

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 15, 2023 (Tuesday)
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, Charles J. Levesque, and J. Mark Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniela T. Abbott and Keith E. Hamilton

Time: 6:00 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 6:02 PM – Mr. Hamilton 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 – Police
 2. RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (3) Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices – Police
- No votes were taken.

ADJOURN – Motion to seal the minutes and adjourn to open session made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 6:52 PM

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

Time: 7:03 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – No votes were taken

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Proclamation in honor of 100 years of golf at Montaup Country Club

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. 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
2. Peddler License – Mobile Food Establishment (MFE), Renewal:
 - a. Friskie Fries LLC, 751 Hartford Ave, Johnston (#1824)
 - b. Boba Wave LLC, 28A Mount Hygeia Rd, Foster (#2408)
 - c. Poppin Minis RI, 134 Westwood Ave, Cranston (#2410)
 - d. BAKD Foods d/b/a The Bite, 60 Foxboro Ave, Portsmouth (#2411)
 - e. Group 21 LLC d/b/a Juice Junkie, PO Box 8569, Cranston (#2423)
 - f. Championship Melt LLC, 121 Prescott Ave, Riverside (#2428)
3. CRMC – Public Notice 2012-01-002
Azure & Karl Cygler, The Cove Oyster Company, LLC, 91 Point Judith Road, Ste 26; Unit 347, Narragansett, RI, for a State of Rhode Island Assent modification: to add Sugar Kelp (*Sacharina latissimi*) to the list of approved species for this aquaculture site which will be grown seasonally on three suspended five-line arrays from November to May annually.
Note: No additional surface gear is proposed other than the 4 buoys per array and all arrays and associated buoys will be removed at the end of the season by May 15th each year.
Project Location: The Cove, Portsmouth.

SITTING AS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

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:
 - a. Teddi’s Food Truck LLC, 1 Talbot St, Apt 6, North Providence (#2418)
 - b. W’s Mobile Wood Fired Pizza Oven, 691 Main St, Warren (#2425)
 - c. Farm to Sandwich LLC, 14 Abbott St, Cranston (#2424)
 - d. Boru Noodles LLC d/b/a Boru Noodle Bar, 36 Broadway, Newport (#2429)

Motion to approve all applications made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

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

MINUTES – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

7/10/23

TAX VOUCHERS – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20230815-01 to #20230815-09.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Learn365RI grant update – On July 20th, the Governor visited Town Hall to sign the Learn365RI Compact with the Council President. We learned last week that Portsmouth was awarded a \$50,000 grant for the Governor’s program. Portsmouth is collaborating with the Oliver Hazard Perry organization to use this grant to provide a unique learning opportunity for select Portsmouth students. RIDE has asked for more data, and once received, they will release the funds. I will work with the School Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent to provide the requested information.
2. Glen Manor House celebrates 100 years with a family-friendly open house – All are welcome to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Glen Manor House tomorrow from 5:00 – 7:30pm. There will

be food trucks, live music, and a presentation on the history of the Glen Manor House by our Town Historian, Jim Garman. Picnics are also encouraged. The concessionaire is asking people to please bring their own chairs and blankets for this free family event.

3. Report of meeting with State and other agencies at Sakonnet Bridge Abutment – On Friday, July 14th, I arranged a meeting between agencies, organizations, and parties related to the properties near the Sakonnet Bridge Abutment. The issues of concern to residents near this area center around trash, noise, fires, parking, and trespassing. I summarized what was discussed with everyone who attended and provided a copy to the Council. Staff and I will continue working with appropriate stakeholders on measures to promote more responsible use of the area, while also addressing resident concerns.

4. Terry Centennial at Butts Hill Fort – Next Saturday, August 19th at 10:00 am, the Battle of Rhode Island Association (BoRIA) in partnership with the Portsmouth Historical Society (PHS) will mark 100 years since Dr. Roderick Terry, then President of the Newport Historical Society, bought the land on which Butts Hill Fort sits, saving it from being developed. Paul Revere cannons will be demonstrated by the Artillery Company of Newport. The Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums will be on hand. The 54th Regiment of Foot and the Kingston Reds will give musket demonstrations, and Colors presentations will be made by the Henry Knox Color Guard from the Massachusetts Sons of the American Revolution. Speakers include historian Michael Simpson; Portsmouth’s Town Historian Jim Garman; Senator Linda Ujifusa; and Portsmouth’s Town Council Member Chuck Levesque. For a complete schedule of the day’s events go to battleofrhodeisland.org. Parking will be available at Portsmouth High School’s tennis courts. From there it is a short walk to the Fort’s entrance.

5. Municipal Road Fund update – The Municipal Road Fund Program, enacted by the General Assembly in the FY 2024 Budget, will make funding available to municipalities for the construction and maintenance of roads, sidewalks, and bridges. All municipalities are eligible for this program. Program funding consists of a 67% local contribution with a 33% “match” provided by the state. The first \$5 million of funding will be distributed equally, with each municipality eligible for \$128K. The remaining \$15 million will be distributed proportionately based on each municipality’s share of non-federally eligible lane miles. Portsmouth will be eligible for a little over \$558 in total funding. The amount we program for road improvements in our annual budget can be used for the required match. The Finance Director and I will work with the DPW director to budget the funds necessary in the next fiscal year to obtain the maximum amount of match we are eligible for.

6. Deputy Parks and Recreation Director update – Unfortunately, the candidate selected for the Assistant Recreation Director has withdrawn their application. We will be reposting this position.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignations:

a. Aquidneck Island Planning Commission – Motion to accept Robert Andrews’ resignation with regret made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Zoning Board – Motion to accept John Borden’s resignation with regret made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Appointments:

a. Design Review Board – Motion to reappoint Nicholas Avery made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Dog Park Committee – Motion to reappoint Laurie Anderson made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Melville Park Committee – Motion to reappoint Stephen Luce and Edward Rizy made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Wastewater Appeals Board – Motion to reappoint Philip Driscoll made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed unanimously.

e. Parks and Recreation Committee – Motion to appoint Christina Helger made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request approval of First Amendment to Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Portsmouth Turbine. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 7:49 PM Mr. Levesque leaves room.

2. Monthly Finance Report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 5-0.

Time: 7:53 PM Mr. Levesque enters room.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request approval for release of previously prioritized ARPA funds for broadband. – Motion to approve up to \$50,000 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Request approval of Resolution to Continue Participation in the RI Infrastructure Bank’s Community Septic System Loan Program. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH
RESOLUTION # 2023-08-15

RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN THE RI INFRASTRUCTURE BANK’S
COMMUNITY SEPTIC SYSTEM LOAN PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the town of Portsmouth wishes to continue to participate in the RI Infrastructure Bank’s Community Septic System Loan Program (CSSLP) in order to assist property owners in Portsmouth who are required to repair or replace failing septic systems and cesspools; and

WHEREAS, such approval is a prerequisite for continued participation in CSSLP; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Portsmouth has participated in the CSSLP since 2019;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Town Council authorizes the Town Administrator and the Finance Director to execute any and all documents necessary to continue to participate in the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank’s Community Septic System Loan Program (CSSLP) including the request for a non-restoring line of credit in the amount of \$2,000,000 to be allocated.

2. EFFECTIVE DATE
This Resolution shall become effective upon passage.

APPROVED BY TOWN COUNCIL ACTION
August 15, 2023

Kevin Aguiar
Town Council President

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer West, CMC
Town Clerk

3. Discuss need to continue annual Prudence Island meetings. – No votes taken. Meeting to be held on September 23, 2023.
4. Potential solutions for various problems occurring at waterfront properties in Portsmouth. – No votes taken.

CORRESPONDENCE – Motion to move item 7 to the August 28, 2023 meeting and receive and place on file the rest of the correspondence made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Thank you letter for the donation made to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center. / H. Strout, Executive Director
2. Financial Statements and Supplemental Information for year ending December 31, 2022 for Quaker Manor LLC. / J. Seveney, Chair, Portsmouth Housing Authority
3. Thank you letter for the Civic Appropriation made to Newport Mental Health. / J. Lehane, President and CEO
4. Monthly RIRRC Report. / Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp.
5. Letter concerning Portsmouth Community playground with development by The Four Hearts Foundation. / A. Richter
6. Resolution Opposing Senate Bill 2023-0137 and House Bill 2023-H 5201 Relating to Towns and Cities – Relief of Injured and Deceased Fighters and Police Officers Presumption for Heart Disease and Hypertension. / Westerly Town Council
7. Proposal converting the old Coggeshall Elementary School building into the new Portsmouth Youth Activities Center (PYAC). / D. Ingraham

FUTURE MEETINGS

Aug 28 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Sep 11 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Sep 25 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 9:31 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk