

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 25, 2022
MINUTES

5:45 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

Time: 5:47 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, Linda L. Ujifusa, Keith E. Hamilton, Leonard B. Katzman, Andrew V. Kelly and J. Mark Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniela T. Abbott

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

1. RIGL §42-46-5 (a)(2) Negotiations – Fire Department – 1 vote taken 6-0.

ADJOURN – Motion to seal the minutes and return to open session made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

Time: 6:54 PM

Ms. Abbott arrives 6:55 PM

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 – One vote was taken during the Executive Session held just prior to this Council meeting.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Proclamation for Arbor Day April 29, 2022

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: Arbor Day began in 1872, when J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS: Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS: We are here today to dedicate trees to the Portsmouth School Teachers who worked tirelessly to support their students during the pandemic, and

WHEREAS: During this time, our teachers showed incredible commitment not only to academic education but to the social emotional well-being of the children in their care, and

WHEREAS: This tree is a symbol of their perseverance, dedication and hope for the future,

and

WHEREAS: On this Arbor Day, the Town of Portsmouth would like to thank National Grid for donating a Heritage River Birch Tree, the Portsmouth Public Works Department for preparing the tree for planting, members of the Portsmouth Tree Commission, and

NOW THEREFORE I, Kevin M. Aguiar, President of the Portsmouth Town Council, do hereby proclaim Friday, May 6, 2022 as

ARBOR DAY

in the Town of Portsmouth and I urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day by supporting efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and I urge all citizens to plant trees to promote the well-being of this and future generations.

Kevin M. Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk

2. Proclamation celebrating the 53rd Annual Professional Municipal Clerks Week May 1-7, 2022

Proclamation
53rd ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK
May 1 - May 7, 2022

Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk, a time honored and vital part of local government exists throughout the world, and
Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk is the oldest among public servants, and
Whereas, The Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk provides the professional link between the citizens, the local governing bodies and agencies of government at other levels, and
Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks have pledged to be ever mindful of their neutrality and impartiality, rendering equal service to all.
Whereas, The Professional Municipal Clerk serves as the information center on functions of local government and community.
Whereas, Professional Municipal Clerks continually strive to improve the administration of the affairs of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk through participation in education programs, seminars, workshops and the annual meetings of their state, provincial, county and international professional organizations.
Whereas, It is most appropriate that we recognize the accomplishments of the Office of the Professional Municipal Clerk.
Now, Therefore, I, Kevin M. Aguiar, Portsmouth Town Council President, do recognize the week of May 1 through May 7, 2022, as Professional Municipal Clerks Week and further extend appreciation to our Professional Municipal Clerk, Jennifer M. West and to all Professional Municipal Clerks for the vital services they perform and their exemplary dedication to the communities they represent.

Dated this 25th day of April 2022

Kevin M. Aguiar _____
Portsmouth Town Council President

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. 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), Renewals:
 - a. Galley Wagon LLC d/b/a Village Greek, 21 Marcy St., Cranston, 1 truck (#2081)
 - b. WW Newport LLC d/b/a Wally’s Hot Dog Cart, 222 Bellevue Ave, Newport, 1 cart (#2085)

MINUTES – Motion to approve the 3/21/22, 3/28/22 and 3/28/22 Exec. minutes made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0. Motion to approve the 4/4/22 and 4/11/22 minutes made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 5-0-2. Ms. Ujifusa and Dr. Ryan abstained.

3/21/22

3/28/22 & Exec.

4/4/22

4/11/22

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Congressional Directed Spending Program award for the Prudence Island Water District –Senator Whitehouse has informed me he was able to secure a \$1.35M Congressionally Directed Spending request for the Prudence Island Water District to be used for much needed water system improvements. This, combined with the \$300K authorized by the Council from the ARPA funds, gives the District \$1.65M towards the renovation of their water treatment and distribution system and get the Island out from under the boil water advisory they have been dealing with.
2. RI League of Cities and Towns Annual Convention – The RI League of Cities and Towns Annual Convention, which was postponed in January, will take place on Thursday, April 28 at the Crown Plaza in Warwick. Sessions this year will focus on the American Rescue Plan Act, Energy Sustainability, Resiliency, the 2020 Census, Capital Improvement planning, the RI School Funding Formula, and Labor Negotiations.
3. Parks, Recreation & Open Space Master Plan workshop update – The first of two Recreation and Open Space Master Plan workshops was held at the Middle School on April 13th. The facilitated workshop focused on three areas: o What is Portsmouth doing well by way of providing recreational opportunities for residents? o What can we do better? o What new opportunities, open spaces and community events should we consider? The Workshop presentation and the summary of findings are available on the web and may be accessed through the Parks and Rec webpage on the Town’s website.
4. RI Red Cross vehicle donation to the Portsmouth EMA – Our Emergency Management Director, Ray Perry, is working with the American Red Cross on the transfer of a Disaster Action Team vehicle to the Portsmouth EMA. The vehicle will be equipped to support our all-volunteer EM communications team and support mass shelter set-up and operations.
5. Zoning Board available position – Needed applications for the Zoning Board were received after I submitting my TA list to the Clerk for inclusion in tonight’s agenda. However, I’ll take advantage of this opportunity to make a plea for applications to the Planning Board, which has an open seat.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointments:

Zoning Board of Review – Motion to appoint Charles Donovan as 1st alternate and Langdon Harris as the 2nd alternate to the Zoning Board of Review made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. 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 to rebuild the Portsmouth Turnpike Playground to be bigger, better, safer and all-

inclusive of age and ability. – Motion to approve the request to rebuild the Portsmouth Turnpike Playground and to sign the Memorandum of Understanding made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Request approval for the use of ARPA funds for installation of a new fiber line from Public Works to the Police Department for \$20,000. – Motion to approve no more than \$20,000 in APRA funds for the installation of a new fiber line made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Paving update. – No votes taken.

4. Request ratification of appointment of Town Planner. – Motion to approve Ms. Lea Hitchen as the Town Planner made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.

5. Presentation and Submission for Review – Town Administrator’s Proposed Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023. / R. Rainer (20)

(Proposed Budget is Available on the Town’s Website or by using the following:

[FY 23 Town Administrator's Budget](#))

a. Town Administrator opening statements – No votes taken.

b. Budget – Revenues – Motion to provisionally approve revenues in the amount of \$69,967,453 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

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

1. Letter to the House Municipal Government & Housing Committee opposing HB 6676. / Hopkinton Town Council

2. Resolution in opposition to Rhode Island 2022 HB 6638 and SB 2340 Zoning Ordinances – Creating Chapter 24.7 titled “Opening the Market for Housing in Urban Areas.” / Tiverton Town Council

3. Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill S-2244 and House Bill H-7198 Municipal Employees’ Arbitration. / Tiverton Town Council

4. Resolution Condemning the Russian Invasion of Ukraine. / Burrillville Town Council

5. Resolution in Opposition to Rhode Island 2022 Gun Control Legislation. / Burrillville Town Council

6. Resolution in Opposition to Senate Bill S-2557 and House Bill H-7829 Mandatory Translation Services. / Burrillville Town Council

7. Neighborhoods are for neighbors letter. / S. Panaggio

8. Congressional Directed Spending Program award for the Prudence Island Water District. / S. Whitehouse, United States Senator

FUTURE MEETINGS

Apr 26 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting – Budget

Apr 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting – Budget

Apr 28 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting – Budget if needed

May 9 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 8:06 PM

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk