

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 9, 2023
MINUTES

7:00 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, Leonard B. Katzman, Daniela T. Abbott, David M. Gleason, Keith E. Hamilton, Charles J. Levesque and J. Mark Ryan

Time: 7:01 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – There was no Executive Session held.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to receive as presented made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

Directions to view licensing applications: 1) Click on [Viewpoint](#), 2) Click Records and then type in the record number which is listed on the agenda, 3) Click on the highlighted record to view the application

1. Bills

2. Peddler License – Mobile Food Establishment (MFE), Renewal:

Cluck Truck LLC, 256 Maple Ave, Newport, 1 vehicle (#2263)

MINUTES – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.
12/12/22

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. RI League of Cities and Towns Annual Convention

- This year’s annual RI League of Cities and Towns annual convention and expo will be at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick on March 23rd. The expo begins at 8:30 with opening remarks at 9:15. You can register via the League’s website.

2. Moody’s Rating Review update

- Moody’s Investors Service has revised its rating methodology. Over 300 cities and counties rated by Moody’s are under review for possible changes – this will include Portsmouth.
- We reviewed a request for information from Moody’s with their representative and our bond advisor last week. Their new methodology will place greater emphases on a community’s cyber-security stance, susceptibility to climate change, cash reserves, and the ability to access special funds.
- Portsmouth is currently rated AA2 by Moody’s. We expect a determination of our new rating under the revised methodology to be released Thursday.
- Portsmouth is rated AAA by Standard & Poor’s and that rating has just been confirmed as stable.

3. RI Trust Annual Dinner

- The RI Interlocal Trust Annual Dinner Meeting will be Thursday, January 19, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Warwick. There will be a member seminar starting at 4:30, followed by a reception and dinner. RSVPs are asked for by January 13th via the RI Trust website.

4. Transfer Station Sticker sales update

- Transfer Station stickers are now available for sale at the Tax Collector's office. Transfer Station stickers will cost \$250 for the first vehicle per household and \$10 for one additional vehicle per household.
- Last year's Transfer Station sticker will provide entry into the Hedly Street Transfer Station until Jan. 31st, or April 1st at the Prudence Island Transfer Station.
- The Tax Office will be open just for sticker sales on Saturday, February 4th, at the end of the grace period.

5. Legislative priorities

- Just a reminder: the next Council meeting will be the annual joint session with the School Committee. We will provide a brief overview of the upcoming budget process and you will discuss your legislative priorities with our State Legislators. The Town Clerk is compiling Council inputs.

6. Ethics training

- Another reminder: there will be a State required Ethics Training Session on Monday, January 30th at 7:00 PM. The Town Clerk has notified Council, Staff, and Committee members required to attend.

7. DPW contract update

- The current collective bargaining agreement with the Public Works Union, National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) Local #280, will expire June 30th. We have received notice in accordance with RIGL the union is requesting negotiations for a successor agreement.
- We will begin negotiating on the 24th of this month.

8. Park Avenue parking update

- A request from the Police Department to prohibit parking adjacent to the existing crosswalk in the vicinity of Flo's Drive In on Park Avenue was heard by the State Traffic Commission last October.
- Vehicles often park adjacent to the crosswalk and pedestrians are required to peer around the parked vehicles to look for oncoming traffic. Conversely, motorists traveling along the roadway may not be able to see pedestrians in the crosswalk waiting to cross.
- We received word the State Traffic Commission has approved to prohibit parking on Park Avenue between Omerod Avenue and Gormely Avenue on the northern side of the roadway and approximately 20 feet in each direction from the crosswalk on the southern side of the roadway.
- Signage and pavement marking work will be completed by RI DOT in the Spring.

9. Awarding of Federal community project funding to the Police Department

- Senator Jack Reed's office notified us late last month the Portsmouth Police Department has been approved for community project funding. The initiative will provide \$30K for new mobile data terminals in the police fleet.

REMOVALS, RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Removals:

a. Melville Park Committee – Motion to remove James Wesner and William White made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

b. Tree Commission – Motion to remove Brendan Deprest and Rick Taylor made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Resignations:

a. Bristol Ferry Town Center Committee – Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Ann Vickers made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

b. Melville Park Committee – Motion to accept with regret the resignation of Raymond Abraham made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Appointments:

a. Melville Park Committee – Motion to appoint Richard Alexander made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

b. Parks & Recreation Committee – Motion to appoint Sharlene Patton made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

c. Design Review Board (Re-appt.) – Motion to reappoint Leslie Costa made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

d. Harbor Commission (Re-appt.) – Motion to reappoint Patricia Rossi made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

e. Planning Board (Re-appt.) – Motion to reappoint Kate Wilson made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

f. Tree Commission (Re-appt.) – Motion to reappoint Leslie Costa made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Monthly Finance Report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request approval of a letter of support for Church Community Housing Corporations application to RI Housing for the consolidated funding program. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

2. PUBLIC HEARING: Proposed amendment to Chapter 364 Tobacco Products. No comments. Motion to close the Public Hearing made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0. Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI

Ordinance # 2023-01-09

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TOWN CODE OF THE TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH

Be it ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Portsmouth:

Section 1. Section 364-2 of Chapter 364 of the Town Code entitled “Tobacco Products” is hereby amended as follows:

§ 364-2 Use of tobacco and cannabis products prohibited.

Smoking, vaping, and other uses of tobacco and cannabis products are hereby prohibited at any beach, park, athletic or recreational facility owned by the Town of Portsmouth.

Section 2. This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

ADOPTED BY TOWN COUNCIL
ACTION ON _____

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk

CORRESPONDENCE – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

1. Public notice of Proposed Rule-Making and Public Hearing – Ocean State Adaptation and Resilience Fund (650-RICR-30-05-01). Public hearing to be held on January 10, 2023. / CRMC
2. Neighborhoods are for neighbors letter. / S. Panaggio

FUTURE MEETINGS

Jan 23 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Jan 30 7:00 PM – Ethics Training
Feb 13 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

Time: 7:26 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC Town Clerk