

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, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

PRESENT: MAYOR McEACHERN, ASSISTANT MAYOR KELLEY, COUNCILORS COOK, TABOR, BLALOCK, BAGLEY, MOREAU, FLYNN, AND HOPKINS

1. **Voted** to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes.
2. Acceptance of Minutes – **Voted** to accept and approve the minutes of the November 17, 2025; December 8, 2025; December 22, 2025; and January 5, 2026 City Council meetings.
3. Proclamation – Black History Month – Mayor McEachern read the Proclamation declaring February as Black History Month and urging all citizens to champion now more than ever our commitment to racial equity and inclusion and to sustain the open door of diversity throughout our community.
4. Public Comment Session – There was one speaker: Gerald Duffy (Housing).
5. Request for Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund Rate Model Study Follow Up Work Session – **Voted** to schedule a work session on March 2, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of presenting and discussing the findings and recommendations of the Water and Sewer Rate Study.
6. Purchase and Sale Agreement for the Greenland Well – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement in a substantially similar form as provided in the agenda packet to procure approximately 1.07 acres from the Town of Greenland, and take all further action subsequent thereto that may be necessary to close on the subject project if contingencies are met.
7. Renewal and Update to the Municipal Alliance for Adaptive Management (MAAM) – **Voted** to authorize the City Manager to execute the Amendment to Renew and Update the Intermunicipal Agreement for Development of an Adaptive Water Quality Management Plan for Great Bay Estuary in a substantially similar form as contained in the agenda packet.
8. Consent Agenda – **Voted** to adopt the Consent Agenda.
 - A. Letter from Ken La Valley, Out of the Darkness Walk, requesting permission to hold the Out of the Darkness Walk on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act**)
9. Email Correspondence – **Voted** to accept and place on file.

10. Letter from Mellissa Walls, Maeve's Mobile Cocktail Hour & The Vagabond's Faire, requesting permission to hold a Night Market at Bohenko Park from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. seeking suggested date – **Voted** to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act.
11. Letter from Mark Alesse regarding adjustments to the parking ordinance – **Voted** to refer to the Parking & Traffic Safety Committee for report back.
12. Appointments to be Considered – The City Council considered the appointments outlined below to be voted upon at the February 17, 2026, meeting.
 - Appointment of Sarah Illingworth as an Alternate to the Arts & Cultural Commission
 - Appointment of Mary Claire Rodriguez-Abbott to the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee
 - Appointment of Heather Krans to the Public Art Review Committee
 - Appointment of Christopher Clement, Sr. to the Trustees of Trust Funds
13. Appointments to be Voted – Voted on the following appointments as outlined below.
 - Reappointment of Jeffrey Cooper to the Arts & Cultural Commission until February 2, 2029
 - Appointment of Demi Dubois to the Arts & Cultural Commission until February 2, 2029
 - Reappointment of Eli Kaynor to the Arts & Cultural Commission until February 2, 2029
 - Appointment of Hope Anderson Puzzo to the Arts & Cultural Commission until February 2, 2027
 - Appointment of Margherita Giacobbi to the Arts & Cultural Commission February 2, 2029
 - Appointment of Joshua Cyr to the Economic Development Commission until February 2, 2030
 - Appointment of Jason Goodrich as an Alternate to the Economic Development Commission until February 2, 2030
 - Appointment of Amy Dutton to the Cemetery Committee until February 2, 2028
 - Appointment of Jennifer Merriam to the Cemetery Committee until February 2, 2028
 - Appointment of Susan Sterry to the Municipal Building Blue Ribbon Committee until December 31, 2027
14. Acceptance of Resignation of Ellen Fineberg from the Public Art Review Committee – **Voted** to accept with regret the resignation of Ellen Fineberg from the Public Art Review Committee and to send a letter thanking Ellen for her service to the city.
15. FY27 Budget guidance from the City Council, and request for report back on open positions, retirements, and possible efficiencies from these (with work session at City Manager's discretion) – Councilor Tabor requested to establish a Work Session at the City Manager's discretion with a report back on open positions, retirements, and possible efficiencies. No formal action was taken.

16. Discussion and direction regarding next steps to improve childcare access and quality in Portsmouth, including the formation of a city led, cross-departmental working group and exploration of employer supported childcare models in partnership with the Chamber and local businesses – Councilor Hopkins suggested creating a time bound city led childcare access and quality led working group with a small steering team and a broader advisory network.

Councilor Hopkins asked that the city look at the areas we already touch such as zoning, land use, permitting, change of use, public health considerations, and economic development workforce impacts. She requested a snapshot of Portsmouth childcare today, what exists, what ages are served, and where the gaps are. Further to investigate the local barriers, identify the quick wins, and bring back partnership options that include employer supported models and adaptive reuse of commercial space. Also, an implementation roadmap with realistic costs, potential funding sources with a recommendation in 90 days.

Voted to refer to the City Manager for a report back.

17. Discussion on cross-committee collaboration and integration: exploring low burden ways to coordinate committee work, share insights, and ensure sustainability considerations are reflected across city actions – **Voted** to send the City Council Goals to the Boards, Commissions, and Committees, including Blue Ribbon Committees on further communication and collaboration amongst them and receive feedback on the goals as one stated purpose and when an action aligns with a Council goal to report that back to the City Council.

18. Approval of Donation from Paul Gormley and Kimi Iguchi for the Portsmouth Fire Department - \$1,000 – **Voted** to approve and accept the donation for the Fire Department as presented.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Kelli L. Barnaby, MMC/CNHMC
City Clerk