

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, JUNE 9, 2025

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

1. Proclamation – 50th Anniversary of the Old Ferry Landing – June 10th – Mayor McEachern presented the Proclamation to the Blalock Family in recognition and honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Old Ferry Landing Restaurant declaring June 10th as Old Ferry Landing Day.

The Blalock Family accepted the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation.

2. Krempels Brain Injury Center Day – June 11th – Mayor McEachern read the Proclamation in recognition of Krempels Center and its 25th Anniversary declaring June 11th as Krempels Brain Injury Center Day.

Mr. Krempels accepted the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation.

3. Portsmouth Weekend of Love – June 21st and June 22nd – Mayor McEachern read the Proclamation declaring June 21st and June 22nd as the Portsmouth Weekend of Love.

Denise Wheeler, Co-Founder of Fill the Hall, came forward to accept the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation.

4. Public Art Review Committee (PARC) – Gift of Original Artwork by Judy Schubert – Moved to accept the artwork of an original oil painting.

Voted to suspend the rules to allow Chris Dwyer, Chair of PARC to speak on this donation. Chris spoke to the request that the artwork be located at the Recreation Department, however she indicated that it is the decision of the City Council and City Manager Conard to make the decision where the artwork will be placed in the city.

Motion passed.

5. Public Comment Session – There were six speakers: Roy Helsel (Waste of Tax Dollars); Erik Anderson; Cameron Horack (Budget); Esther Kennedy (Portsmouth); Petra Huda (Parking Process); Tyler Garzo (Residential Parking Program).
6. **Voted** to suspend the rules to bring forward XV. A. – Report Back from Economic Development Commission regarding Free Resident Park.

First Reading of Ordinance Amendments to Chapter 7, VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING, Article III, TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, Section 7.324: LIMITED PARKING – FREE THIRTY MINUTE RESIDENT PARKING, be amended to create free thirty minute resident parking:

Move to amend the current proposal by adding 15-minute resident parking through the Park Mobile Application for free at the beginning of any session per day for residents. **On a roll call vote 7-2, motion passed.** Mayor McEachern, Councilors Tabor, Denton, Blalock, Bagley, Moreau, Lombardi voted in favor. Councilor Cook and Assistant Mayor Kelley voted opposed.

Move to amend Chapter 7, Article III, Traffic Ordinance, by adding a paragraph which reads:

Any vehicle bearing the following special New Hampshire license plates and in use by the person qualifying for said special plates shall be entitled to free parking in metered spaces for no more than three hours each day: Veteran, Military, National Guard Reserve, or Gold Star Family Decal. Any vehicle with license plates from another State, District or United States territory bearing substantially equivalent governmental license plates shall, provided the vehicle is in use by the person qualifying for said special license plates, likewise be entitled to no more than three hours each day of free parking in metered spaces. This exemption does not apply to parking spaces designated for electric vehicle charging. **On a roll call vote 8-1, motion passed.** Mayor McEachern, Councilors Tabor, Cook, Denton, Blalock, Moreau, Lombardi and Assistant Mayor Kelley voted in favor. Councilor Bagley voted opposed.

Move to pass first reading and hold a public hearing and second reading as amended at the July 14, 2025, City Council meeting. **On a roll call vote 5-4, motion passed.** Mayor McEachern, Councilors Tabor, Denton, Blalock and Moreau voted in favor. Councilors Cook, Bagley, Lombardi and Assistant Mayor Kelley voted opposed.

7. First Reading of Ordinance Amendments to Chapter 7, VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING, Article III, TRAFFIC ORDINANCE, Section 7.326: LIMITED PARKING – FIFTEEN MINUTES, be amended to remove certain parking spaces – Voted to table the ordinance.
8. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING on the Proposed FY26 (July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026) Budget – Voted to continue the Public Hearing until the June 23, 2025, City Council meeting.
9. PUBLIC HEARING and Second Reading of a proposed ordinance that 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-W (CD4-W); 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.

Voted to suspend the rules in order to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. Assistant Mayor Kelley and Councilor Bagley voted opposed.

Voted to continue second reading until July 14, 2025, City Council meeting with an amendment to the noticed current second reading to change the lots that are currently Character District 5 and proposed to be Character District 4W to change to Character District 4 only.

10. PUBLIC HEARING and Adoption on a proposed Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Bond Proceeds that are no longer needed to pay costs of the Project for which it was initially borrowed. To pay costs of another Capital Project in accordance with RSA 33:3-a (II)

That in accordance with RSA 33:3-a (II), the unexpended balances of funds borrowed to pay costs of the project set forth below, which amounts are no longer needed to complete the project for which they were initially borrowed, are hereby appropriated by this Council to pay costs of School Facilities Security Upgrades – Unexpended Balance \$551,638.00 – Held a Public Hearing. **On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted** to adopt the Resolution as presented.

11. Request for Public Hearing Regarding Various Bonding Resolutions for Projects to Begin in FY26 – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to bring back for public hearing and adoption, the various proposed CIP projects to be bonded as presented for the July 14, 2025, City Council meeting.
12. Planning Board Recommendation on Islington Street Drainage Easements – **Voted** to accept the drainage easements on 547/549 State Street and 72, 86, and 96 Islington Street.
13. 635 Sagamore Avenue Access Easement for Water Services – **Voted** to accept and record an Access Easement for Water Services in a substantially similar form to the deed contained in the agenda packet.
14. Acceptance of Several Easements for Property Located at 0 Raynes Avenue – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to accept and record a community space easement, a greenway easement, a sidewalk easement, and a drainage easement from the owners of 0 Raynes Avenue in substantially similar form to the easement deed contained in the agenda packet.
15. Acceptance of Several Easements for Property Located at 100 Durgin Lane – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to accept and record a community space easement, an access easement for a turnaround, and an access easement for water services from the owners of 100 Durgin Lane substantially similar form to the easement deeds contained in the agenda packet.
16. Acceptance of Several Easements for Property Located at 2 Russell Street – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to accept and record a community space easements and a fire access easement from Port Harbor Land, LLC in substantially similar form to the easement deeds contained in the agenda packet.
17. Petition to Layout a New Public Highway – Coakley Road Extension – **Voted** to refer the acquisition of the Coakley Road Extension, as described in the enclosed Petition, to the Planning Board and to schedule a site walk and public hearing on the Petition as part of the regular scheduled City Council meeting on July 14, 2025.

18. Consent Agenda – **Voted** to adopt the Consent Agenda.

- A. Request from Robert Nelson of Just Mystic, LLC to install a Projecting Sign at 16 Congress Street, Unit 103 (***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***
- B. Letter from Sandi Clark Kaddy, Seacoast African American Cultural Center, requesting permission to hold the 4th Juneteenth Freedom Walk on Thursday, June 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)
- C. Letter from Timothy Cole, Portsmouth Professional Firefighters Local 1313, requesting permission to hold a boot drive on Saturday, August 9, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Market Square (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act***)

19. Letter from Chris Rose & Nicole Stonerook, Portsmouth Middle School 8th Grade Science Teachers, addressing Solar Energy Solutions Projects completed by 8th grade students – **Voted** to refer the projects to the Sustainability Committee.

20. Letter from David Smith, New Hampshire DOT, answering questions raised by the City Council during the May 5, 2025, US 1 Roadway Improvement Project Presentation – **Voted** to accept and place on file.

21. Letter from Michael Capalare, requesting the City of Portsmouth, commemorating 225 years of George Washington entering our city at the Plains, and place a historical marker at the location where Washington stopped – **Voted** to refer to the Department of Public Works for report back.

22. Letter from Kevin Baum of Hoefle, Phoenix, Gormley & Roberts, PLLC, request for Release of Unbuilt Paper Street Portion of Jenkins Avenue Pursuant to NH RSA 231:51 and 231:52 – **Voted** to refer to the Legal Department and the Public Works Department for report back.

23. Letter from Christopher Schroeder, Irreverent Warriors Portsmouth, requesting permission to host a Silkies Hike through Portsmouth on Saturday, August 23, 2025 – **Voted** to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act.

24. E-mail Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.

25. Appointments to be Considered – The City Council considered the appointments to be voted upon at the June 23, 2025, City Council meeting.

- Appointment of Susan B. Strauss to the Historic District Commission
- Appointment of Joy Curth to the Historic District Commission

26. Appointments to be Voted – Celeste Brooks to the Cemetery Committee – **Voted** to reappoint Celeste Brooks to the Cemetery Committee.

27. Resignations – **Voted** to accept with regret the resignation of Jody Record from the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a letter expressing our thanks and appreciation for her service.

Voted to accept with regret the resignation of David Allen from Parking & Traffic Safety Committee with a letter expressing our thanks and appreciation for his service.

28. Energy Advisory Committee Update – Councilor Tabor reported that the Energy Advisory Committee met with Public Works Director Rice regarding the feasibility of solar array at Jones Avenue Landfill which was positive and could potentially supply 1.7 megawatts. He reported the next step would be an RFP to solar developers. He said that City Manager Conard and Public Works Director Rice are recommending some consulting help to develop criteria to guide the developer. He indicated that there would be an Interconnect Study conducted. In addition, the Committee is recommending that the City Council direct staff to identify funding for and obtain the services of a consultant firm for a solar array at the Jones Avenue Landfill.

29. Funding for further due diligence, Jones Avenue solar array and CIP item BI-20-PW-47, EV Charging Station – Councilor Tabor requested that the Committee receive a report back on the Charging Stations because the funding could be a change in use.

30. EV Charging Stations Report Back – Public Works Director Rice reported that a number of EV Charging Stations have been installed at the Bridge Street Lot and reports show that we are 25% of utilization throughout the day. He reported that 4 tier 1 stations will be installed at the Port Inn located on Route 1 Bypass. He stated that the Committee is recommending moving the solar array project along versus pursuing charging stations right now.

Voted to allocate \$105,000.00 of Capital Improvement Plan money from the EV Charging Station Element B1-20-PW-47 to obtain consulting services to develop an RFP for the solar array project at the Jones Avenue Landfill.

31. Acceptance of Donation of Memorial Bench in honor of John & Frances Castellano located on Peirce Island – **Voted** to approve and accept the donation of a Memorial Bench as presented.

32. Acceptance of Donation of Granite Memorial Bench located at the State Park in memory of Chris Rice from Aileen Dugan of State Farm – **Voted** to approve and accept the donation of a Memorial Bench as presented.

33. Acceptance of Donation to the Fire Department for support of Ambulance Program - \$20,000.00 – **Voted** to approve and accept the donation to the Fire Department as presented.

34. City Manager's Informational Items

- Federal Funding Emergency Management Concerns Update – City Manager Conard reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Center for Domestic Preparedness' Environmental Health Training in Emergency Response (EHTER) has been eliminated.
- Pease Development Authority Board Meeting Update – City Manager Conard advised that the airport saw a record number of commercial passengers during April vacation along with parking revenue. Also, the first of 10 American Cruise Lines, small coastal cruise vessels will be arriving on Saturday, June 28th that is up from 4 last year.
- City Properties and Rights-of-Way Maintenance Practices – City Manager Conard reported the management of invasive species is the only exception to DPW's organic practices. She stated the Department relies on non-organic products, and particularly glyphosate herbicides. Also, in sensitive sites, such as along the bike trail near the Harvard Street well, DPW will apply sodium hydroxide to control Japanese knotweed. She stated that sodium hydroxide presents no significant environmental impact.
- Report Back on Steps it Takes to Open a New Business – City Manager Conard advised the City Council that staff have developed a user-friendly guide to assist prospective business owners from concept to opening day. She stated it outlines key steps including early engagement processes with various departments and that the new webpage can be found under the "Businesses" item in the main menu on the City's website.

35. Adjournment – At 11:58 p.m., **voted** to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk