

TO: KAREN CONARD, CITY MANAGER

FROM: KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK

RE: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD BY ZOOM ON MONDAY, MARCH 15, 2021 MEETING AT EACH INDIVIDUAL CITY COUNCILOR'S HOME, CITY MANAGER CONARD'S OFFICE, CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, AND CITY CLERK'S HOME

PRESENT: MAYOR BECKSTED, ASSISTANT MAYOR SPLAINE, COUNCILORS McEACHERN, WHELAN, LAZENBY, KENNEDY (6:50PM), HUDA, TABOR AND TRACE

1. 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 will be participating remotely and will identify their location. All votes will be by roll call.
2. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2022-2027 – Held the public hearing. **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to continue action on the Capital Improvement Plan on Monday, March 22, 2021.
3. **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to suspend the rules in order to take up Item XIII B.1. – Upgrade the Greenleaf Skateboard Park.
4. Upgrade the Greenleaf Skateboard Park – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to refer to the Recreation Board with a report back on the following: How the city can fix the Greenleaf Skateboard Park while working with the citizens group. This report shall be given at the April 5th City Council meeting.
5. Third and Final Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article III, Section 1.310 – Zoning Board of Adjustment and Article IV, Section 1.404 – Historic District Commission – **On a roll call 8-1, voted** to pass third and final reading. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilor Lazenby voted opposed.
6. Appointment of Renee Giffroy to the Arts & Non-Profit Blue Ribbon Committee – Mayor Becksted announced the appointment of Renee Giffroy to the Arts & Non-Profit Blue Ribbon Committee.
7. Adoption of City Council Principles for Legislative Positions – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to adopt the Principles for Legislative Positions.

8. Identification of City owned lands that could serve as spots for affordable housing – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to request the City Manager report back on potential sites for housing while consulting with relevant stakeholders such as Portsmouth Housing Authority at the City Manager’s discretion.
9. Pickleball Courts – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to request the City Manager work with City staff to convert two tennis courts at South Playground to Pickleball Courts.
10. RFP for Public / Private Sports Complex – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to request the City Manager define an RFP process for Public / Private Sports Complex.
11. Demolition Committee – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** a report back from the Planning Board, Historic District Commission, and Demolition Committee on how to improve the Demolition Committee. This will include but not be limited to deterrents for the demolition of Portsmouth buildings, fines for misconduct, and public comments at meetings. Also, incentive for preservation of historical buildings. The expectation would be a report back at the first meeting in May.
12. Middle Street Bike Lane – Moved to make modifications to the Middle Street Bike Lane from Highland Street to the Intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Middle Street. This would be completed by moving the cars back to the curb, adding a flashing cross walk sign and crosswalk, and designate Lincoln Avenue as a safe route to schools bike route. This should be completed by April 15, 2021.

On a roll call 5-4, voted to amend the motion to include that there will be a study for 6 months in accordance to an email that we received from Mr. Bill Watson with an outcome of at the end of the 6 month period there will be a final discussion and decision between city staff, elected officials, community members and the State Department of Transportation on the final configuration of bike lanes along Middle Street or what other acceptable options will look like. Councilors Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Lazenby and Tabor voted opposed.

On a roll call 5-4, voted to pass main motion as amended. Councilors Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Lazenby and Tabor voted opposed.

13. **On a roll call 8-1, voted** to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace voted in favor. Councilor Lazenby voted opposed.

14. Capital Improvement Plan & Associated Bonding Process – On a roll call 8-1, voted that the City Manager provide an update to the bonds issued and authorized un-issued report previously that identifies the CIP Projects listed under the description of:
- Bi-Annual Street Paving
 - Bi-Annual Sidewalk Improvements
 - School Building Improvements
 - Elementary School Improvements
 - Citywide Bridges
 - Citywide Bridge Improvements
 - Citywide Building Improvements
 - Annual Waterline Replacements
 - Annual Sewer Line Replacements
 - Pumping Station Upgrades

This level of transparency is to help the residents/taxpayers see the projects that affect their streets, neighborhoods, and schools, which their tax dollars are funding thru the general fund or bonding.

Also to bring more transparency to the process by which project construction timing is prioritized or adjusted then funded for the Capital Improvement Plan.

These requests are being made in response to taxpayer questions on:

- Islington Street Construction
- Elwyn Road Sidewalks
- Peeverly Hill Sidewalks
- Sound Barrier Wall Construction Off I-95
- Middle Road & Route 33 Safety Updates
- Maplewood Bridge Construction

Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilor Lazenby voted opposed.

15. Donation of Bike Service Station from Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders (SABR) – On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to accept the donation from SABR of a bike service station valued in the amount of approximately \$1,234.00.
16. Building Permit Fee Waiver for the South Church – On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to waive the building permit fee for the South Church, as presented.
17. Request to Schedule a Work Session Regarding Peirce Island Master Plan – On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to schedule a Peirce Island Master Plan work session at 6:00 p.m. on April 19, 2021.

18. Request to Schedule Public Hearing for Refunding (Refinancing) a Callable Bond – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to establish a Special City Council meeting and public hearing on Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for a Refunding Bond Resolution of up to Seven Million Dollars (\$7,000,000.00), to refund the remaining portion of the aforementioned callable bond and all related costs.
19. 46 Maplewood Avenue Revised Public Access Easement – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to grant authority for the City Manager to negotiate, execute, accept and record the pedestrian access easement an partial release of easement with plans and other related documents in a form similar to those attached in the City Manager’s comments dated March 4, 2021.
20. 145 Maplewood Avenue Request for Extension of Temporary Construction License – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** that the City Manager be authorized to execute and accept the temporary construction license regarding 145 Maplewood Avenue as submitted.
21. Proposed Longmeadow Road Extension Project – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** that the City Manager be authorized to negotiate, execute, deliver and record deeds and easements in a form substantially similar to those attached in the City Manager’s memorandum dated March 4, 2021 to complete the extension of Longmeadow Road.
22. Patricia Drive Release of City Interest and Renaming of Private Road – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to approve the conveyance by release deed of ownership of 7,860 square feet of roadway as shown on the Plan labeled “Proposed Subdivision Plan: Tax Map 283 Lot 11 dated February 10, 2021, and to approve renaming the private road to Hemlock Way.
23. Consent Agenda – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to adopt the Consent Agenda and refer to City Manager with Authority to Act.
 - A. Request for License to install a Projecting Sign for owner Melissa Pticher, Max Charles, LLC for property located at 168 Fleet Street (**Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign Licenses 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 stored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works***

B. Letter from Fred Petrone, I Got Bridged, requesting permission to hold a Walk-A-Thon for the charity "I GOT BRIDGED" on Sunday, September 26, 2021 or Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

C. Letter from Barbara Massar, Pro Portsmouth, Inc., updated programming events:

- Children's Day – Sunday, May 2, 2021; cancelled
- 44th Annual Market Square Day Festival & 10k Road Race, Saturday, June 12, 2021; re-scheduled to Saturday, September 18, 2021
- 18th Annual Summer in the Street – Originally planned for Saturday evenings – July 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st, TBD

(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)

24. Email Correspondence – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to accept and place on file.

25. Report Back on Proposed Modifications to the Middle Street Bike Lanes – **On a roll call vote 4- 5, motion** to implement the recommendations from Toole Design along with changes to Middle Street up to the amount of \$1,400.00 that the City said it would cost ***failed*** to pass. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Lazenby and Tabor voted in favor. Councilors Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted opposed.

26. Adjournment – **At 11:20 p.m., on a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk