

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS
Received: June 1, 2023 (after 9:00 a.m.) – June 5, 2023 (before 5:00 p.m.)
June 5, 2023 Council Meeting
ADDENDUM

Submitted on Fri, 06/02/2023 - 15:43

Full Name

Jim Splaine

Email

jimsplaineportsmouth@gmail.com

Subject

The 2023-2024 City Budget

Address

201 Oriental Gardens

Message

To Portsmouth City Council Members,

I ask that you check me as "yes" as you consider the 2023-2024 city budget. I have watched way too much of your discussion during this year's budget process, including too much of your budget workshops and too much of your meetings with City Manager Karen Conard and the city's staff. I say "too much" because just watching it -- mostly on Channel 22 while I have it on in the background as I'm doing other work (or dozing off late at night) -- has been exhausting. I can just imagine how it's been for each of you!

As I have observed your work, I have been very impressed by the detail members have engaged. Not "nitpicking," as too many Councilors (yes, myself included at times) in past years have done but getting into real serious detail and sometimes both minutia and minutiae in your attempt to understand city obligations, and how the "budget plan" affects goals and outcomes.

I have gone through 18 budgets processes as a City Councilor in years past and add to that 4 as a School Board member and 2 as Police Commission. Out of those two dozen experiences, I find that this year's process has been incredible in two primary ways: the thoroughness of presentation, and the openness/transparency of the budget sessions. City Manager Conard has assembled an excellent staff and she and they competently express the needs for their departments, and how the monies invested in programs and projects help people. We need to continue to invest in THEM.

I especially want to urge you to fully fund our schools. Our young people were seriously set back during the necessary steps taken during the Covid-19 pandemic, and our educational system has to do a lot of catching-up. Our police and fire, as well as IT, also should be fully funded. Those are investments that will pay back many times over.

I'll add that while the property taxes on my 52 by 12 foot Portsmouth home might be relatively small compared with most others, the tax bite for me at my age and income level is proportionally significant, though others do have it worse than I.

But I understand the value of investments in our educational system, and recreational programming, even though I might not take full advantage of those. We're all touching the future in that way, helping our younger generations to be prepared and healthy for the unknown challenges, and the great opportunities, of the coming decades they will face after we are gone.

I close by saying that the work each of you has done, and the patience that the good Mayor has shown in running the meetings and involving the public, illustrates why each of you who will file for reelection in just 12 or 13 weeks deserves another term. Nice job.

Thank You - Jim Splaine

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 06/05/2023 - 09:44

Full Name

Richard DiPentima

Email

rdipentima@gmail.com

Subject

Childhood Lead Poisoning in Portsmouth Forensic Files NH lead Poisoning fatality.

Address

16 Dunlin Way,

Message

Please watch this episode of forensic files to get a feeling why childhood lead poisoning is such a passion for mw.

this can happen here, but it is the low level exposures that are still destroying many Portsmouth children's brains.

https://www.google.com/search?q=forensic+files+lead+poisoning&client=safari&sxsrf=APwXEdd8bnfplHwDKi65rOmcMP8nvwo-4w%3A1685969316465&source=hp&ei=pNI9ZJnFGaGFOPEP1dywiAk&oq=lead+poisoning+forensic+fi&gs_lcp=ChFtb2JpbGUtZ3dzLXdpei1ocBABGAAyBggAEBYQHjIICAAQigUQhgMyCAGAEloFEIYDMggIABCKBRCGAzIICAAQigUQhgMyBQghEKABMggIIRAWEB4QHToHCCMQ6gIQzoNC4QigUQxwEQrwEQJzoHCCMQigUQJzoRCC4QgAQsQMgQwEQxwEQQM6FAguEIAEELEDEIMBEMcBENEDENQCoggILhCABBCxAzoOCC4QgwEQ1AIQsQMgAQ6DgguEIAEELEDEIMBENQCogsIABCKBRCxAxCDAToLCC4QgAQsQMgQwE6CwguEIAEEMcBEK8BOggIABCABBCxAzoFCC4QgAQ6EQguEIMBEK8BEMcBELEDEIAEOg4IhCABBCxAxDHARDRAzoFCAAQgAQ6BAgAEAM6CAGAEBYQHhAPUPQUWLnLAWC76QFoAXAAeACAAAbABiAGKFpIBBTewLjE2mAEAoAEBsAEP&sclient=mobile-gws-wiz-hp#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:b57fb8d4,vid:vQ3MY8O0RUM

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