

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

ADDENDUM

Received: December 2, 2021 (after 9:00 a.m.) – December 6, 2021 (before 5:00 p.m.)

December 6, 2021 Council Meeting

New content:

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Randal Leach (rjleach1196@yahoo.com) on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 06:21:29

address: 358 Thornton St

comments: Why are trucks still using Bartlett, Dennett and Woodbury streets. Three days this week I was woken by trucks shaking my house.

Consider this message to the City of Portsmouth providing notice consistent with RSA 231:92 for any more damage to my property. I have for years complain about the trucks damaging my 125 year old foundation. I have repaired as much as I can but it continues.

It was very nice of the city to send me a cease and desist letter for complaining about this issue. Then get a phone call from officer Sargent telling me I will be arrested is call again and if I don't like to "f*** move "!!

This city has been my home for 63 years. As I write this another truck shacking my house.

12/3/21 0725

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Christine Randall (cmcr1954@gmail.com) on Friday, December 3, 2021 at 12:23:32

address: 80 Diamond Drive

comments: I've been listening to meetings and reading about the councils desire to assign individuals to openings on various boards. In light of the fact that you are leaving the council very soon, and also that you seemed to appreciate the previous council affording you the opportunity to appoint your own individuals, it would seem to be the logical and respectful thing to do the same in this case.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Marcus Santy (marcus.santy99@gmail.com) on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 09:12:37

address: 46 Elwyn Road Portsmouth

comments: Hello mostly outgoing council,

I implore you to sit back, retract nominations, and allow the incoming council to take up all matters now at hand when they are sworn in in January. The election was a referendum on your leadership and we chose to end it. The decisions of 5 of you are not only foolish and costly, they are not what the majority of the city wants. Your time of self serving is done. The incoming council should not be handcuffed when they take office. It is clear to me that is what your goal is. There is no gift giving from you at this time. Please just go quietly and let the new council take up all matters now at hand.

Thank you,

Marcus Santy

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by William North Sturtevant (nsturtevant@jsainc.com) on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 09:00:00

address: 250 Highland Street

comments: Please consider that a measure of leadership is how one handles repudiation. The City is not behind you and your actions following the November does nothing but expose you for what you are.
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Dave Mitchell (dave@amaruq.com) on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 09:23:45

address: 1179 Maplewood Avenue

comments: I am a registered voter in Portsmouth, and I request that the current Mayor and the other members of the Council who were overwhelmingly defeated in the Municipal Election held on November 2, 2021, refrain from making any significant decisions with regard to city business, including major development projects and making appointments to land use boards. Most of all, please stop incurring legal liability that will fall to the city's taxpayers to cover; this includes summarily firing Kane, and gratuitously yanking DSA around.
thanks,
Dave Mitchell
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Pamela A. Richard (pam@amaruq.com) on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 10:25:03

address: 1179 Maplewood Ave

comments: I am gravely concerned about the potential for liability with regards to the McIntyre project. I respectfully ask that no further action be taken until the new city council is in place. I also request that appointments to boards wait for the new council.
Please do what is right for the city and the residents who have made their wishes very clear.
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Nancy Pearson (nespearson@gmail.com) on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 10:42:32

address: 104 Lincoln Ave

comments: Dear Mayor-Elect McEachern,

Congratulations on your historic victory. I know I join thousands of other residents in looking forward to a return to competent and ethical leadership for the city. As you are aware, you will have a lot of work ahead of you to untangle the legal and unethical issues brought on by the current mayor and his majority.
For example, our city ordinance, Section 1.303 under Planning Board says that "the mayor shall apportion appointments so that no more than three appointments occur annually." The current council approved three appointments last December 21. The current mayor is asking for two more on Monday, December 6 (which makes five), and another three on December 20, which would make a total of eight appointments. All within a calendar year. Even if you dismissed last year's appointments as occurring last year (which is an argument that doesn't quite hold up), the five he's putting forward just in this month clearly go beyond the intent of the ordinance.
In light of the flagrant disregard for our city's adopted policies, I encourage you to take steps now and be prepared to dissolve any planning board appointments made beyond his allotted three, as soon as the new council is sworn in in January.
Thank you, I appreciate all you have done and will continue to do for our city.
Nancy Pearson
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Dan Allen (Pitamandan@gmail.com) on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 11:49:50

address: 258 Buckminster Way

comments: Either give as much effort as Rick beekstead does to his T-shirt choices for council meetings, or just stop entirely. The councils wreckless, unrepresented, and ignorant decisions will cost this city greatly. It takes years to build a city, but only minutes to burn it down. It's clear this Lame Duck Council has chosen to act as quickly, and poorly, as possible to influence as much as they can in their remaining days clearly applying their own interests, and not the interest of the citizens of Portsmouth. The same citizens that overwhelmingly showed a VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE, striking down every single of the Beckstead5, and every other Republican candidate.

What happened to preserve Portsmouth? Wasn't that your campaign slogan? For the love of god, please preserve what's left, and stop burning this cities choices and opportunities down.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by J. Ryan Thompson (j.ryanthompson85@gmail.com) on Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 14:11:08

address: 14 Van Buren Ave

comments: Folks, please refrain from making drastic changes to our community in your final days. While I appreciate your passion for the community as well as the work you've done on the council now is not the time to misuse your power and make changes out of spite. You're all better than this, please do not end your tenure on this sad and petty note. Now is the time to work with the incoming council and collaborate on how we can have our community flourish. Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Margaret Flaherty (maggie.flaherty@gmail.com) on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 06:49:14

address: 860 Maplewood

comments: Dear Councilors,

I am writing in support of the new skate park. This is an investment that will enhance our city for residents and visitors of all ages. A skate park provides an opportunity for exercise, fun, and community building. Much like the tennis courts and fields at South Mill Pond the skate park will bring increased opportunity for recreation activities for our residents. I am hopeful that the council is fully supportive of this project.

Sincerely,

Maggie Flaherty

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Pamela Barrett (pambarrett@gmail.com) on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 11:28:39

address: Portsmouth

comments: Please leave the rest of the land with only grass. That allows other sports to play there. We don't need another playground.

includeInRecords: on

Engage: Submit

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Richard DiPentima (rdipentima@gmail.com) on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 11:32:02

address: 16 Dunlin Way,

comments: Dear Council members, especially those of you who are leaving the Council as a result of the most recent election. The voters of Portsmouth spoke very clearly and loudly on November 2nd, that we were not happy with the way at least five members of the Council were representing us. This is what democracy is about, and how we the people can effect change, and exercise our power.

The Mayor has stated publicly that he is still the Mayor until the end of the year and he will bring forth nominations to various boards and commissions during his remaining time in office. This is his right to do so. However, simply because he has a right to do so, and others have the right to vote to support his nominations, does not make it the right thing to do. In fact, considering the recent election results, it would be the wrong thing to do.

When officials lose elections they have two choices they can make upon leaving office. They can leave with dignity, respect for the voters decision, honor and integrity. On the other hand, they can leave office under a cloud of anger, resentment, and seek retribution against the people who they took an oath to serve.

Each one of you will need to decide which type of legacy you want to be remembered for in a historical sense. While you may get some short-term personal satisfaction by ignoring the will of the people, in the long-term, your actions will be a blemish on your reputations forever.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Chris Dwyer (cdwyer@rmcres.com) on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 17:34:55

address: 600 broad street

comments: For all of you on the Council, the time between election and January 1 must seem interminable—whether you were successful in the election, defeated in the election, or chose to step down from the political arena. While this is true for every Council, this time of transition is different because so many citizens are paying close attention and scrutinizing every Council word and action with a new-found civic zeal. Young people and newer residents are motivated to participate in ways that I had hoped would happen years ago. The emotional connection to principles of law and decency that has brought them to their feet means they will not forget this moment for their entire political lives.

What does that matter to you at this point? If you were one of the defeated, you can still act honorably and demonstrate that you have the long-term interests of most Portsmouth citizens in mind. If you have the hope of being taken seriously in civic or public life in Portsmouth's future, you should consider how your final actions on this Council will play under the microscope.

...Deaglan and John: your viewpoints, reasoning and votes are even more important—even if five votes are determined to defeat what you know is right, don't undermine your own potential by passively going along. You know you'll have support from Jim and Cliff.

Some of my friends from other parts of the state observe that it takes Portsmouth a very long time to make big decisions (i.e., the library, middle school, wastewater treatment plant, etc., etc.) but, they say, in the end Portsmouth will always do the right thing. Perhaps this observation also applies to individuals. While I've heard the description "sore loser" many times in the last few weeks, it need not apply to everyone.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Matthew Glenn (matthglenn@gmail.com) on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 20:17:32

address: 34 Harrison Avenue

comments: Dear Mayor and Councilors,

I'm very disappointed with the actions five of you took at the November 18th special council meeting. Having just lost your seats, it was shocking to see you vote without legal council and without properly advertised public comment in a way that exposes the city to lawsuits and huge costs. It does nothing to move us forward with the McIntyre property, and is clearly not the people's will-- two of the three top vote-getters, councilors McEachern and Tabor voted against it, while the other five of you lost your seats.

I'd like to ask you to hold off on all new appointments to the Planning Board and ZBA until a new council is seated, just as councilor Becksted asked in late 2019.

Thank you,

Matthew Glenn

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Kate Hatem (katemph@gmail.com) on Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 20:28:27

address: 1 Ash St

comments: Dear Portsmouth City Council,

I am writing to you to request that you withdraw or vote against Mayor Becksted's board appointments this week. This is a time when you can show the city that you care about all residents and respect the decision of the voters who very clearly voted to change the makeup of the next council. You still have the opportunity to leave this term with a little more respect from the people. The city wants a different type of governance and leadership. The city wants the next council to make these appointments. Show us that you can provide that in your final hours on the council to the city that we all love. As a resident, I would respect that type of leadership over pushing through a few more appointments just to make a point. Please, show the next council that you respect and trust them to govern appropriately. Show the people of our city that you can do the right thing right now.

Thank you.

Kate Hatem

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by John R Stebbins (john.stebbins@gmail.com) on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 06:45:54

address: 390 Richards Avenue

comments: I respectfully ask that any board appointments being considered by Mayor Becksted and Council be tabled for the incoming Council. It was made very clear, through the election, that the citizenry of Portsmouth was not happy with the direction that the Mayor Becksted and Council was taking the city. Extending Mayor Becksted's influence over the next three years through these board appointments is blatantly disrespectful of Portsmouth's citizenry.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Donna Westbrook (dmwestbrook@comcast.net) on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 07:50:14

address: 76D Manor Drive

comments: Greetings to Mayor Becksted and all present city council members, I am writing my first of what should be many letters to you and the next city council, about working with PHA on upcoming and future housing projects. There are many in public housing, myself and others, who feel that Executive Director Craig Welch is not doing his job to maintain repairs and upkeep of existing public housing in Portsmouth. I am asking that you do a survey among all PHA tenants, to help you understand the scope of his neglect. I ask this BEFORE you pursue any more projects going forward, with him.

Sincerely,

Donna Westbrook

76D Manor Drive

Portsmouth, NH 03801

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Doug Roberts (dougroberts4123@gmail.com) on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 12:04:02

address: 247 Richards Ave

comments: Councilors,

I'm writing to object to your recent 5-4 vote terminating the agreement with Redgate-Kane for redevelopment of the McIntyre Building and to the prospect of many lame-duck appointments, particularly to the Planning Board, in the last days of the current Council's term.

The McIntyre vote was invalid on a number of grounds, the most obvious being that the public and even some councilors were not notified that the Special Meeting would include a vote to terminate R/K's agreement, refund R/K's deposit and issue an request for new proposals for the McIntyre redevelopment.

Robert's Rules of Order, which the Council formally adopted in January 2020, requires that the agenda include, specifically, what will take place at a Special Meeting. I believe the city attorney made the that point before the vote. Councilors should be aware that knowingly violating right to know rules can result in invalidating the meeting and personal liability for councilors.

The Council should reconsider its action and leave the issue to the Council-elect.

With regard to the appointments, a number of people have suggested that Mayor Becksted is merely doing the same as Mayor Blalock in the last days of the previous Council's term. That is not true.

Mayor Blalock reappointed one long-serving person the the Planning Board and one long-serving person to the ZBA, plus several people to non-land-use board. If anything, the reappointments were an acknowledgment of their years of service and acquired expertise.

In contrast, Mayor Becksted proposes a political power play. He would appoint eight people to the Planning Board, including someone who ran for Council as the sixth member of the "Becksted 5" and a supporter well-known for his letters to the editor. He would replace the long-serving Planning Board chair. He also would appoint two members to the Zoning Board of Adjustment and make seven other appointments.

This is unconscionable as voters were well aware of the mayor's views yet choose to go in another direction. The Council should decline to support the mayor's nominations..

Doug Roberts

247 Richards Ave

includeInRecords: on