

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025

PORTSMOUTH, NH  
TIME: 7:00PM

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to close the Non-Public Session and Seal the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Cook and voted.**

### **III. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### **IV. ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT:** Mayor McEachern, Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Tabor, Cook, Denton, Blalock, Bagley, Moreau, and Lombardi

### **V. INVOCATION**

Mayor McEachern asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer in memory of Sara Reardon Gott who recently passed away.

### **VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Portsmouth 8-year old Colby Classic Baseball Champions led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – MAY 5, 2025**

**Councilor Moreau moved to approve and accept the minutes of the May 5, 2025, City Council meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

### **VIII. RECOGNITIONS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Public Art Review Committee (PARC) Recommendation for Location of Proposed Fairy House Sculpture from Friends of the South End (FOSE)

**Councilor Denton moved to accept the Fairy House Sculpture from Friends of the South End (FOSE). Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted. Councilor Cook recused from voting on this matter.**

2. Portsmouth 8-year-old Colby Classic Baseball Champions

Mayor McEachern and the City Council recognized the Portsmouth Little League Colby Jr. Classic 8-year-olds for winning the Championship. He announced that the Colby Jr. Classic team will be playing against the Kittery team in the "Battle of the Bridges" on Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

3. Portsmouth High School Girls Lacrosse Division I – Back-to-Back State Champions

Mayor McEachern and the City Council recognized the Girls Lacrosse team for winning back-to-back Division I State Championship. He announced that Portsmouth finished the season with a record of 20-0 and now takes a 27-game winning streak into next year. Head Coach Curro thanked Mayor McEachern and the City Council for this recognition.

4. Portsmouth High School Boys Lacrosse Division II State Champions

Mayor McEachern and City Council recognized the Boys Lacrosse team who won the NHIAA Division II state title for the second consecutive year. He announced that this is the team's fourth championship in the last five years. Coach Vischer thanked Mayor McEachern and the City Council for this recognition.

5. Recognition and appreciation of Deputy City Manager Suzanne Woodland

Mayor McEachern and the City Council recognized and thanked Deputy City Manager Woodland for all of her outstanding work and guidance provided to the city as she transitions from her role as Deputy City Manager to Regulatory Counsel.

City Manager Conard said that Suzanne walked into the role of Deputy City Manager when it was needed in the organization. She stated that Suzanne will remain a valuable resource for the city and thanked her for identifying organizational changes in three departments here at City Hall.

Deputy City Manager Woodland said that she has served in this role with gratitude. She said that she is looking forward to resting and having fun for the month of July and returning in August as Regulatory Counsel.

**Councilor Blalock moved to suspend the rules and bring forward Item XV. C.1. – Report Back from the Recreation Board on Renaming of Portsmouth Skatepark in honor of Chris Rice. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.**

**XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

**C. COUNCILOR BLALOCK**

1. Report Back from the Recreation Board on Renaming of Portsmouth Skatepark in honor of Chris Rice

**Councilor Blalock moved to request on behalf of the Recreation Board that the City Council rename the Portsmouth Skatepark the Chris Rice Skatepark. Seconded by Councilor Denton.**

Councilor Blalock said he worked with Chris on the Site Selection and Skate Park Committees. He said Chris paved the path for the skateboard park and he would like to invite people to speak about Chris this evening if they wish.

**Councilor Cook moved to suspend the rules to allow the public to speak in honor of Chris Rice. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

Ollire Lane spoke regarding Chris giving her son Ben his first job. She said that Chris was an incredible role model and helped many kids. She said her son is now a professional skateboarder in California and it would be amazing to rename the skatepark in honor of Chris.

Esther Kennedy said that the plan to bring people together to have a skatepark was made with the assistance of Chris. She said the motion should be called Skateboard Park not Skatepark. She said that is what Chris would appreciate. She stated that Chris was a great man who changed people's lives.

Dave Cosgrove spoke in support of naming the Skatepark after Chris. He said Chris was an exceptional person who lobbied for the park for decades. He stated that Chris took great pride in the park and supported many events. He urged the Council to name the Skatepark in honor of Chris.

Henry Purple spoke to Chris coming forward and providing guidance and help to get a Skatepark. He said he looked up to Chris as a big brother and said it makes sense to name the park in honor of Chris.

Ian Coughlin, Exeter, NH said he owns the Portsmouth Skate Shop and many people have said it is not just a shop to purchase things, it's to provide a place for skateboarders to meet and talk about life. He said Chris paved a path and cared deeply for skaters.

Ryan Cress spoke in support of renaming the Skatepark after Chris Rice. He said Chris advocated for skateboarders and many people cared for Chris.

**Councilor Blalock moved to amend the main motion to rename the Portsmouth Skatepark to the Chris Rice Skateboard Park. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.**

Councilor Bagley thanked Councilor Blalock for doing this the right way and for honoring Chris.

Mayor McEachern thanked everyone for the letters and petition for renaming the Skateboard Park after Chris. He said it is important to name things after great people, and we want to recognize his contributions.

**On a unanimous roll call 9-0, to pass the main motion as amended and rename the Portsmouth Skatepark as the Chris Rice Skateboard Park.**

At 8:50 p.m., Mayor McEachern called for a brief recess. At 9:00 p.m., Mayor McEachern called the meeting back to order.

## **IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Roy Helse said the city wants to waste taxpayers' money by giving away 15 minutes of parking and giving revenues away. He expressed his opposition to the budget and the increase in water and sewer rates.

Jim Lee spoke opposed to the budget and asked how does the School Budget continues to increase when enrollment is going down. He said taxpayers feel that we should not pay more to education with less enrollment.

Jennifer Gray said she represents the Gray Family and spoke opposed to the proposed zoning ordinance affecting Hill Street. She said any future development would not meet the height of these structures and feels that this is spot zoning.

Petra Huda spoke regarding the continued increase in the budget and the additional increases to water and sewer rates. She said residents are burdened by what is coming from the State and Federal Governments and our local budgets continue to increase at an unsustainable rate.

## **X. PUBLIC HEARINGS AND VOTE ON ORDINANCES AND/OR RESOLUTIONS**

### **A. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING FY26 BUDGET (*Continuation of Budget Public Hearing held on June 9, 2025*)**

- **PRESENTATION (*Held at the May 19<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting*)**
- **CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS**
- **PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS**
- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND DELIBERATIONS**

Mayor McEachern reopened the Budget Public Hearing and called for speakers.

Buzz Scherr, Police Commissioner, said three positions would not be funded in the Police Department Budget with the proposed budget in front of the City Council. He said the Police Department has been paying for excess overtime from positions not being filled. He said the commission may need to come back to the City Council for additional funding because the overtime line will be overspent due to lack of staffing.

Esther Kennedy thanked the public for sending emails and text messages thanking her and Petra Huda for attending and speaking during the budget process. She spoke regarding the continued increases to the budget and the number of positions that have been added to the budget.

Nancy Novelline Clayburgh, School Board Chair, said she understands the time and energy to be a City Council member. She stated the School Budget changed since COVID and federal funding is no longer available, which has impacted the needs of the department.

Byron Matto, School Board member, said the School Board did thorough and thoughtful work on the budget. He addressed classroom sizes and the need for them to remain small and manageable for the teachers and students.

Tish Campbell, School Board member, encouraged the City Council to support the School Board budget. She said all departments worked with administrators on the budget and the needs of the students and presented the best budget possible.

Monica Kiser urged the City Council to support the School Board as requested. She said that this is a wonderful place to raise kids. She said it is important that education continues at its highest level.

Erik Anderson said he does not believe that there will be a loss in services with this budget. He said he watched the City Council during the budget meetings and not one Councilor picked up a pen and made notes. He said the Council is here to represent the residents and he does not feel this budget reflects the decreases the residents want to see for a reduction in taxes.

Zach McLaughlin, Superintendent of Schools, spoke to the School Board and the budget that is needed for the department to function. He addressed services and the needs of students and teachers.

Petra Huda spoke to rolling stock at the Public Works Department and how that has increased. She would like vehicles and equipment to be shared between departments to reduce costs.

With no further speakers, Mayor McEachern closed the public hearing.

### **Adoption of Proposed Budget Resolutions:**

- B. Adoption of Budget Resolutions for Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 (FY26)

- Resolution No. 7-2025 – Municipal Fees

**Councilor Moreau moved to adopt Resolution #7-2025 – Municipal Fees. Seconded by Councilor Denton. On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

- Resolution No. 8-2025 – General Fund Expenditures

**Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adopt Resolution #8-2025 – General Fund Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Blalock.**

**Councilor Bagley moved to suspend the rules to bring forward Item XV. D.2. – D.4. – Proposed Amendments to the FY26 Budget regarding the Police Department, School Department and Fire Department budgets. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.**

## **XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

### **D. COUNCILOR BAGLEY**

2. \*FY26 Budget – *move to set the Police Department budget for Fiscal Year 2026 at the same funding level as Fiscal Year 2025*

**Councilor Bagley moved to set the Police Department budget for Fiscal Year 2026 at the same funding level as Fiscal Year 2025. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

Councilor Bagley spoke about the overtime costs in the Police Department budget. He said that we need a department that is well operated with less overtime. He suggested that officers should work less and be compensated at a better wage.

Mayor McEachern spoke regarding the 70 officers and the effects on overtime. He said that events affect overtime and that he would not support level funding.

Councilor Tabor said he would oppose the motion. He said the matrix study came out over the weekend. He said he is concerned with the level of funding and that we need to restructure in some ways.

Councilor Cook said she will be a no vote on the budget because it goes over the social security increase and she would not support the amendment of Councilor Bagley.

On a roll call vote 1-8, motion to amend the General Fund Expenditures to set the Police Department budget for Fiscal Year 2026 at the same funding level as Fiscal Year 2025 **failed** to pass. Councilor Bagley voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Tabor, Cook, Denton, Blalock, Moreau, Lombardi, and Mayor McEachern voted opposed.

3. **\*FY26 Budget – *move to increase the School Department budget by \$153,000.00 above the City Manager’s recommended amount***

**Councilor Bagley moved to amend the General Fund Expenditures to increase the School Department budget by \$153,000.00 above the City Manager’s recommended amount. Seconded by Councilor Denton.**

Councilor Blalock spoke regarding the teachers and their qualities and would like to see an improvement in math scores at the High School.

Mayor McEachern passed his gavel to Assistant Mayor Kelley.

Mayor McEachern said he believes in education and the transformation in people’s lives. He addressed the savings in early retirement for some teachers. He said he struggles around statements that we are losing teachers in this budget. He spoke regarding the counselor manager position being hired with a new person rather than a person from within.

Councilor Cook said she has asked many questions regarding the school budget. She said the costs have been increasing since COVID, unfortunately the things we put in place for COVID are no longer funded. She stated if we want to fund those items we need to make tough choices. She said we need to ask tough questions and make sure our residents are provided with the best services possible.

Councilor Lombardi said we spent a great deal of time and effort to give salary increases to the teachers and he would like to see more creativity by the School Board.

On a roll call vote 4-5, motion to amend the General Fund Expenditures to increase the School Department budget by \$153,000.00 above the City Manager’s recommended amount **failed** to pass. Mayor McEachern, Councilors Tabor, Denton, and Bagley voted in favor. Councilors Cook, Blalock, Moreau, Lombardi, and Assistant Mayor Kelley voted opposed.

4. **FY26 Budget – *move to increase the Fire Department budget by \$112,000.00 above the City Manager’s recommended amount***

**Councilor Bagley moved to increase the Fire Department budget by \$112,000.00 above the City Manager’s recommended amount. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

Fire Chief McQuillen said he ran the numbers, and it would save money rather than contracting out.

On a roll call vote 2-7, motion to increase the Fire Department budget by \$112,000.00 above the City Manager's recommended amount **failed** to pass. Councilors Denton and Bagley voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Tabor, Cook, Blalock, Moreau, Lombardi, and Mayor McEachern voted opposed.

**On a 7-2 roll call, voted to adopt Resolution #8-2025 – General Fund Expenditures. Assistant Mayor Kelley, Councilors Tabor, Denton, Blalock, Moreau, Lombardi, and Mayor McEachern voted in favor. Councilors Cook and Bagley voted opposed.**

Department	Appropriation
General Government	\$26,664,357
Police	\$14,910,638
Fire	\$12,868,512
School	\$65,915,610
Collective Bargaining Contingency	\$1,990,000
Transfer to Indoor Pool	\$200,000
Transfer to Prescott Park	\$271,370
Transfer to Community Campus	\$470,911
Non-Operating	\$26,603,542
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$149,894,940</b>

- Resolution No. 9-2025 – Water Fund Expenditures

**Councilor Cook moved to adopt Resolution #9-2025 – Water Fund Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi.**

**On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to adopt Resolution #9-2025 – Water Fund Expenditures.**

- Resolution No. 10-2025 – Sewer Fund Expenditures

**Councilor Blalock moved to adopt Resolution #10-2025 – Sewer Fund Expenditures. Seconded by Councilor Denton.**

**On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to adopt Resolution #10-2025 – Sewer Fund Expenditures.**

- Resolution No. 11-2025 – Special Revenues, Debt Service Fund, Portsmouth Housing Endowment Trust, and Committed Fund Balances

**Councilor Tabor moved to adopt Resolution #11-2025 – Special Revenues, Debt Service Fund, Portsmouth Housing Endowment Trust, and Committed Fund Balances. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley.**

**On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to adopt Resolution #11-2025 – Special Revenues, Debt Service Fund, Portsmouth Housing Endowment Trust, and Committed Fund Balances.**

- Resolution No. 12-2025 – Investment Policy

**Councilor Lombardi moved to adopt Resolution #12-2025 – Investment Policy. Seconded by Councilor Cook.**

**On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to adopt Resolution #12-2025 – Investment Policy.**

## **XI. CITY MANAGER'S ITEMS WHICH REQUIRE ACTION**

### **A. CITY MANAGER CONARD**

1. License for Coast Guard Vessel to Dock at Prescott Park

City Manager Conard requested a temporary license for the dockage of the Coast guard vessel at the Prescott Park Dock which will terminate on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Councilor Lombardi moved that the City Manager be authorized to execute and accept a License in a form similar to the attached and waive the dock fees except for electricity cost for a Coast Guard vessel to berth at the Prescott Park Dock. Seconded by Councilor Denton.**

Mayor McEachern said we should be proud to help with this request.

**Motion passed.**

2. Parking Lot Usage/Maintenance Agreement with St. John's Masonic Association, Inc.

City Manager Conard said that this would be a 6-month extension with an adjustment to the fee and the creation of fourteen additional parking spaces in the Lot with 75 reserved for City and 14 for St. John's Masonic Association, Inc.

**Councilor Bagley moved that the City Manager be authorized to negotiate and enter into a Parking Lot Usage/Maintenance Agreement with St. John's Masonic Association, Inc. in a form similar to the document in the City Council packet. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

3. Amendment 4 to City's Lease with the Players' Ring

City Manager Conard said that this is a one-year extension.

**Councilor Cook moved to negotiate and enter into Lease Amendment 4 with the Players' Ring in a form similar to the document in the City Council packet. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.**



## **XII. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Request from Michelle Graham of Shadow and Beige, to install a Projecting Sign at 40 Market Street (***Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning & Sustainability Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request***)

**Planning Director's Stipulations:**

- ***The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;***
- ***Any removal or relocation of projecting sign(s), for any reason, shall be done at no cost to the City; and***
- ***Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign(s), for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works***

**Councilor Lombardi moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted.**

## **XIII. PRESENTATIONS AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. E-mail Correspondence

**Councilor Cook moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.**

- B. Memorandum from School Superintendent McLaughlin regarding Budget Work Session Updates

**Councilor Bagley moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.**

- C. Letter from the Gray Family property owners of 126 Bridge Street regarding Zoning Change from CD5 to CD4, or CD4-L1 or CD4-W

**Councilor Moreau moved to refer the correspondence to the Planning Department. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

- D. Letter from Kevin Wentworth on behalf of Portsmouth Serious Summer League, to allow the League's banners to be hung for the duration of their basketball season at South Playground

**Councilor Blalock moved to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

- E. Request from Kerrin Parker for License to Install Drainage Pipe on City Property Adjacent to 86 Haven Road

**Councilor Moreau moved to refer to the Legal Department and Public Works Department for a report back. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.**

- F. Letter from Shawn Menard, Seacoast Eat Local, requesting an amendment to current agreement to allow additional temporary signage promoting the Portsmouth Farmers' Market

**Councilor Cook moved to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

#### **XIV. MAYOR McEACHERN**

1. Appointments to be Considered:
- Reappointment of Larry Booz as an alternate to the Historic District Commission
  - Reappointment of Margot Doering to the Historic District Commission
  - Reappointment of Martin Ryan to the Historic District Commission
  - Reappointment of Reagan Ruedig to the Historic District Commission
  - Reappointment of Robin Pickering to the Portsmouth Housing Authority

The City Council considered the reappointments as listed and will take action at the July 14, 2025, City Council meeting.

2. Appointments to be Voted:
- Appointment of Joy Curth to the Historic District Commission
  - Appointment of Susan B. Strauss to the Historic District Commission

**Councilor Blalock moved to appoint Joy Curth as a regular member until June 1, 2028, and Susan Strauss as an alternate member until June 1, 2027, to the Historic District Commission. Seconded by Councilor Denton and voted.**

#### **XV. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

##### **A. ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY & COUNCILOR TABOR**

1. Report Back from Housing Committee regarding the City Council motion of April 7<sup>th</sup>, to wit: "A list of zoning barriers to remove/opportunities to create market conditions for more affordable housing both at market rate...and permanently below market levels, including zoning changes that could yield the greatest results in creating more affordable housing in the shortest timeframe."

Councilor Tabor provided a detailed report back on barriers to remove to create housing supply:

- Make parking part of site review... eliminates getting parking variances from ZBA. The number one barrier we heard about is parking minimums.
- Dimensional requirements.... Most of the lots in the city are non-conforming, meaning rebuilding requires variances. Better zoning that conformed to the actual sizes and frontages would allow more infill development. Master plan.
- Map changes – repeat the success of Gateway zoning which has taken a surplus of commercial and industrial land and opened it up for mixed use including housing. The committee identified fifteen parcels to rezone representing thirty-nine acres into housing.
- The RKG study will review incentives vs. construction costs in various parts of the city to make it more profitable to include 10% affordable units. Public input would take place on possible zoning changes at the Economic Development Commission meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Use 1.60 – the "Islington Street example." Older Victorians that once were single family homes now have 3-6 units. But this use is very limited geographically. It could be the easiest way to create more supply with existing older buildings.
- Wetlands relief.... One of the committee members was on the council when the wetland buffer was increased from 75 – 100 feet. He brought it up for consideration. Removing it could help. But the committee opted not to recommend that.

Councilor Tabor also reported that three developers were asked what barriers the city could remove, especially to build more middle-income housing:

- Parking relief by making parking part of site plan review.
- In the downtown, reduce the allowable size per unit down to six hundred square feet even as low as three hundred square feet. That will make the conversion of offices an economic opportunity. It would create housing that is intrinsically profitable without setting asides or subsidy.
- The creation of a third parking garage. 1% loan fund like the fund in Lebanon-Hanover... business and banks team up to create a pool of money to loan out at low interest for affordable housing projects. This has already created 250 units in the UV. Businesses get housing for their workers; banks get community reinvestment tax credits.
- All made the point that land in Portsmouth is precious and must be used wisely. "Height can be your friend," one said.... Not in the downtown, but in areas like Commerce Way or behind Water Country... there may be spots to go up 8-10 stories. Economics at this height, using steel construction and elevators, are very favorable to create units for middle income. That's currently not legal to do.
- All made the point that land in Portsmouth is precious and must be used wisely. "Height can be your friend," one said.... Not in the downtown, but in areas like Commerce Way or behind Water Country... there may be spots to go up 8-10 stories. Economics at this height, using steel construction and elevators, are very favorable to create units for middle income. That's currently not legal to do.

**B. COUNCILOR COOK**

1. Update from ACC on the State of the Arts in the community

Councilor Cook provided an update from the Arts and Cultural Commission (ACC) on the State of the Arts 2025 Survey Snapshot. The snapshot summarizes findings from the State of the Arts survey, conducted by the ACC between June 9-15, 2025. Nineteen respondents, including six local artists, eight arts nonprofits, five cultural organizations and one other, shared insight regarding how state and federal budget cuts may impact their operations and the broader creative community.

- 48% rely on public grants,
- 74% say cuts would hinder their mission,
- 68% expect a drop in other funding if grants are cut
- Cannot cover rent or utilities – 47%
- Program cuts – 42%
- Lost partnerships – 37%
- Burnout & unpaid hours – 26%
- Lost venues – 26%
- Staffing reductions – 21%

**To stay resilient, organizations Need:**

53% Help finding new donors  
42% City bridging grants  
28% Free or affordable space  
21% Emergency funds  
11% Access to Low Interest Loans

2. Proposed ACC Banner Program

**Councilor Cook moved to request that the Legal Department, in conjunction with the Arts and Cultural Commission, draft an Arts and Cultural Banner Program Policy for the City of Portsmouth, to be reviewed by the City Council at its September 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Moreau.**

Mayor McEachern said getting the Legal Departments view and opinion is important on this issue.

**Motion passed.**

**D. COUNCILOR BAGLEY**

1. Parking & Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the June 5, 2025, meeting

**Councilor Bagley moved to approve and accept the action sheet and minutes of the June 5, 2025, Parking & Traffic Safety Committee meeting. Seconded by Councilor Tabor and voted.**

## **XVI. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS**

- A. Acceptance of Donation of 65 at-home heart health screening kits from Service Federal Credit Union to the Portsmouth Police Department

**Councilor Moreau moved to approve and accept the donation to the Police Department as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Kelley and voted.**

- B. Acceptance of the 2025 Spring Healthy Aging Strategic Grant Award to Recreation Department from the Foundation for Seacoast Health - \$25,000.00

**Councilor Blalock moved to approve and accept the donation as presented. Seconded by Councilor Lombardi and voted.**

## **XVII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- Pease Development Authority Board Meeting Update – City Manager Conard announced that the PDA acknowledged Paul Green for receiving accredited in Airport Executive Status. She reported that the Division of Ports and Harbors Capital Improvement Plan was adopted for the next 6 years. Also, that the airport has seen a reduction in airport travel by Canadians and that the Fish Pier Building is nearing completion. She also reported on the info graphic that is provided in the City Council packet which contains statistics on the PDA and its contribution to the local economy.
- Report Back on Financial Impact on 15-Minute Free Parking for Residents – City Manager Conard advised that Public Works Director Rice will be reporting on this matter to advise the Council that it will cost approximately \$300,000.00 to provide free 15-minute parking everywhere for residents. Public Works Director Rice spoke regarding the city's parking principles and its goals. He reported that the average homeowner benefits \$500.00 off their tax bill based on the revenues from the parking program. He expressed concerns regarding unintended consequences with changing our pricing structure and program. He said that these changes may have long-term impacts which are not immediately seen.

*Public Works Director Rice spoke regarding the inventory problem we currently have with parking. Mayor McEachern announced that a full presentation will take place at the public hearing on this matter at the July 14, 2025, City Council meeting. Councilor Cook requested Parking Director Fletcher provide an estimate on how many residents are registering their vehicles and applying for the parking app to receive a reduction in local parking rates at the next City Council meeting. Assistant Mayor Kelley requested Parking Director Fletcher provide an opinion at the next City Council meeting regarding a review on off-season potential discounts or adjustments that could drive businesses downtown during the off-peak seasons.*

**Councilor Denton moved to suspend the rules to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Blalock and voted. Assistant Mayor Kelley voted opposed.**

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Update – City Manager Conard reported that the final draft of the plan is being provided this evening for the City Council review, and it will be coming back at the August 4<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting for acceptance.
- Market Square Master Plan – City Manager Conard advised that the final draft of the plan is being provided this evening for the City Council review, and it will be coming back at the August 4<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting for acceptance.

**XVIII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING**

**XIX. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 10:40 p.m., Assistant Mayor Kelley moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Moreau and voted.**



KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC/CNHMC  
CITY CLERK