 was discussed for the barriers and not \$20,000.00. She would like to make sure we look at all small businesses and reach out to everyone.

Mr. Stebbins said we reached out and expect to hear back from the businesses. He said the Committee spoke to \$10,000.00 but when speaking to Portsmouth High School we talked about installing planters on the top and thought the amount should be raised to \$20,000.00. Councilor Kennedy asked how many barriers we are expecting. Mr. Stebbins said about 65 barriers.

Assistant Mayor Splaine moved to appropriate up to \$20,000.00 from the Contingency Fund for the beautification of the barriers and to work with the Portsmouth High School on this project. Seconded by Councilor Tabor.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said he suggested we decorate the barriers and it is a clean uniformed approach. He encouraged the Committee to come back to the City Council with other investments if they have thoughts or ideas.

Councilor Huda said she expected the amount asked for would be up to \$10,000.00. She said she is having a hard time going back to the same process and subsidizing businesses downtown because most businesses received funding through the CARES Act.

Councilor Tabor said he supports the motion and the \$20,000.00 should be looked at as seed money for long term dining downtown. He said street dining should be treated as an investment.

Councilor McEachern thanked Mr. Stebbins for the work he is doing and would support the motion and funding.

Councilor Lazenby asked if Rule 32 would apply to the motion on the table regarding expenditure of funds. City Attorney Sullivan said that would depend upon sources of funding.

City Manager Conard said the funding source for the \$20,000.00 would be the Contingency Fund. Councilor Huda asked if the City Manager anticipates anywhere else the funds would come from. City Manager Conard said she does not, unless there are CARES Act funding coming forward which is an unknown at this time.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said this is part of the City and not a gift to the downtown. He said having a year round downtown experience outside could be part of the future and bring more vibrancy and that this is an investment for the residents.

On a roll call vote 8-1, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilor Huda voted opposed.

Councilor Kennedy moved to suspend the rules in order to take up Item XVII. A. – COVID-19 Vaccinations Status Update by Fire Chief Germain. Seconded by Councilor Trace.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XVII. A. – COVID-19 Vaccinations Status Update by Fire Chief Germain

Fire Chief Germain spoke to the current active COVID cases in the seacoast area and hospitalizations. He reported that there have been 991 people vaccinated in the seacoast area with 700 administered by the Portsmouth Fire Department.

He spoke to providing Mr. Vaccaro with his first shot and how excited he was to receive the first part of the vaccine and his plan after receiving the second shot was to see his grandchildren. However, Mr. Vaccaro passed away before the second shot could be administered.

The City Council thanked Fire Chief Germain and his staff for all their hard work.

Fire Chief Germain thanked Brinn Sullivan for her work on this process as well as Health Officer McNamara.

Councilor Tabor asked for an update on making Portsmouth a vaccination site. Fire Chief German said the State is actively pursuing sites and no decision has been made at this point.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said that staff has handled all of this in an extraordinary way and there will be a lot of heroes from this.

Fire Chief Germain said over the next few weeks opportunities will open up and get better for receiving the vaccination.

Councilor Trace asked if the City could reach out to the State to suggest that it is a missing link in the City without having a site available. Fire Chief Germain said perhaps a letter would help in getting a site and there is much involved in timing for a site. He said he has contacts at the State which he reached out to but they have an entire State to think about but a letter would not hurt.

Councilor Trace asked if City Manager Conard could work on preparing a letter to be sent to the State. City Manager Conard said that she would.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Matthew Glenn said he was frustrated with the Council's vote to add three electronic crosswalks and that it did not follow a process. He urged the City Council to move forward with the Toole Design for the Middle Street Bike Lanes. He also asked the City Council to move forward with all safety measures proposed by the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee.

Andrew Bagley said we lost Bill Murphy a legendary football coach at Portsmouth High School. He also spoke to the importance of following a process with requests for expenditures for the installation of electronic crosswalks. He said some places that are not in the downtown are sometimes second thoughts, with downtown receiving the priority. He said the funding request should come from Parking and Traffic Safety Committee and the Planning Department for the cross walks. He spoke in support of the cross walk recommended for Madison Street.

Josh Denton announced that PopUp NH has filed for its 501C 3 status. He spoke to his report contained in the Council packet and recommended the use of the Worth Lot for PopUp.

Kelly Shaw said she is pleased with improvements on Middle Road and thanked Public Works Director Rice and Parking Engineer Eby for their work on this matter.

Liza Hewitt spoke in support of the traffic calming plan for Middle Road but would like to see the speed limit lowered.

Janelle Clark spoke in support of traffic calming on Middle Road and is excited for the changes. She also stated her support to lower the speed limit to 35 mph.

Peter Somssich spoke to the traffic increasing on Middle Road into town. He said the Public Works Department listened to the neighborhood and recommended changes for traffic calming.

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

Public Hearing on Ordinance

- A. Public Hearing/Second Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article III, Section 1.310 – Zoning Board of Adjustment and Article IV, Section 1.404 – Historic District Commission

Mayor Becksted read the legal notice, declared the public hearing open and called for speakers.

- **PRESENTATION**

There was no presentation on this ordinance.

- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS**

There were no questions by the City Council.

- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**

Andrew Bagley spoke opposed to the ordinance and supports previous comments made by Councilor Lazenby.

After three calls and no further speakers, Mayor Becksted declared the public hearing closed.

- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

There were no additional City Council questions or deliberations.

Councilor Kennedy moved to pass second reading and schedule third and final reading at the March 8, 2021 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Huda.

On a roll call vote 8-1, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilor Lazenby voted opposed.

XII. MAYOR BECKSTED

1. Appointments to be Voted:
 - Richard Duddy to the Recreation Board
 - Rebecca O'Brien to the Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee

Councilor Kennedy moved to appoint Richard Duddy to the Recreation Board until April 1, 2023 and Rebecca O'Brien to the Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee until December 31, 2021. Seconded by Councilor Huda.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XIII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. ASSISTANT MAYOR SPLAINE

1. City Manager Check-In

Assistant Mayor Splaine moved to schedule a Work Session on Monday, March 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Lazenby.

Assistant Mayor Splaine reported that the City Council met with the City Manager for 2 ½ hours and discussed a number of issues. He stated a great deal of time was spent on priorities and goals. He said the Council will meet with City Manager Conard in a public work session and if there is a need to enter into Non-Public Session the Council could do so.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

B. COUNCILOR McEACHERN

1. Update from the Recreation Board

Councilor McEachern congratulated Todd Henley for being named the new Recreation Director. He spoke to summer programming and said they're largely dependent on what the State will allow us to do. He spoke regarding the indoor pool and how they may find more issues when they start the repairs. He reported that Spinnaker Point HVAC system does not support COVID regulations and they're assessing the issue currently. He advised the Council the Recreation Board is speaking with other facilities regarding an ice hockey arena and he would like the Council to have a presentation on this matter at the next City Council meeting and move forward with an RFQ. Councilor McEachern also spoke in support of Brinn Sullivan and her work at the Senior Center and helping those that needed rides to receive their vaccine.

Councilor McEachern requested the Recreation Board provide presentations regarding Edge Sports Facility and the conversion of two tennis courts into pickle ball courts at the March 8, 2021 City Council meeting.

C. COUNCILOR WHELAN

1. Action Items Needing Approval by City Council:

- Report Back on recommendations for traffic calming measures for Banfield Road

Councilor Whelan spoke to the traffic calming measures for Banfield Road.

Councilor Whelan moved to accept and approve the report with additional signage for pedestrian and bicycle crossings on Banfield Road. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

- Report Back on recommendations for traffic calming measures for Middle Road

Councilor Whelan moved to accept and approve the pilot program. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

Councilor Lazenby asked if there were budgetary issues and where in the budget will the funds come from and how does that deal with the matter of electronic crossing voted on at the last meeting. City Manager Conard said there is a phased approach and funds are to come from Capital Outlay.

Parking and Transportation Engineer Eby spoke to the work that would be conducted for the flashing pedestrian walk signals and that funding is available for this project.

Assistant Mayor Splaine asked about the speed limit and said traffic calming is great but he would like to see the speed limit reduced.

Parking and Transportation Engineer Eby said the speed limits would remain at their current level as they would like to see what changes take place with the traffic calming.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said he would support a speed limit of 25 mph and we would need to monitor the effects the changes will make on Middle Road.

Councilor Whelan said we want to see what changes we could make. He said the electronic flashing sign is because we had a hit and run in the area and we need to consider residents.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

2. Parking & Traffic Safety Action Sheet and Minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting

Councilor Kennedy moved to remove the following items from the Parking & Traffic Safety Action Sheet:

- ***Item 4 – Report back on recommendations for traffic calming measures for South Street, from Lafayette Road to Marcy Street***
- ***Item 10 – Peverly Hill Road Complete Streets project update***
- ***Item 11 – Middle Street bike lanes status update***
- ***Item 12 – Bicycle traffic volumes on Lafayette Road at South Street***

In addition, removal of Informational items contained in the minutes:

- ***Item E – Middle Street bike lanes status update***
- ***Item F – Bicycle traffic volumes on Lafayette Road at South Street***

Seconded by Councilor Huda.

Councilor McEachern said he would like to figure out a better way of approving the action sheet and minutes. He said we're calling out individual items and eventually we are heading towards becoming Parking and Traffic Safety. He said dealing with each item individually is a risk.

Councilor Whelan said Parking and Traffic Safety approved two major items for traffic calming during their meeting.

Councilor Kennedy said Parking and Traffic Safety is the only committee that we approve the minutes.

Mayor Becksted said this is a stream line process where things are implemented on a temporary basis before becoming permanent by vote of the City Council.

On a roll call vote 6-3, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilors McEachern, Lazenby and Tabor voted opposed.

Councilor Kennedy moved to accept and approve the Parking Traffic & Safety Action Sheet excluding items:

#4 – Report back on recommendations for traffic calming measures for South Street, from Lafayette Road to Marcy Street

#10 – Peverly Hill Road Complete Streets project update

#11 – Middle Street bike lanes status update

#12 – Bicycle traffic volumes on Lafayette Road at South Street

Informational Item E – Middle Street bike lanes status update

Information Item F – Bicycle traffic volumes on Lafayette Road at South Street

from the Minutes of the February 4, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Huda.

On a roll call vote 5-4, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Tabor and Trace voted in favor. Councilors Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda and Mayor Becksted voted opposed.

Mayor Becksted declared a brief recess at 10:18 p.m. At 10:32 p.m., Mayor Becksted called the meeting back to order.

Councilor Kennedy moved to suspend the rules in order to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m., Seconded by Councilor Huda.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

D. COUNCILOR LAZENBY

1. Request for Report Back on Bike/Pedestrian CIP Budget related to request for Electronic Crosswalk Signs

Councilor Lazenby asked City Manager Conard if we know the confirmed amount for the cost of the three signs and where in the budget the funds will come from. City Manager Conard said the cost is approximately \$15,000.00 - \$16,000.00 per sign and we have \$58,000.00 in Capital Outlay from a former Parking and Traffic Safety item and this matter will go before the Parking and Traffic Safety Committee meeting.

Councilor Lazenby asked how we could expend funds without the items being listed on the Council Agenda. He stated Rule 32 would not apply here because it was from a former item already in the budget, but if it was a new item and there were no funds available Rule 32 would come into play.

Mayor Becksted said this could possibly align with COVID funding because more people are walking.

Councilor Kennedy said she researched the costs for a sign and she found one for \$1,249.00 and felt that \$15,000.00 was quite extravagant.

Councilor Tabor said he is concerned with the vote taken at the last meeting for the funding of three electronic crosswalk signs. Mayor Becksted said that this is a safety issue and the Council should be able to take action.

Councilor Lazenby said that this request should have gone through a process.

Councilor McEachern said all the points were raised at the last meeting and it would go before Parking and Traffic Safety to highlight issues of importance. He said if the City Council could point out areas of concerns and place it on Parking and Traffic Safety to move it along.

Mayor Becksted said he would like to have a Work Session or Retreat with staff and City Councilor's to discuss these kind of issues.

2. Request for Report Back on effort and costs to implement Safety Recommendations for Middle Street Bike Lanes

Councilor Lazenby moved for a report back on efforts and costs to implement safety recommendations on the bike lanes. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine.

Councilor Kennedy said the City Council did not vote to have a report done by Toole Design and she is not in support of having the review by someone that is not certified in New Hampshire. She said she would like to put the cars back to the curb and install a crosswalk. She said she would also like to have kids go onto Lincoln Avenue with the installation of a crosswalk.

Councilor Huda spoke to the walk through done back in August of the Middle Street area and the bike lanes and said the problems were obvious and residents were being left behind. She said the main purpose of the study was for safety not comfort and kids should be at the top of the list.

Councilor McEachern said the point by Councilor Huda made on safety versus comfort is what we are looking at. He asked how many parking space we would give up for the Lincoln Avenue path. He would like to see an understanding to create elevated bike lanes on Middle Street, an extension of the curb, and bike lanes installed next to the sidewalk. He requested an estimate for that to be able to move forward.

City Manager Conard said Toole Design will look at the cost and she said they are certified in New Hampshire.

Mayor Becksted spoke to Lincoln Avenue being a shared way for Safe Routes to Schools. He said we have a bike lane that ends at Highland Street. He said the largest detriment on the road would be the parked cars. He stated a solution would be to take it from Highland to the tip of Lincoln and eliminate the bike lane from Lincoln to the downtown. He said we need a shared lane to the downtown.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said bike lanes are not just for kids, the idea of bike lanes came forward in 2014 and we are trying to find a way to expand the lanes for all people old or young. He said we need to find a way to make the bike lane on Middle Street better than what currently exists.

On a roll call vote 6-3, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Tabor and Trace voted in favor. Councilors Kennedy, Huda and Mayor Becksted voted opposed.

E. COUNCILOR KENNEDY

1. Demolition Committee

Councilor Kennedy said she would encourage the City Council to look at the Demolition Committee. She spoke to the meeting recently held by the Demolition Committee and the lack of public input. She said changes might need to be made to the Committee and have a representative from the Council and that all committees should allow public comment.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said we need to have discussion on this matter. He requested the creation of the Committee and establishment of the ordinance and agrees there was not enough examination on the forming and format of the Committee. He said he would like the City Attorney to provide his thoughts on how the Committee could improve.

Mayor Becksted said we do need to look at this and make modifications to the ordinance.

City Attorney Sullivan said the Committee would make a recommendation to the City Council.

F. COUNCILOR HUDA

1. CAFR Projects

Councilor Huda said she reviewed the projects report contained in the CAFR with the report she prepared and there are differences that need to be addressed.

Councilor Huda moved that the City Manager provide a report or list of unidentified projects per the CAFR FY18, FY19, FY20 Reports as noted on the attached summary schedule.

- **Various Streets & Sidewalk, Infrastructure, (Unidentified)**
- **Also please provide a list of the name of the projects under General Fund, Water Fund & Sewer Fund where the total given does not add to the detail listing**

Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

Finance Director Belanger advised the City Council that the CAFR is the summary of many projects and a full list of the projects could be provided to the Council. She reported that the MDA's were reviewed and audited and are correct. She explained that an MDA is a narrative position of the CAFR which highlights and are not intended to list all projects.

Councilor McEachern said he is trying to get to the heart of this. He congratulated Finance Director Belanger and the City on the recent budget award. He said Councilor Huda created a report that does not align with staff's and our report has been audited, reviewed and determined to be accurate.

Councilor Huda said she would like to know the projects we have and take it right through funding. She wants to know which projects are going out for bonding and where we currently stand.

Finance Director Belanger explained we only list major events and do not have to include the dollar amounts however, we do provide that information. She said the numbers and table are correct and have been audited.

Councilor Kennedy said they're trying to figure out where the bonds are and what is the status of the bonds.

Councilor Tabor said Councilor Huda took him through numbers and it does not reconcile because it does not have the smaller projects listed.

Councilor McEachern said we need to let staff and the City Manager do their jobs.

On a roll call vote 6-3, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilors McEachern, Lazenby and Tabor voted opposed.

G. COUNCILOR TRACE

1. Islington Street Corridor Phase Two (2) Project

Councilor Trace moved to schedule a Work Session on Monday, March 8th at 5:30 p.m. with a Presentation by Juliet Walker Planning Director, Peter Rice Public Works Director, Terry Desmarais City Engineer, and anyone else appropriate regarding Islington Street Corridor Phase Two (2) Project by the City of Portsmouth Planning Department before City Council Vote on CIP. The second phase to continue along Islington Street to Congress Street. The presentation to include also a separation of any Sewer Upgrade/Sewer Separation Figures by Department of Public Works for the figure for Islington Street Corridor Phase Two figure for all other work. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

Councilor Trace spoke opposed to pushing out the Islington Street Corridor Phase Two Project until 2027. She said the neighborhood deserves the same quality of life as other areas of the City and we started this project and need to finish it. She stated she would like to hear from our Public Works Department on the costs of traffic and pedestrian calming along Islington Street.

City Manager Conard suggested holding a work session prior to the March 8th City Council meeting.

Councilor Trace said we owe it to the West End residents and asked Planning Director Walker to provide a presentation with Public Works Director Rice and City Engineer Desmarais and anyone else that would have information to provide.

Mayor Becksted said he would like to have the work session begin at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular meeting.

Councilor Trace said she would like to hear public input from residents during the work session.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

2. Peirce Island Master Plan

Councilor Trace moved to schedule a Work Session on Peirce Island Master Plan by City Staff in Cooperation with Peirce Island Committee with input from the Committee and also Recreation Board as appropriate. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said we need to find ways to work with regions to provide wastewater treatment.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XIV. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. HealthTrust Wellness Program Reward

Assistant Mayor Splaine moved to approve and accept the reward as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lazenby.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XV. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION

A. CITY MANAGER

1. Amendment to Water Tank License Agreement Property Located on International Drive

City Manager Conard explained the amendment to the Water Tank License Agreement.

Councilor Lazenby moved to authorize the City Manager to execute Amendment 1 to the Water Tank License Agreement with DOT in a form substantially similar to the document contained in the City Manager's packet of February 22, 2021. Seconded by Councilor McEachern.

Councilor McEachern said we would be considering these agreements 60 days prior to expiration.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

2. 135 Congress Street Temporary Construction License

City Manager Conard reported that the extension runs through October 1, 2021.

Councilor Tabor moved that the City Manager be authorized to execute and accept the temporary license regarding 135 Congress Street as submitted. Seconded by Councilor Lazenby.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XVI. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Letter from Richard Mason, Veterans Count, requesting permission to hold the Pack & Boots 5K Road Race on Sunday, July 4, 2021 (alternate date October 2, 2021)
(Anticipated action – moved to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)

Councilor Huda moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XVII. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

- B. Email Correspondence

Councilor Kennedy moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Huda.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

- C. Letter from CJ Fleck, Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (SABR), requesting Implementing Toole Design recommendations for the Middle Street bike safety project
- D. Letter from Josh Denton, President, PopUp NH Board of Directors, regarding PopUp NH 2020 and 2021 Seasons

Councilor Kennedy moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Huda.

Councilor Lazenby spoke regarding keeping the items separate from each other and to refer Item D to the Arts and Non-Profit Blue Ribbon Committee with an answer to their proposal.

Councilor Huda said she disagrees with Councilor Lazenby on this matter.

Councilor McEachern moved to amend the motion and separate out the Letter from Josh Denton President, PopUp NH Board of Directors, regarding PopUp NH 2020 and 2021 Seasons for further discussion and refer the letter to the Arts and Non-Profit Blue Ribbon Committee. Seconded by Councilor Tabor.

Councilor McEachern said it is reasonable to direct things we receive and forward them to a committee for review. He said with the date getting close, with a great deal of work to be done on this matter, he would like to see the City Council receive a report back from the Arts and Non-Profit Committee.

Councilor Trace said she understands what Councilor's McEachern and Lazenby are looking for, however, we have not received verification that they are recognized by governmental authorities as a non-profit.

Councilor Lazenby said this is a Committee dealing with arts in our community and they are in the process of filing their 501C 3 status. He said the intent of the organization is good.

Councilor Tabor said he would like to see this matter go to the Arts and Non-Profit Blue Ribbon Committee because there are many questions to vet in this letter. He would like to see the Committee receive help from City staff.

Councilor Trace said she understands where Councilor's Lazenby and Tabor are coming from but they never bothered to get their 501C 3 designation. She said she would agree to send this to the Arts and Non-Profit Committee.

On a roll call vote 6-3, motion passed. Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Kennedy and Huda voted opposed.

- C. Letter from CJ Fleck, Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (SABR), requesting Implementing Toole Design recommendations for the Middle Street bike safety project

Councilor Huda moved to accept and place the letter on file. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

XVIII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

(There are no items under this section of the agenda this evening)

XIX. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

XX. ADJOURNMENT

At 12:30 a.m., Councilor Kennedy moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Huda.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

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