

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 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024
PRESENT: MAYOR McEACHERN, ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY, COUNCILORS TABOR, COOK, DENTON, BLALOCK, BAGLEY, MOREAU AND LOMBARDI

1. Proclamation – National Service Dog Month in Portsmouth – Mayor McEachern read the Proclamation declaring September as National Service Dog Month in Portsmouth and called upon our residents and businesses to respect the important job they do in helping us live up to our motto of The City of the Open Door. Mayor McEachern presented two proclamations, one to Brendan Madden and one to Elle Shaheen who accepted them with thanks and appreciation.
2. **Voted** to suspend the rules to hear from Sarah MacGregor from Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc. and addressed the Council regarding methods used in Portsmouth to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.
3. Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc. – Ms. MacGregor spoke about ways residents can protect themselves and decrease mosquito populations. She indicated that larval surveillance is done throughout the mosquito season. Ms. MacGregor stated they continue to monitor Portsmouth and do not recommend spraying at this time.
4. Public Comment Session – There were 23 speakers: Julia Lanter, Jake Webb, Beverly Hurst, Karen Webb, Barbara Ward, Eddie Phimansone (PPMTV); Paul Gilson (WSCA 106.1 FM); Samantha Collins, Barbara McMillan, Talia Sperduto, Amanda Smith, Tim Quinney, Peter Loughlin, Justin Richardson, Nicole Beyer, James Shanley, Anthony Balakier, Sue Sterry (Cavaretta Property – SELT); Esther Kennedy (Sewage & Taxes); Jim Lee (Kayak); Christina Lusky (Police Station); Petra Huda and Bob Gunning (Property Assessments).
5. First Reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 1, Article IV, Section 1.412 – Public Art Review Committee, existing text to be deleted in its entirety and replaced with a brief reference to a new section in Chapter 1, Article XVII relating to public art; and Chapter 1, Article XVII – Funding of Public Art, Sections 1.1700-1.1707 existing text to be deleted in its entirety and replaced with a new Article XVII, retitled Funding, Review and Acquisition of Public Art, inclusive of new Sections 1.1700-1.1709 - **Voted** to pass first reading and schedule a public hearing and second reading to be held at the September 23, 2024 City Council meeting.
6. Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution Pursuant to RSA 72:39-b the City hereby amends the elderly exemption from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers. Qualifying taxpayers between the ages of 65-74 shall receive \$375,000.00 off their assessment. Qualifying taxpayers between the ages of 75-79 shall receive \$450,000.00 off their assessment and qualifying taxpayers 80+ years of age shall receive \$525,000.00 off their assessment – Held a public hearing. **Voted** to adopt the Resolution, as presented.

7. Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution Pursuant to RSA 72:37-b the City hereby amends the disabled exemption from property tax, based on assessed value for qualified taxpayers. Qualifying taxpayers shall receive \$375,000.00 off their assessment – Held a public hearing. **Voted** to adopt the Resolution, as presented.
8. Request for Work Session Regarding Draft Parking Utilization Study Report – **Voted** to schedule a work session at 6:00 p.m. on September 23, 2024.
9. Southeast Land Trust Conservation Land Protection Project – **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to support the July 17, 2024 vote of the Portsmouth Conservation Commission and expend up to \$1,000,000.00 from the Conservation Fund to support the purchase of the conservation easement at 820 Elwyn Road, Cavaretta Property, 100 acre woods in Portsmouth with the execution of a grant agreement consistent with the grant agreement terms listed in the memorandum from Deputy City Attorney McCourt included in the supplemental City Council packet.
10. Consent Agenda – **Voted** to adopt the Consent Agenda.
 - A. Letter from Matt Junkin, Seacoast Rotary, requesting permission to hold the 16th Annual Turkey Trot 5k on Thanksgiving November 28, 2024 (***Anticipated Action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
11. Email Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.
12. Presentation from Portsmouth Public Media Television, Inc. requesting to re-evaluate the Cable Franchise Fee Policy – PPMTV held a presentation. **Voted** to have the City Council discuss the presentation. **Voted** to request staff report back with recommendations regarding the Franchise Fee Policy.
13. Letter from Jim Pappas requesting the City relinquish paper street known as Walnut Street to him as the abutter to the property – **Voted** to refer to the Planning & Sustainability Department for report back.
14. Letter from Todd Selig, Durham Town Administrator, commending the Portsmouth Public Works team for their cooperation and coordination for the restoration work at Wagon Hill Farm – **Voted** to accept and place on file.
15. Letter from JerriAnne Boggis, Black Heritage Trail of NH, requesting permission to install a special plaque that honors Valerie Cunningham on a post on the grounds of the Portsmouth Historical Society – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to execute a license agreement with Black Heritage Trail of NH for the installation of plaque at the Portsmouth Historical Society.
16. Letter from Bert Cohen, Chair & The Members of the Sustainability Committee, recommending and encouraging the City Council to vote in favor of partnering with SELT to purchase the conservation easement for the Cavaretta Property – **Voted** to accept and place on file.

17. Letter from 179 Union Property Services request for fee waiver for replacement of brick sidewalk – No action required. The matter was handled administratively by the Legal Department.
18. Resignation – Steve Pesci from the Parking & Traffic Safety Committee – **Voted** to accept the resignation of Steve Pesci effective September 17, 2024, with regret and to send a letter to thank him for his service to the city.
19. Acceptance of Assistance to Fire Fighters' Grant (AFG) - \$324,327.00 – **Voted** to approve and accept the grant as presented.
20. Acceptance of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Grant - \$4,951.00 – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Grant Agreement with New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services to accept \$4,951.00 from the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Grant Program and execute any contracts or documents which may be necessary for this grant agreement.
21. City Manager's Informational Items
- Community Policing Facility Update – City Manager Conard reported that a presentation regarding updated concepts based upon feedback to date would be made at the September 23, 2024, City Council meeting.
- Update on Sherburne Property Request for Proposals – City Manager Conard reported that Request for Proposals went out to the four submitters that ranked the highest in the RFQ process. She announced that there will be a Site Walk held on Thursday, September 12th at 1:00 p.m. and if the September 12th date cannot be held the Site Walk would take place on Monday, September 16th at 1:00 p.m. She reported that the deadline for submittal will be the close of business on October 9th.
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day – City Manager Conard announced that Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day would be held on Saturday, September 14, 2024
22. Adjournment – At 9:25 p.m., **voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk