

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 13, 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: 7:00 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – No Executive Session.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Proclamation of Appreciation – James Seveney

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to receive as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, 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:

Longade LLC d/b/a Del’s Lemonade, 729 West Main Rd, Middletown, 1 truck & 1 cart (#2294)

MINUTES – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

2/27/23

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Waste disposal white paper for review update – In October of last year, the Town Council directed staff to work with our waste consultant to develop a hybrid waste management option to develop into a Request for Proposals (RFP). The Council directed the hybrid RFP should include: curbside collection for the residents of the entire Town, elimination of pay-as-you-throw bags, and utilization of the Transfer Station for bulky waste and diversion materials. A white paper has been prepared which addresses options that must be considered in the development of a hybrid option for curbside collection, bulky waste and diversions. The white paper identifies key areas to be discussed and decided upon by the Council. We will post the paper tomorrow morning and seek public comment for one month, after which, we will revise as needed and present the paper to the Council for discussion and decision.

2. Portsmouth Community Electricity forum – Good Energy will host a Community Forum here in the Chamber on Thursday, March 23rd at 6 pm. Anyone with questions or interest in learning more about the Portsmouth Community Electricity Program is welcome to attend.
3. Budget update – The budget is in the final stages of development. Our School Committee will hold their last budget meeting tomorrow evening and I will have a proposal ready to distribute to the Council on March 31st.
4. Cybersecurity update – In an ongoing effort to enhance our cyber security stance and comply with State and Insurance recommended standards, we will transition to multi-factor authentication with a goal of implementation by the end of the fiscal year. This will not affect log-ins from terminals inside our network, such as a work desk in town hall. It will apply to log-ins from accounts outside the network. An example would be logging into a Town of Portsmouth email account from home. Ray McKenna, our IT Director, will keep applicable account holders informed about new authentication procedures as the transition progresses.

Additionally, last week, Dennis Seale, a retired Police Chief, passed away. He dedicated his career to public service in Portsmouth, starting in 1977 as the Town's Dog Officer. He then worked his way up the ranks and was appointed as a probationary Patrolman in 1982. He continued to progress in his career until he was appointed Chief of Police in 1998, a position he held until his retirement in 2006. Our deepest sympathies go out to his loved ones during this challenging time.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointments:

- a. Design Review Board – Motion to appoint Raymond Abraham made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.
- b. Tree Commission – Motion to appoint Dr. Murray Norcross Jr. made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.
- c. Melville Park Committee (Re-Appt) – Motion to reappoint Raymond Abraham made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.
- d. Tree Warden (Re-Appt) – Motion to reappoint John Fitzgerald made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Impact Fee Report presentation and request Council direction on proposal to modify impact fee ordinance. – Motion to receive and place on file as presented and task Town staff to work on a modification to the impact fee ordinance to be brought back to the Council made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Update on Butts Hill Fort and request to begin spring cleanups as soon as possible, to get ahead of the vegetative growth season. – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Levesque. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Newport Polo requests approval of additional seating. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 7-0.
4. Request support for Charlestown Town Council's Resolution in Support of House Bill 2023 – H5174, An Act Relating to Waters and Navigation Coastal Resources Management Council. –Motion made but not seconded. Did not go forward for a vote.
5. Request approval for a Resolution in Support of Bills H-5300 and S-379 Relating to Assault Weapons. – Did not go forward for a vote. Request withdrawn.
6. Request for approval of capital projects using previously budgeted Capital Funds and the Capital Reserve Fund for the following:
 - a. Bleachers at the Little League field.

- b. Asbestos remediation at the Fire Department.
- c. Request approval to award the Town Hall Roof Replacement to Silktown Roofing, Inc. for \$258,000.

– Motion to approve all as presented made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

7. Request approval of proposed Memorandum of Agreement with Police Union. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

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

- 1. Resolution in support of housing development & land use. / Hopkinton Town Council
- 2. Repeat Public Notice – Drinking Water Warning. / Prudence Island Water District
- 3. Monthly RIRRC Report. / Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp.
- 4. Letter imploring the Town Council to vote against House bills 2023-H 5174 and 2022-H 8055 regarding the high-tide line. / B. & D. Bernon
- 5. Letter against the shoreline access bill. / M. Neves
- 6. Letter in opposition to the shoreline access bill. / Flip and MM
- 7. Plea to do something about short term rentals. / S. Panaggio

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Mar 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
- Apr 10 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
- Apr 24 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting & Budget Overview
- Apr 25 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting – Budget
- Apr 26 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting – Budget
- Apr 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting – Budget if needed

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

Time: 10:04 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC Town Clerk