

TO: KAREN CONARD, CITY MANAGER
FROM: KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK
RE: ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022
PRESENT: MAYOR McEACHERN, ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY, COUNCILORS TABOR, DENTON, MOREAU, BAGLEY, LOMBARDI, BLALOCK AND COOK

1. Anticipated Non-Public Session relating and pursuant to Collective Bargaining – RSA 91-A:2, III (a); Consideration of Legal Advice – RSA 91-A:3, II (I) On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to enter into Non-Public Session to discuss Collective Bargaining and Consideration of Legal Advice.
2. On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to postpone the remainder of the Non-Public Session until the end of the City Council meeting.
3. Proclamation – Women’s History Month – Mayor McEachern read the Proclamation declaring March as Women’s History Month.
4. Acceptance of Minutes – February 7, 2022; February 10, 2022; and February 22, 2022 – **Voted** to accept and approve the minutes of the February 7th, February 10th and February 22nd City Council meetings.
5. Recognitions and Volunteer Committee Reports – New Hampshire State Spelling Bee – Portsmouth Middle School 7th Grader, Aadhavan Veerendra – Mayor McEachern presented Addy with a Mayor’s Award and a City of Portsmouth coin in recognition of his third consecutive state spelling bee championship.
6. Public Comment Session – There were 8 speakers: Arthur Clough (City Charter); Mark Brighton (Follow-up); Petra Huda (Transparency – Audit Committee); Bill Downey (Transparency); Barbara Massar (via zoom) (Pro Portsmouth schedule of events); Lisa Rapaport (Funding for Climate Action Plan and EV Chargers); Chris Maden (Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival); and Hershey Hirschkop (Seacoast Outright Parade and Event).
7. Continued Public Hearing – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) / Adoption of CIP – Held a public hearing. Moved to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan as presented.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to amend the CIP to take \$1.4 million in FY22, \$2.8 million in FY23 and \$38 million in FY25 for the new Police Facility.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to amend the CIP by the addition of \$150,000.00 in FY24, FY25, FY26, FY27 and FY28 for a combination of level 2 120/208 volt single phase and level 3 480 volt three phase electric vehicle charging stations throughout Portsmouth to include Parking Zone A.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to amend the CIP by increasing the Historic Cemetery Improvements by \$15,000.00 for FY23, FY24, FY25, FY26, FY27 and FY28.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to amend the CIP by moving the Elwyn Park Traffic Calming FY24 funds of \$160,000.00 to FY23 and that the FY25 funds of \$1.5 million be moved to FY24.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to amend the Climate Action Plan by increasing the funding to \$100,000.00 for FY23.

On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan as amended.

Mayor McEachern requested that staff develop a project tracker of the CIP process for residents to follow.

8. Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution pursuant to RSA 72:39-b the City hereby amends the Elderly Exemption based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers, such that the exemption shall be available only when the qualifying taxpayer(s) have a net income of not more than – Held a public hearing. On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to adopt Option 1 – Proposed increase of Elderly Exemption by the Social Security cost-of-living increase:
Single \$46,124.00 increase of \$2,196.00
Married \$63,108.00 increase of \$2,708.00
9. Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution pursuant to RSA 72:39-b the City hereby amends the Disabled Exemption based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers, such that the exemption shall be available only when the qualifying taxpayers(s) have a net income of not more than – Held a public hearing. On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to adopt Option 1 – Proposed increase of Disabled Exemption by the Social Security cost-of-living increase:
Single \$46,124.00 increase of \$2,196.00
Married \$63,108.00 increase of \$2,708.00
10. Increase Asset Limits for Elderly and Disabled Exemptions (Not on agenda) – Voted to bring back a Resolution increasing the asset limits from \$175,000.00 to \$500,000.00 at a future City Council meeting.
11. Voted to suspend the rules in order to bring Item XV. A. forward – Service-Connected Total Disability Tax Credit – Voted to increase the Service-Connected Total Disability Tax Credit from \$3,500.00 to \$4,000.00 prior to April 1, 2022. That pursuant to RSA 72:35, the City of Portsmouth hereby adopts an optional tax credit in the amount of \$4,000.00 as of April 1, 2022 on the taxes due on the residential property of any veteran who has been honorably discharged or honorably separated from military service and; who has a total and permanent service-connected disability; OR is a double amputee or paraplegic because of the service-connected injury; OR is the surviving spouse of a qualified veteran and has not remarried.
12. Report Back on 77 Meredith Way Request to Restore Involuntarily Merged Lots – Voted to postpone until the April 18, 2022 City Council meeting.
13. Consent Agenda – Voted to adopt the Consent Agenda.
 - A. Letter from Hershey Hirschkop, Seacoast Outright, requesting permission to hold the PRIDE Parade on Saturday, June 25, 2022 (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act**)

- B. Letter from Ilysse Sirmaian, Portsmouth Babe Ruth, requesting approval to place temporary signage at Leary Field during the 2022 baseball season (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- C. Letter from Chris Maden, Portsmouth Maritime Folk Festival, requesting permission to hold the festival on Saturday, September 24, 2022 and Sunday, September 25, 2022 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
14. Email Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.
15. Report Back from Economic Development Commission regarding the inclusion of funding for EV Charger Installation in Capital Improvement Plan – **Voted** to accept and place on file.
16. Cemetery Committee’s Historical Cemeteries Restoration Project – **Voted** to refer to the City Manager to establish a date for a presentation by the Cemetery Committee at a future City Council meeting.
17. Appointments to be Voted – **Voted** to appoint Duncan MacCallum to the Cemetery Committee; Elaine Apatang-Butts, Kathleen Boduch, Lawrence Cataldo, William Gatchell, Peter Somssich to the Citywide Neighborhood Blue Ribbon Committee; Anne Weidman as an Alternate to the Economic Development Commission; Heinz Sauk-Schubert as an Alternate to the Historic District Commission; Jeff Stern to the Library Board of Trustee; Jason Brewster, Francesca Marconi Fernald, Chris Gallot, Steven Marison, Stephen Philp, Devan Quinn, John Simon, Richard Smith, Marci Stettner, William Townsend to the Peirce Island Committee; Kathleen Bergeron to the Portsmouth Housing Authority; Lauren Krans to the Recreation Board and Phyllis Eldridge to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.
18. Land Use Committee Update – Councilor Moreau provided an update regarding the Land Use Committee.
- Councilor Denton requested the Committee consider amending the zoning of commercial areas to allow for housing, to increase workforce housing incentives, and eliminate single family residential zones.
- Councilor Tabor suggested the Committee consider updating the Planned Unit Development language.
- Mayor McEachern suggested the Committee review density bonuses and if there are restrictions we could impose to get greater value. He also requested that a separate webpage be created for all things related to zoning as a resource for residents.
19. Comprehensive COVID Bounce-Back Plan – **Voted** for a report back from City staff on developing a comprehensive COVID Bounce-Back Plan similar to the previous COVID task forces.
20. Grant Award from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund - \$111,500.00 – **Voted** to approve and accept the grant for the City of Portsmouth to accept up to \$111,500.00 from the Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund as presented.

21. Miscellaneous Business Including Business Remaining Unfinished at Previous Meeting – **Voted** that \$200.00 in outdoor dining fees be waived for food service establishments on City property that abide by the composting requirements of the Single-Use Disposable Ordinance.
22. Adjournment – At 9:30 p.m., on unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to adjourn the public meeting and to continue the Non-Public Session from earlier.
23. At 10:00 p.m., **voted** to come out of Non-Public Session and to seal the minutes.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk