

TO: KAREN CONARD, CITY MANAGER

FROM: VALERIE A. FRENCH, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

RE: ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2023

PRESENT: MAYOR McEACHERN, ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY, COUNCILORS TABOR, DENTON, MOREAU, BAGLEY, LOMBARDI (VIA ZOOM), BLALOCK, AND COOK

1. **Voted** to Leave the Non-Public Session.
2. Proclamation – Domestic Violence Awareness Month – Councilor Moreau read the Proclamation declaring the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and asked our citizens to come together to reaffirm our commitment to ending domestic violence and supporting survivors.
3. Proclamation – Italian Heritage Month – Mayor McEachern read the Proclamation declaring the month of October as Italian American Heritage Month and called upon the residents of Portsmouth to celebrate the Italian Heritage our citizens have come to share with us and to embrace our Friendship City of Santarcangelo with Portsmouth’s welcoming, always-open door.
4. Public Comment Session – There were **10** speakers: Roy Helsel (City Development); Mike Daigle, Elyse Gallo, Jackie Cali-Pitts (Italian American Heritage); Rick Becksted (Follow-up Question); Petra Huda (Councilor Tabor’s request RE: FY23 Financial Update); Paige Trace (Portsmouth Housekeeping); Esther Kennedy (Water); Zelita Morgan (via Zoom) (Affordable Housing); Gary Epler (EV Charging Stations)
5. **Voted** 9-0 roll call to suspend the rules to bring forward Item X-C, Public Hearing regarding KENO within the City of Portsmouth and Item XIII-A, Financial Update as Requested by Councilor Tabor.
6. Public Hearing regarding KENO within the City of Portsmouth – Michael McIntire of NH State Lottery gave a brief presentation regarding KENO. A public hearing was held with **6** speakers. No action was taken.
7. Financial Update as Requested by Councilor Tabor – A Financial Update presentation for FY23 and Parking Revenues was given by Finance Director Judie Belanger and Parking Director Ben Fletcher.
8. Recess/Reconvened 8:50 – 8:55 PM
9. **Voted** 8-0 roll call vote to suspend the rules to bring forward Item XVI-A, Acceptance of Donation to the Fire Department of 1920 American LaFrance Fire Truck. (*Councilor Lombardi did not respond to roll call via Zoom*)
10. Acceptance of Donation to the Fire Department of 1920 American LaFrance Fire Truck (Estimated Value \$40,000.00 - \$60,000.00 subject to final appraisal) to the Portsmouth Fire Department. **Voted** 9-0 roll call to accept and approve the donation of a 1920 American LaFrance Fire Truck to the Portsmouth Fire Department, subject to approval of the legal documents by the legal department.

11. PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article IX– Conflict of Interest/Mandatory Financial Disclosure, Section 1.902, Election Candidate Financial Disclosure – Public Hearing was held with **3** speakers. Discussion was held regarding several amendments to the ordinance including adding of PAC and fiscal agent information to signs, literature etc.; full itemization of contributions and expenditures; and elimination or lowering of \$100.00 threshold of contributions. **Voted** 9-0 roll call to refer to legal department to bring back a draft for another 2nd reading at the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting which will be referred to an additional public hearing at the December 4, 2023 City Council meeting.
12. PUBLIC HEARING/SECOND READING of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article IV – Section 1.413 – Sustainability Committee – Held a public hearing with **0** speakers. **Voted** 9-0 roll call to pass second reading and hold third and final reading at the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting. **Voted** 9-0 roll call to suspend the rules to take up third and final reading. **Voted** 9-0 roll call to pass third and final reading.
13. Third and Final Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.321 – Snow Emergency Parking Ban and Chapter 7, Article X, Towing, Section 7.1002 – Snow Removal Operations – **Voted** 9-0 roll call to pass third and final reading.
14. Third and Final Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article VIII – Code of Ethics, Section 1.802 – Conflicts of Interest, amending Subsection F – Gifts and Favors: No officer or employee shall accept any gift over \$100.00 per calendar year – **Voted** 7-2 roll call to pass third and final reading. *Councilors Denton and Bagley voted opposed.*
15. Request to Sell Surplus Water Meters – **Voted** 9-0 roll call to authorize the sale of the surplus equipment as presented.
16. Temporary Construction License for Peirce Block – **Voted** 9-0 roll call that the City Manager be authorized to execute and accept the temporary construction license to encumber the sidewalk and roadway along High and Ladd Streets and 6 parking spaces on High Street that abut the Peirce Block as requested.
17. City Assessor Lentz gave a brief presentation regarding City Manager Items 3, 4 and Informational Item #1 in relation to Non-Profit Filing Requirements for Property Tax Exemption.
18. Approval of PILOT agreement for Betty’s Dream – **Voted** 9-0 roll call that the City Manager be authorized to enter into a PILOT agreement with Betty’s Dream in the amount of \$3,000.00.
19. Approval of PILOT agreement for Friends of Lafayette House – **Voted** 9-0 roll call that the City Manager be authorized to enter into a PILOT agreement with the Friends of Lafayette House in the amount of \$0.00.
20. Consent Agenda – *There were no items on the Consent Agenda.*
21. Email Correspondence – **Voted** 9-0 roll call to accept and place on file.
22. Resignations – Mayor McEachern announced the resignations of Alison Hamilton and Judith Bunnell from the Citizens Advisory Committee with thanks and appreciation for service.

23. Appointments to be Considered – The following appointments were considered and will be voted at the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting:

- Annelise Hartley to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Kirsten Barton to the Citizens Advisory Committee
- Sachiko Akiyama to the Cultural Planning Subcommittee

24. Reappointment to be Voted – **Voted** 9-0 roll call the following reappointment: Kelly Delekta to the Board of Library Trustees October 1, 2026.

25. Councilor Blalock Item 1 - Report Back from Legal and Planning on the current Demolition Ordinance and any alternatives to consider – **Voted** 9-0 roll call to request a report back from Legal and Planning Departments on the current Demolition Ordinance and any alternatives to consider.

26. Councilor Cook Item 1 – Draft Changes to Sidewalk Policy – **Voted** 9-0 roll call to schedule discussion of the draft changes from the Governance Committee to the City Council Sidewalk Policy at the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting.

27. Councilor Cook Item 2 – Ethics and Transparency Policy – **Voted** 9-0 roll call to schedule discussion of the draft Ethics and Transparency Policy from the Governance Committee at the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting.

28. Councilor Cook Item 3 – Municipal Officials Disclosures– **Voted** to schedule first reading of the ordinance amendments proposed by the Governance Committee to the Municipal Officials Disclosure ordinance, Chapter 1, Article IX, Section 1.901, at the November 13, 2023 City Council meeting.

29. Adjournment – At 10:18 p.m., **voted** to adjourn (Councilor Lombardi had left the zoom meeting.)

Submitted by:

Valerie French, CNHMC
Deputy City Clerk