

Meeting Minutes and Actions of the Portsmouth City Council
April 6, 2026, 7:00 PM
Municipal Complex, 1 Junkins Avenue, Portsmouth NH

Mayor McEachern called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

1. Non-Public Session

Councilor Moreau moved to close the Non-Public Session and seal the minutes. Second, Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

2. Roll Call

Present: Mayor McEachern, Councilors Cook, Tabor, Blalock, Bagley, Moreau, Flynn and Hopkins.

Absent: Assistant Mayor Kelley

Mayor McEachern introduced the students participating in 2026 Student Government Day.

3. Invocation

Mayor McEachern requested that community members continue to keep our service members in our thoughts.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor McEachern introduced the Cub Scouts to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Recognitions and Volunteer Committee Reports

- a. Proclamations – Clean Water Week, Poetry Month, Public Safety Telecommunication Week, Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Mayor McEachern called for a five-minute recess and called the meeting back to order at 7:34 p.m.

- 6. Public Comment Session** – There were eight speakers. Deborah Van Patten (Frankie the dog), Monique Shevlin (Frankie), Andrew Houldsworth (Support for School Custodial and School Cafeteria Agreements), Barbara MacMillan (Frankie), Nancy Lehoux (Frankie), Ann Mordecai (Frankie), Beth Margeson (April is Child Abuse Prevention Month), Rick Becksted (Trust)

Discussion occurred among City Council members with contributions from community members, and the Deputy City Attorney Legal regarding the topic of Frankie.

Councilor Tabor moved to suspend the rules to open discussion on the City Council donating to the NHSPCA in memory of Frankie. Second, Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

Councilor Tabor moved for a resolution that the Council would wish the City to donate to the NHSPCA in memory of Frankie in an amount to be determined in discussions with Deborah Van Patten. Second, Councilor Cook.

Deliberation took place among City Council members. Advising there will need to be conversation internally on an amount and making this an action item at a future meeting.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

Councilor Moreau moved to suspend the rules and bring forward Item 11. City Manager's Items Which Require Action, Item C. Tentative Agreement with the School Custodial Employees and the School Cafeteria Employees Bargaining Units. Second, Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

7. 11. C. Tentative Agreement with the School Custodial Employees and the School Cafeteria Employees Bargaining Units

Councilor Flynn moved to approve the Agreement as presented. Second, Councilor Moreau.

Motion passed, 7-1. Councilor Bagley voted opposed.

8. First Reading of Amendment to Chapter 11, Article II, Section 11.216 (B) Relative to Sewer Use Changes

Councilor Tabor moved to pass first reading of the amendment to Chapter 11, Article II, Section 11.216 (B) relative to the establishment of sewer fees and schedule a public hearing and second reading for May 4, 2026. Second, Councilor Flynn.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

9. Third and Final Reading of Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Zoning Ordinance to change the zoning designation of the following parcels pursuant to Chapter 10, Article 4, Zoning and District Location and Boundaries, Section 10.421.10 of the Zoning Ordinance

Councilor Bagley moved to pass third reading as presented. Second, Councilor Blalock.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

10. Approval of Seacoast Eat Local Farmers' Market License Agreement

Councilor Moreau moved to authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement as presented, allowing Seacoast Eat Local to operate a Farmers' Market at the Municipal Complex on Saturday mornings from May 2, 2026, through October 31, 2026, and that the City Manager is further authorized to negotiate and execute any amendment to the Agreement that she deems consistent with its purpose. Second, Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

11. Updated Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) Pilot – 2026 & Downtown Workforce Parking Pilot on Parrott Avenue

Councilor Moreau moved to schedule a first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 7, Parking, Article I – Parking Meters, Section 7.102, Parking Meter Rates, to establish parking rates for the Resident Access Parking Program (RAPP) Pilot at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting. Second, Councilor Hopkins.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

12. Request for Public Hearing to Participate in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund – Fleet Street Area Reconstruction Phase 2B.

Councilor Cook moved to schedule a public hearing and vote at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting to participate in the NHDES Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program for the Fleet Street Area Reconstruction Phase 2B project as presented. Second, Councilor Tabor.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

13. Request for Public Hearing to Participate in the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund – Greenland Well PFAS Treatment

Councilor Blalock moved to schedule a public hearing and vote at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting to participate in the NHDES Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program for Greenland Well Treatment and rescind bonding authority as described in the draft resolution as presented. Second, Councilor Bagley.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

14. 134 Pleasant Street Revocable License Request

Councilor Blalock moved to request a report from the Legal Department at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting. Second, Councilor Bagley.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

15. Consent Agenda:

- a. Letter from JerriAnne Boggis on behalf of the Black Heritage Trail to hold the Juneteenth celebration events on June 19th, 21st, 27th, and 28th, at various locations in the City of Portsmouth
- b. Letter from Jodie Tsekrekas on behalf of Cystic Fibrosis Foundation requesting to hold 35/65/100-mile one-day bicycle tour on Saturday, October 3, 2026
- c. Letter from Caleb and Samantha Ginsberg request for permission to Host Youth (Court Soccer) Tournament on the Basketball and Tennis Courts at South Mill Pond Recreational Complex on Saturday, August 1, 2026 (Rain Date: August 8, 2026)
- d. Letter from Joe Gleason on behalf of the Music Hall requesting the closure of Chestnut Street for the following events:
 - Emerging Artist Benefit Concert on Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
 - TEDxPortsmouth on Friday, May 8, 2026
 - Seacoast LitFest on Thursday, June 11, 2026, and Sunday, June 14, 2026
 - Telluride by the Sea on Friday, September 25, 2026, through Sunday, September 27, 2026
 - New Hampshire Film Festival Film Festival from Thursday, October 15, 2026, through Sunday, October 18, 2026 8:00 am to 11:00 pm
- e. Letter from Brian Miller on behalf of New England Run for the Fallen requesting to hold the 4th Annual Run which will come through the City of Portsmouth on Sunday, August 16, 2026
- f. Letter from Russ Grazier on behalf of PMAC requesting to hold a small parade from Friday, April 17, 2026
- g. Letter from Stephan Infascelli on behalf of Marathon Sports request to hold the Portsmouth 5K on Saturday, May 2, 2026
- h. Letter from Greg Vaillancourt on requesting the approval of temporary signage to be located at Leary Field during the 2026 baseball season from May 1, 2026, through the end of October 2026
- i. Letter from Bruce Hurley on behalf of Seacoast Half Marathon Organizing Committee requesting to hold the 21st Annual Seacoast Half Marathon on Sunday, October 25, 2026
- j. Letter from Seacoast African American Cultural Center requesting to hold the Juneteenth Freedom Walk on June 19, 2026
- k. Letter from Robinson Family Foundation to request to hold an RFF Basketball Weekend from Friday, July 10, 2026, through Sunday, July 12, 2026

Councilor Moreau moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented, referring items to the City Manager with Authority to Act. Second, by Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

16. Presentations and Written Communications

a. Email Correspondence

Councilor Cook moved to accept and place on file. Second, by Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

17. Appointment of Katelyn Griggs as Acting City Clerk (Clerk Pro Tempore) of the City of Portsmouth, effective April 7, 2026, to serve until a permanent City Clerk is hired. This appointment is made in accordance with the City Charter, Section 4.2, NH RSA 48:8, and NH RSA 669:65 to fill the current vacancy in the office

Councilor Bagley moved to appoint Katelyn Griggs as Acting City Clerk (Clerk Pro Tempore) of the City of Portsmouth, effective April 7, 2026, to serve until a permanent City Clerk is hired. This appointment is made in accordance with the City Charter section 4.2, NH RSA 48.8, and NH RSA 669:65, to fill the current vacancy in the office. Second, by Councilor Hopkins.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

18. Request for a Joint Work Session with the School Board and School Department Regarding the FY27 Operating Budget

Councilor Tabor moved to approve a Joint Work Session with the School Board and School Department Regarding the FY27 Operating Budget to be held Monday, April 13th at 6:00 pm in Council Chambers. Second, Councilor Blalock.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

19. Appointments to be Considered

To be voted upon at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting

- Appointment of Elissa Margolin to the Board of Commissioners Portsmouth Housing Authority
- Appointment of Paula Glynn to the Citywide Neighborhood Committee
- Appointment of Colleen Ovecka to the Citywide Neighborhood Committee
- Appointment of Jessica Blasko to the Conservation Commission
- Reappointment of Mary Loane to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee

- Reappointment of Jen Stebbins Thomas to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
- Reappointment of Dagan Migirditch to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
- Reappointment of Andrew Samonas to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
- Reappointment of Byron Matto to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
- Appointment of Eric Weinrieb to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
- Appointment of Caitlin McGrath-Levesque to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
- Reappointment of Richard Duddy to the Recreation Board
- Reappointment of Lauren Krans to the Recreation Board
- Reappointment of Erik Anderson to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee
- Appointment of Shan Zuidema to the Safe Water Advisory Group

20. Appointments to be Voted

- Reappointment of Jacqueline Cali-Pitts to the Recreation Board

Councilor Blalock moved to reappoint Jacqueline Cali-Pitts to the Recreation Board. Second, Councilor Flynn.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

Mayor McEachern requested to have all Housing Blue Ribbon Committee Members appointed at the same time:

- Appointment of Angus MacDonald to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee ***to be voted on at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting***
- Appointment of Oliver Chag to the Housing Blue Ribbon Committee ***to be voted on at the April 20, 2026, City Council meeting***

21. Resignation of Torey Brooks from the Sustainability Committee

Councilor Flynn moved to accept with regret the resignation of Torey Brooks from the Sustainability Committee and send a letter thanking Torey for her service. Second, Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

22. Resignation of Jason Goodrich from the Arts and Cultural Commission

Councilor Cook moved to accept with regret the resignation of Jason Goodrich from the Arts and Cultural Commission and send a letter thanking Jason for his service. Second, Councilor Flynn.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

23. Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation

Councilor Cook moved to request a report back from staff on changes to Prescott Park renovations in Phase 1A of the Prescott Park Master Plan, and given these changes, how Prescott Park Arts Festival in partnership with the City, could privately fund a covered stage and any ancillary structures to serve the Festival for the long term future. Second, Councilor Tabor.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

24. Acceptance of Donation from Liberty Mutual for Liberty Mutual Day Volunteers

Councilor Flynn moved to accept the donations from Liberty Mutual for Liberty Mutual Day Volunteers to participate in Day of Service activities and restoration projects to be held on Friday, May 8, 2026, and Friday, May 15, 2026, at the direction of the Cemetery Committee as presented. Second, Councilor Cook.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

25. Acceptance of Portsmouth Certified Local Government Grant \$27,000

Councilor Cook moved to accept up to \$27,000 from the Portsmouth Certified Local Government Grant and authorize the City Manager to enter into a Grant Agreement as presented. Second, Councilor Moreau.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

26. City Manager's Informational Items

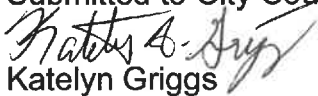
- FlashVote Heat Resilience Survey – City Manager Conard stated that the Planning & Sustainability Department has been studying vulnerabilities to extreme heat across the City and recently conducted a FlashVote survey to better understand how residents cope with high temperatures and the impacts they face, and identify cooling resources or policies that may be lacking.
- Master Plan Open House Reminder – City Manager Conard reminded the public that the Master Plan Open House will take place on April 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Campus.

27. Adjournment

At 9:19 p.m. Councilor Moreau moved to adjourn the meeting. Second, Councilor Blalock.

On a unanimous vote, motion passed.

Prepared by:
June H. Philbrook, CNHDMC

Submitted to City Council by:

Katelyn Griggs
Acting City Clerk

Approved by the City Council

Date: May 4, 2026

The Portsmouth City Council meeting of April 6, 2026, can be viewed in its entirety on the City of Portsmouth You Tube Channel.