

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 6, 2023
PRESENT: MAYOR McEACHERN, ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY, COUNCILORS TABOR, DENTON, BAGLEY, LOMBARDI, BLALOCK AND COOK
ABSENT: COUNCILOR MOREAU

1. On a unanimous voice vote 8-0, **voted** to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes.
2. Proclamation – Women’s History Month – Mayor McEachern read the Proclamation declaring March as Women’s History Month and urged all citizens to learn especially in our 400th year about the essential contributions of women to the past, present, and future of Portsmouth.
3. Acceptance of Minutes – January 9, 2023 and January 23, 2023 – **Voted** to accept and approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 and January 23, 2023 City Council meetings.
4. Public Comment Session – There were 19 speakers: Irish Mike (Hate Crimes); Esther Kennedy (Historic Preservation); Mark Brighton (Ethics); Matt Hester, John Pendleton Joe Brown, Dave Cosgrove (Recreational Needs Study); Sue Polidura (The Wall – Pleasant Street); Petra Huda (McIntyre Update); Lucas Patten, Caleb Pendleton, Calvin Rothstein, Chase Conklin, Rye, Aidan Mamrocka, Kaden Goyette, Rye, Scott Perkins, Greenland (Ice Rink); Travis Raynolds, Ned Raynolds (Sports Complex), and Ross Laorenza (Affordable Housing).
5. Voted to suspend the rules to bring forward Items XV. C.1. – Portsmouth NH 400 Sculpture Announced and XIII. A. – Recreational Needs Study Final Report.
6. Portsmouth NH 400 Sculpture Announced – Councilor Cook announced that artist Sijia Chen will be creating the first public art sculpture that is maritime-themed and will be located in the Bohenko Gateway Park.
7. Recreational Needs Study Final Report – Alice Carey and Craig Periera, Placework-Horsley Witten Group provided a detailed review of the Recreational Needs Study. Alice and Craig reported that the ongoing theme during the workshops was the need for a multi-purpose sports complex, which would include an ice rink.
8. Continued Public Hearing – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2024-2029 – Continued the public hearing after which Mayor McEachern closed the public hearing regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY 2024-2029.

Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation

Voted to amend the CIP by moving the funding of \$1,750,000.00 for the Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation from FY24 to FY25. Councilor Tabor abstained from voting on this matter.

Additional Outdoor Recreation Fields (formerly) New Outdoor Rec Fields

Voted to amend the CIP by moving the funding for Additional Outdoor Recreation Fields (formerly) New Outdoor Rec Fields of \$100,000.00 from FY28 to FY24 and \$3,000,000.00 from FY29 to FY25.

Market Square Upgrade

Voted to amend the CIP by increasing the funding for the upgrades by \$50,000.00 in order to incorporate the additional cost of planning the City Manager highlighted at the last City Council meeting and moving the funding from FY25 to FY24 for Market Square Upgrades.

Fit-up of Community Campus Space for Robert J. Lister Academy

Voted to amend the CIP by reducing the funding of the Fit-up of Community Campus Space for Robert J. Lister Academy in FY24 from \$2,000,000.00 to \$1,800,000.00.

Russell/Market Intersection Upgrade

Voted to amend the CIP by moving the funding of \$2,200,000.00 for the Russell/Market Intersection Upgrade from FY24 to FY25.

Police Body Cameras

Voted to amend the CIP by moving the funding of Police Body Cameras for \$113,250.00 from FY26 to FY25.

South Mill Pond Playground

Voted to move the \$600,000.00 of the \$1,500,000.00 bonding for South Mill Pond ADA Playground in FY25 and leaving the \$900,000.00 bonding in FY29.

Water Master Plan Update

Voted to remove the Water Master Plan Update from the CIP because it has no dollar amount attached to the item.

Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Adoption

On a unanimous roll call 8-0, **voted** to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan as amended with the four adjusted element sheets included in the packet.

- *Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Replacement*
- *Parking Lot Paving*
- *Wayfinding System*
- *Pease Wastewater Treatment Facility*

9. **Voted** to suspend the rules in order to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m.

10. **Voted** to suspend the rules to bring forward Item XVI. A. - Approval of Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership - \$11,883.00.

11. Approval of Grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership - \$11,883.00 – **Voted** to approve and accept the Grant for the Police Department as presented.
12. Consent Agenda – **Voted** to adopt the Consent Agenda.
 - A. Letter from Latrice Smith, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, requesting permission to hold the annual Walk MS event on Saturday, April 22, 2023 (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act**)
 - B. Letter from Crystal Cronin, Portsmouth Babe Ruth, requesting permission to locate temporary signage at Leary Field during the 2023 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 Maritime Folk Festival on Saturday, September 23, 2023 and Sunday, September 24, 2023 (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act**)
13. Email Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.
14. Letter from Karin Barndollar, Portsmouth Climate Action, requesting permission to hold a gathering in Market Square for Earth Day and close off the section of Pleasant Street between State and Congress Streets to traffic on Saturday, April 22, 2023 between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – **Voted** to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act.
15. Resignation of Lori Waltz from the COVID Response Task Force – **Voted** to accept with regret the resignation of Ms. Waltz and to send her a letter of thanks and gratitude for her service to the City.
16. Retreat Update to City Council Goals – Assistant Mayor Kelley announced the City Council met as a group on February 9th to review the City Council goals set in 2022. She reported the City Council would keep the 7 established goals but there are two edits. Goal #2 the Council will be adding promotion surrounding business retention and sharing resources with the Chamber with all businesses similar to what we had done during the pandemic. Goal #6 add predictable to deliver a trusted, transparent, responsive process i.e., with meetings of the boards and commissions. Assistant Mayor Kelley said she will be bringing these edits to a future City Council meeting.
17. Request on Proposed Million Air Project - Councilor Denton requested that City Manager Conard provide updates as this project progresses at the Pease Development Authority.
18. Anti-Discrimination Policy for City Property Usage – **Voted** to refer policy included in the packet to the Legal Department for review and report back.
19. Making Music and Art Lessons an Allowed Use in Residential Zoning – **Voted** to request that the Land Use Committee make a recommendation to the City Council on changes to the zoning ordinance that would incorporate music and art lessons as an allowed home occupational use, and the drying of laundry outside by right, without special exception in any residential zoning district.

Councilor Cook requested recommendations back from the Land Use Committee on these questions and what is appropriate on home occupational use 1 and 2.

20. City Manager's Informational Items – McIntyre Update – City Manager Conard reported that a second check-in was held with the GSA on February 28th where we shared with them the progress we've made to date. She stated that the GSA is asking for an updated set of milestones, which the redevelopment partner and the City are working on right now. She said that the \$150,000.00 is all being spent toward understanding our financial due diligence about cost estimating and the pro-forma and will be for the two new contracts coming in, RKG as well as the remaining consultants on the design team whose work continues. She stated the costs are being shared 50/50 between our development partner and the city.
21. Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) Petition for Residual Designation - Deputy City Manager/Deputy City Attorney Woodland reported the petition would add another layer of regulation for the City and most of the communities in Strafford and Rockingham County. We are reviewing what this might mean and what, if any, impacts this will have.
22. Miscellaneous Business Including Business Remaining Unfinished at Previous Meeting – Councilor Blalock informed the City Council that Student Government Day would be held on April 19th.
23. Work Session regarding Potential for Indoor Sports Complex/Ice Rink (Not on Agenda) – **Voted** to schedule a work session regarding the potential of an Indoor Sports Complex/Ice Rink.
24. Councilor Denton requested an update regarding the electric vehicle charger post ordinances from 10 months ago to be held in the near future.
25. Adjournment – At 11:20 p.m., **voted** to adjourn.

Submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk