

TO: KAREN S. CONARD, CITY MANAGER

FROM: JUNE H. PHILBROOK, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

RE: ACTIONS TAKEN AT THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2025

PRESENT: MAYOR McEACHERN, ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY, COUNCILORS TABOR, DENTON, BLALOCK, BAGLEY, MOREAU AND LOMBARDI

ABSENT: COUNCILOR COOK

1. **Voted** to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes.
2. Proclamation: Sexual Assault Awareness Month - Assistant Mayor Kelley read the Proclamation declaring April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and called on our citizens to come together to reaffirm our commitment to ending sexual assault and supporting survivors.

The Prosecutor's office accepted the Proclamation from Assistant Mayor Kelley and Mayor McEachern with thanks and appreciation.
3. Acceptance of Minutes – March 3, 2025, March 17, 2025, April 7, 2025 – **Voted** to accept and approve the minutes of the March 3, 2025, March 17, 2025, April 7, 2025, City Council meetings.
4. Recognition and Volunteer Committee Reports – Mayor McEachern recognized the Portsmouth Special Olympics Basketball Team congratulating them on winning the bronze medal in Triple Overtime.
5. **Voted** to suspend the rules to bring forward Theodore Porter and New Franklin School 5th Graders to speak regarding establishing a Crossing Guard Appreciation Day.

Voted to authorize Mayor McEachern to establish Crossing Guard Appreciation Day the 2nd Tuesday in the month May.
6. Public Comment Session – There were 8 speakers: Sarah Cornell (Protecting Immigrant Neighbors); Kendra Ford (Protecting Immigrants); Owen Beer (Crossing Guards); Michelle Wirth (Train Crossing); Nicole LaPierre (Zoning); Sue Polidura (Portsmouth); Elizabeth Bratter (Rezoning); Robin Husslage (Rezoning).
7. Cemetery Committee Upcoming Memorial Event – **Voted** to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act.
8. 179 Pleasant Street Sewer Easement Reformation – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to release the Agreement Easement from Charles and Elizabeth Thayer, dated September 10, 1964, and to accept a reformed sewer line easement from Mill Pond View, LLC.
9. Consent Agenda – **Voted** to adopt the Consent Agenda.
 - A. Letter from Mike Effenberger, Seacoast Jazz Society, requesting permission to hold Jazz In the Streets for the dates listed below at three locations: the Vaughan Mall stage, the open area by the tugboats, and Market Square in front of the North Church:
 - Saturday, July 5, 2025 – 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, July 12, 2025 – 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, July 26, 2025 – 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Saturday, August 2, 2025 – 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, August 16, 2025 – 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)

- B. Letter from Michelle James, Yoga in Action, requesting permission to hold their annual series, “Yoga in the Park” for a free, one-hour class in Prescott Park each Tuesday at Noon for the months of June, July and August ***(Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act)***

10. Email Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.

11. Letter from Attorney Alec McEachern regarding Request from Black Oak Realty, LLC that City Request Transfer of Portion of Frenchman’s Lane from the State of New Hampshire – **Voted** to request report backs from Planning Board, Planning Department, Department of Public Works and Legal Department at a future City Council meeting.

12. Appointments to be Considered: - The City Council considered the appointments listed below and will take action on the appointments at the May 5, 2025, City Council meeting.

- Appointment of Heather Loney to the Arts & Cultural Commission
- Appointment of Cassandra Lund to the Arts & Cultural Commission
- Reappointment of Peter Splaine to the Cemetery Committee
- Appointment of Oliver Chag as an Alternate to the Conservation Commission
- Reappointment of Scott Chaudoin to the Recreation Board
- Reappointment of Kory Sirmaian to the Recreation Board
- Appointment of Ian Hanley to the Trees & Public Greenery Committee
- Reappointment of Jeffrey Mattson to the Zoning Board of Adjustment

13. Appointment to be Voted - Logan Roy Alternate to the Planning Board – **Voted** to appoint Logan Roy as an alternate to the Planning Board until December 31, 2027.

14. Resignation letter from Everett Eaton from the Economic Development Commission – **Voted** to accept with regret the resignation of Everett Eaton.

15. Trees and Greenery Report Out – Arbor Day, April 25th - Assistant Mayor Kelley provided a report regarding Arbor Day events taking place in the City of Portsmouth on Friday, April 25, 2025.

16. City Manager Evaluation – Councilor Blalock announced the successful results of City Manager Conard’s Evaluation and spoke to her accomplishments the City Council has witnessed since her last evaluation.

17. Parking & Traffic Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the April 3, 2025 Meeting - **Voted** to accept and approve the action sheet and minutes of the April 3, 2025, Parking & Traffic Safety Committee meeting.

18. Acceptance of Donation for the Senior Activity Center by the Portsmouth Garden Club - \$300 –
Voted to approve and accept the donation as presented.

19. City Manger's Information Items –

- Update Regarding ACLU Lawsuit
City Manager Conard called upon City Attorney Morrell to give a brief update regarding the ACLU Lawsuit advising that the City of Portsmouth will not be joining but will continue to monitor the lawsuits progress.
- 2025 Outstanding Aquatics Program Award for the Recreation Department
City Manager congratulated Director Todd Henley and the Recreation Department team for receiving the Outstanding 2025 Aquatics Program Award.
- Recap of Sustainability Fair
City Manager Conard spoke to the success of this year's Sustainability Fair.
- Pease Development Authority Board Meeting Update
Updated the City Council regarding last week's PDA meeting which resulted in the convening of the PDA Planning Board regarding Thermo Fisher Scientific request for a two-lot subdivision and site plan approval to construct an aircraft hangar. She spoke to a meeting with PDA auditor Barry Dunn to discuss the pre-audit presentation and engagement letter. The City Manager advised that the golf course is officially open for the season. Lastly, informing the City Council that Pease Airport has seen an increase in normal activity due to not only troop flights but leisure travel.
- Update on the Study of a Jones Avenue Landfill Solar Array and the Wind Energy Feasibility Study
City Manager Conard called upon Public Works Director Peter Rice to give an update regarding Jones Avenue Landfill. Director Rice spoke to the possibility of installing solar array and the Wind Energy Feasibility Study.
- Serve with Liberty Mutual Community Project
City Manager Conard advised that Liberty Mutual volunteers will be participating in painting projects at North and Union Cemeteries under the supervision of the Department of Public Works on Friday, May 9, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

20. Adjournment – At 8:20 p.m., **voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

June H. Philbrook
Deputy City Clerk