

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE
PORTSMOUTH ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

February 7, 2025

7:30 AM- 9:00 AM

Members Present: Chair Tom Watson, Vice Chair Sarah Lachance, Andrew Ward, Jen Scumaci, Phil Cohen, Jacob Lahoux, Bob Marchewka, City Councilor Vince Lombardi, Ben VanCamp

Absent: Assistant Mayor Joanna Kelley, Anne Weidman, Anna Howard, Everett Eaton

City Staff: City Manager Karen Conard, Assistant City Manager Sean Clancy

Chair Watson called the meeting to order at 7:40 am.

Motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting with one date correction made by *Commissioner Ward*, seconded by *Commissioner Lahoux*. Motion passed unanimously.

Economic Development Office (EDO) Report: *S. Clancy*

- The 2025 Tourism Summit was held in late January and hopes are high up for a better tourist season that we experienced in 2024.
- Hotel development inquiries have picked up across the region (Kittery, Pease, & Newington).
- Airport activity continues to increase with both commercial and military flights.
- Commercial space inquiries are trickling in various sectors including retail, restaurant, and recreation.
- The city-wide (2035) Master Plan effort is close to starting once a contract is signed with the chosen consultant; Uline.

Chamber Update – *B. VanCamp*

- The 2025 Tourism summit was well attended, and feedback was positive regarding the program speakers as well as the new Pease Airport arrival lounge.

City Council Update – *Councilor Lombardi*

- Councilor Lombardi provided a general overview of City Council activities since early January.

City Manager Conard shared the following updates:

- The State of NH has offered additional funding through the State Revolving Loan program of \$5.2M for additional work at the Pease Wastewater Treatment Plant and the City has accepted this offer.
- The City has fully implemented a new website domain change which is **portsmouthnh.gov** to improve cyber security.
- Citizens can now register their motor vehicles and sign-up for the resident parking discount program at the same time and place (City Hall) which is a significant service improvement.

Chair Watson asked for feedback and comments regarding the annual planning workshop (January).

- A robust round of comments and questions ensued. The result was that the EDC will engage the Planning Board Chair and Director of Planning and Sustainability to engage in the 2035 city-wide Master Plan process. The EDC feels strongly that this is an area where participation and significant contributions are critical to supporting continued economic development, growth, and vibrancy.

Public Comment: N/A

Motion to adjourn by *Commissioner Marchewka*, seconded by *Commissioner Scumaci*. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

A full recording of this meeting is available on the City's EDC webpage.

Submitted by,
Sean Clancy,
Assistant City Manager for Economic & Community Development