

TO: KAREN S. 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 MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

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

1. **Voted** to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes.
2. Public Art Review Committee (PARC) Recommendation – Remembering Connie Bean Request – **Voted** to refer the Connie Bean Display to the School Board with the recommendation for adoption by the City Council.
3. Public Art Review Committee (PARC) Recommendation – Nebi Sculpture for Bohenko Gateway Park – **Voted** to authorize PARC to raise approximately \$125,000.00 in private funds; expend resources from PARC funds to undertake soil testing necessary for planning the engineering for installation; work with the Legal Department to contract with Alemany, aligning payments to fundraising and development phases; and work with the Department of Public Works to locate and install the sculpture.
4. **Voted** to suspend the rules to bring forward Item XVII. 1. – Public Safety Update – Police Chief Newport.
5. Public Safety Update – Police Chief Newport – Police Chief Newport provided a public safety update regarding recent investigations in the city by ICE (US Immigration and Customs Enforcement).
6. Public Comment Session – There were 15 speakers: Sophia Shay, Penelope Morrow, Jon Hickok, Reverend Kendra Ford, John Benford, Peter Furst, (via Zoom); Marci Dionne, Andrea Stein, Peter Somssich, Jen Scumaci, Katerine Harake, Kline Dickens (ICE); Roy Helsel (Budget); Petra Huda (Affordable Housing); and Elizabeth Bratter (Affordable Housing Incentives).
7. Reopen Public Hearing – Highway Layout of Coakley Road Extension – Held a public hearing. On a unanimous roll call 9-0, **voted** to approve the Resolution regarding public necessity to acquire property for the layout of the Coakley Road Extension as drafted.
8. Resolution Authorizing a Bond Issue and/or Notes of the City under the Municipal Finance Act of up to Four Million One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$4,150,000.00) For Costs Related To
 - School Facilities Capital Improvements
 - Elementary Schools Upgrade
 - Elementary Schools Playground Upgrade

The Public Hearing on the above reference Resolution will take place on August 4, 2025 City Council meeting with the Resolutions for Projects to Begin in FY26.

9. PUBLIC HEARING and Second Reading of Ordinance Amending Chapter 7, Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, Article III, Traffic Ordinance, Section 7.324: Time Limited Free Parking for Residents and Special Military License Plates, (A) Free Fifteen Minute Parking for Residents, and (B) Free Three Hour Parking for Special Military License Plates – Held a public hearing. **Voted** to separate the question and act on item (B) prior to item (A). City Attorney Morrell advised that item B would need to come back for a public hearing and second reading if item A failed to pass.

Chapter 7, Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, Article III, Traffic Ordinance, Section 7.324: Time Limited Free Parking for Residents and Special Military License Plates, (A) Free Fifteen Minute Parking for Residents – On a 3-6 voice vote, motion to pass second reading and hold third and final reading at the August 4, 2025, City Council meeting **failed** to pass. Mayor McEachern, Councilors Tabor, Bagley voted in favor. Councilors Cook, Denton, Blalock, Moreau, Lombardi, and Assistant Mayor Kelley voted opposed.

Chapter 7, Vehicles, Traffic and Parking, Article III, Traffic Ordinance, Section 7.324: Time Limited Free Parking for Residents and Special Military License Plates, (B) Free Three Hour Parking for Special Military License Plates – A public hearing and second reading will be taking place on the ordinance at the August 4, 2025, City Council meeting.

10. PUBLIC HEARING and Second Reading of Ordinance regarding Chapter 10, Zoning Ordinance, City of Portsmouth Zoning Map be amended as follows: Rezone Parcels Described on the City Tax Map 125 Lot 16; Tax Map 138 Lot 61; Tax Map 138 Lot 62; and a portion of Tax Map 138 Lot 63 from Character District 5 (CD5) to Character District 4 (CD4); to Rezone a portion of Tax Map 138 Lot 63 from Character District 5 (CD5) to Character District L1 (CD4-L1); to change the Boundary of the North End Incentive Overlay District (NEIOD) to remove City Tax Map 138 Lot 61, Tax Map 138 Lot 60-3, and Tax Map 164 Lot 4 from the NEIOD and to Amend the Boundary of the Downtown Overlay District (DOD) to align with the amended NEIOD by removing City Tax Map 164 Lot 4, Tax Map 138 Lot 61, Tax Map 138 Lot 60-3 and a portion of Tax Map 138 Lot 63 from the DOD; to amend the Building Height Map from 2-4 stories (50 Feet) to 2-3 stories (40 feet) for parcels along Bridge Street to Foundry Place and along Hill Street for City Tax Map 125 Lot 16, Tax Map 138 Lot 62 and Tax Map 125 Lot 14 and to add a Building Height Standard of 2-3 stories (40 feet) along Rock Street to the Cul-De-Sac at Foundry Place for City Tax Map 138 Lot 63, Tax Map 138 Lot 60-2, and Tax Map 138 Lot 60-3. The Zoning Maps to be amended are referenced in the City's Zoning Ordinance at Chapter 10, Article 4, Zoning and District Use Regulations, Section 10.421, District Location and Boundaries, Section 10.421.10 and Chapter 10, Article 5A, Character Based Zoning, Section 10.5A21.10, Content of Regulation Plan, Map 10.5A21A (Character Districts and Civic Districts) and Map 10.5A21B (Building Height Standards), Collectively the "Zoning Maps" – Held a public hearing. Moved to pass second reading and hold third and final reading at the August 4, 2025, City Council meeting. **Voted** to amend the motion to postpone second reading until the August 18, 2025, City Council meeting with a report back at the August 4, 2025, City Council meeting under Councilor Moreau's name with possible updates and changes to the ordinance.

11. **Voted** to suspend the rules to take up Item XIII. A. – Presentation on South Mill Pond Playground Project Design from Ultiplay Parks & Playgrounds.
12. Presentation on South Mill Pond Playground Project Design from Ultiplay Parks & Playgrounds – Chris Martin, Ultiplay, provided a detailed presentation on the South Mill Pond Playground Project Design. He reported that this will be an inclusive playground with rubber surfaces and that the playground will reopen in mid-September.
13. Acceptance and Approval of Tentative Agreement with the Association of Portsmouth School Administrators – **Voted** to accept and approve the proposed agreement as presented.
14. Acceptance and Approval of Tentative Agreement with the Portsmouth Association of Clerical Employees - **Voted** to accept and approve the proposed agreement as presented.
15. Acceptance and Approval of Tentative Agreement with the Portsmouth Supervisory Management Alliance - **Voted** to accept and approve the proposed agreement as presented.
16. Consent Agenda – **Voted** to adopt the Consent Agenda.
 - A. Letter from Ben VanCamp, The Chamber Collaborative of Greater Portsmouth, requesting the use of Bohenko Gateway Park for street.*life!* 2025 on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, with a rain date of Thursday, August 14, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (***Anticipated action – moved to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
 - B. Letter from Bryan Curley, Veterans Count, requesting permission to hold the “All-American Fair” on Friday, September 5, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Portsmouth International Airport at Pease (***Anticipated action – moved to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
17. E-mail Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.
18. Letter from Elizabeth Bratter regarding rezoning request under public hearings – **Voted** to accept and place on file.
19. Appointments to be Voted – **Voted** to reappoint the members listed below.
 - Reappointment of Larry Booz as an alternate to the Historic District Commission until June 1, 2028.
 - Reappointment of Margot Doering to the Historic District Commission until June 1, 2028.
 - Reappointment of Martin Ryan to the Historic District Commission until June 1, 2028.
 - Reappointment of Reagan Ruedig to the Historic District Commission until June 1, 2028.
 - Reappointment of Robin Pickering to the Portsmouth Housing Authority until April 1, 2030.

20. Request for First Reading of the Annual Omnibus Ordinance – **Voted** to schedule first reading of the Annual Omnibus Ordinance for the August 4, 2025, City Council meeting.
21. 2026 Fireworks Display – Councilor Bagley withdrew this item because Mr. Teetzel, Wilcox Industries, has generously committed to sponsoring the 250th anniversary celebration to include fireworks in July 2026
22. Proposed Timeline for Fall 2025 CIP Process – City Manager Conard announced that the portal is open to accept citizen requests for the CIP. She stated that the CIP Kickoff Presentation will be held at the August 18, 2025, City Council meeting and the Planning Board would be holding their CIP Kickoff Presentation on August 21, 2025. Also, the City Council will adopt the CIP in December.
- Councilor Denton reported that the Sustainability Committee would like to make a presentation on their CIP recommendations at a future City Council meeting.
23. Adjournment – At 11:50 p.m., **voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk