

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 10, 2023
MINUTES

6:00 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniela T. Abbott and Charles J. Levesque

Time: 6:01 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into executive session under RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) and RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(5) made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0. Motion to move item two before item one made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 5-0. Mr. Levesque has recused himself from all discussion of SouthCoast Wind (formerly Mayflower Wind).

2. RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(5) Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public – SouthCoast Wind (formerly Mayflower Wind) – No votes taken.

Time: 6:35 PM Mr. Levesque enters the room.

1. RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation –DPW Collective Bargaining – No votes taken.

Motion to seal the minutes and adjourn to Open Session made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

Time: 6:48 PM

ADJOURN

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

Time 7:00 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Executive Session was held prior to the meeting. No votes were taken.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to receive as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

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

SITTING AS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Nicholas Dowling d/b/a Lemmigetuhhh, 431 Mendon Rd, North Smithfield (#2309)

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

MINUTES – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.
3/27/23 & Exec.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Ethics 2022 Yearly Financial Disclosure Statement reminder – Just a reminder that calendar year 2022 Financial Disclosure Statements with the Ethics Commission are due by Friday, April 28th. Those required to file should have received the filing instructions containing your personal ID and Pin Number, which is necessary for completing and filing your statement online. If you have lost these instructions or forgotten your personal ID & pin number, you may call the Ethics Commission to receive your login codes.

2. Dog license renewal – Another reminder that dog licenses must be renewed by the end of this month. The licensing year is May 1 through April 30 and the license fee is \$8 per dog. If the dog is licensed after April 30, a late fee of \$20 is charged. A valid rabies vaccination certificate must be presented at the time of licensing. The vaccination must be current and valid into the licensing year.

3. SouthCoast Wind (formerly Mayflower Wind) update – There is actually very little to report regarding the proposed SouthCoast Wind project that hasn’t already been disclosed. SouthCoast Wind remains active in advancing the design and development of the project, as well as in progressing the permitting requirements. These actions include contractor, agency, and stakeholder engagement to refine details and inform next steps to include advancing current studies as well as further study efforts based on inputs from stakeholders. As these efforts mature, SouthCoast will make a presentation to the Town at a public meeting. Regarding permitting requirements, SouthCoast Wind recently received a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). BOEM’s release of SouthCoast Wind’s DEIS triggered a 45-day public comment period, including three virtual public meetings hosted in the month of March. On April 3, BOEM announced a 15-day extension to the DEIS comment period, until 11:59 p.m. Tuesday April 18 to accommodate further comments. Written comments can be submitted to the DEIS docket through the regulations.gov web portal. You can reach this portal by navigating through the links located on the Town Planner web page. We anticipate SouthCoast will engage with the Town later this Spring as they continue their work to secure a project cable route.

4. Hybrid waste management white paper – The hybrid waste management white paper regarding options and issues, which must be settled prior to the development of a request for proposals, is still posted for public comment and input. We’ve had over 40 comments as of this morning. More information can be found at the Transfer Station & Solid Waste web page. The public comment period will run through this coming Friday, April 14.

5. Butts Hill Fort Restoration Committee volunteer spring cleanup – The Butts Hill Fort Restoration Committee is seeking volunteers for their second Spring Cleanup next Saturday, April 15th (rain date is April 16th). It starts at 9 AM and goes through the day. People can come anytime. The meeting point is the Fort gate on Butts Hill Road off Sprague Street. Participants are asked to park along Dyer Street as no parking is allowed on Butts Street itself.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignation:

a. Solid Waste and Recycling Committee – Motion to accept with regret made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. PUBLIC HEARING: 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mr. Belden explained that each year the grant must be renewed and approved. There was no public comment. Motion to close the public hearing made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0.

a. Approval of resolution relating to the Program Year 2023 Community Development Block Grant Program – Motion to approve made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0.

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
RESOLUTION # 2023-04-10

Resolution Relating to the Program Year 2023 Rhode Island
Community Development Block Grant Program

WHEREAS: funds are available under the Rhode Island Community Development Block Grant Program, administered by the Executive Office of Commerce, Office of Housing and Community Development; and,

WHEREAS: the Governor of the State of Rhode Island has authorized the Director of said Department/Office to disburse such funds; and,

WHEREAS: Church Community Housing Corporation ("CCHC") is undertaking a development at 110 Bristol Ferry Road, Portsmouth, RI, for senior affordable housing and a senior center facility (the "Senior Center Project"); and,

WHEREAS: on February 8, 2021, by unanimous vote, the Portsmouth Town Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with CCHC regarding the Senior Center Project in which the Town of Portsmouth agreed to cooperate and assist CCHC with grant applications and funding requests; and,

WHEREAS: on November 2, 2021, the voters of the Town of Portsmouth at a special election approved a ballot question enabling the Senior Center Project; and,

WHEREAS: it is in the interest of the citizens of the Town of Portsmouth that an application be made to undertake a local Community Development Block Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH: that the filing of this application for the amount of \$750,000 to implement the activities proposed herein in support of the development proposed at 110 Bristol Ferry Road is hereby authorized and that the Town Administrator, or designee, is hereby authorized and directed to file this application with the Office of Housing and Community Development, to provide any additional information or documents required by said office, to make any assurances required in connection with this program, to execute an agreement with the State of Rhode Island, and to otherwise act as the Representative of the Town of Portsmouth in all matters relating to this application and any award which may be based upon this application.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL
ACTION April 10, 2023

Kevin M. Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer M. West, CMC Town Clerk

2. Request ratification of the DPW contract. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

1. Requests support of resolution in opposition to Rhode Island 2023 Gun Control legislation currently before the General Assembly. / Burrillville Town Council
2. Resolution in support of House Bill 5160 & Senate Bill 0175 regarding Payday Lending Reform. / Woonsocket City Council

3. Resolution in support of House Bill 2023 - H 5788, An Act Relating to State Affairs and Government – Tourism and Development. / Charlestown Town Council
4. Resolution in support of House Bill 2023 - H 6119 and Senate Bill – S 0516, An Act Relating to Human Services – Medical Assistance. / Charlestown Town Council
5. Monthly RIRRC Report. / Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp.
6. Pension plan discussion notes. / D. Gleason

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 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
May 8 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0.

Time: 7:42 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk