

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 28, 2023
MINUTES

6:15 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, David M. Gleason, Keith E. Hamilton, Charles J. Levesque, and J. Mark Ryan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniela T. Abbott and Leonard B. Katzman,

Time: 6:15 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (3), made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed unanimously.

1. RIGL §42-46-5 (a) (3) Discussion regarding the matter of security including, but not limited to the deployment of security personnel or devices. – No votes taken.

Time: 6:36 PM. Mr. Katzman enters the room.

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

Time: 6:44 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 – There was an Executive Session held prior to the meeting. There were no votes taken.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Proclamation declaring September 2023 as National Service Dog Month

TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI

**Proclamation Declaring September 2023
As National Service Dog Month**

WHEREAS: We believe in the joyful, transformative power of the human-canine bond and inclusivity of all citizens; and

WHEREAS: In the United States, 64 million adults and children have a disability and only 16,000 service dogs from accredited training programs exist nationwide and the need is growing; and

WHEREAS: Canine Companions is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing expertly trained service dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships; and

WHEREAS: Canine Companions and their service dogs empower people with disabilities to lead life with greater independence, by providing best-in-class training, ongoing follow up services and a deeply committed community of support; and

WHEREAS: National Service Dog Month aims to educate our community about the benefits of service dogs and the laws protecting them; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Portsmouth continues to work toward becoming an inclusive community in which all citizens, and their service dogs, are embraced.

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of service dogs and the adults and children with disabilities in our community, I, Kevin M. Aguiar, President of the Portsmouth Town Council, do hereby proclaim September 2023 to be

National Service Dog Month

in the Town of Portsmouth and I encourage all citizens to celebrate task trained service dogs and be respectful of the rights afforded to the adults, children and veterans who lead more independent lives because of their assistance.

Kevin M. Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

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. Sam’s New York System, Inc., 6 Freeborne St, Warwick (#2441)
 - b. Park & Cove Ice Cream Company LLC, 458 Park Ave, Portsmouth (#2445)

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. LG's Ice Emporium LLC d/b/a Kona-ice of Washington Co, 29 Lenox Avenue, West Warwick – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Pam’s Grill LLC d/b/a Pam’s Grill On The Go, 2 Zoar Street, North Providence – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Iron Swine LLC d/b/a Masa Taqueria PVD, 125 Wickenden St, Providence – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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

8/10/23

8/15/23 & Exec.

TAX VOUCHERS – Motion to approve made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Hamilton.

Motion passed unanimously.

Request approval for Tax Voucher #20230828-01.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Senior Center project update – From a financial perspective, earlier this year (May 2023) the RIHousing Credit Committee recommended approval to the RIHousing Board of Commissioners for the Portsmouth Senior Center and Senior Housing Development. The RIHousing Board of Commissioners then approved the funding package the following week. The Town then submitted a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant on July 12th requesting funds to acquire the senior center condominium component of the project. This round of submitted CDBG applications are currently under review and a tentative award announcement is expected late next month. From a construction/building/design perspective, the project engineer is currently working with CCHC and moving closer to developing 100% construction plans and specifications. Start of construction should be in mid/late Spring 2024.
2. Prudence Island meeting update – Unfortunately, the Prudence Island Planning Commission is unable to form a quorum on the scheduled meeting date of September 23rd. There is an agenda item tonight to determine an alternate date.
3. Municipal Road Program update – I announced the State’s Municipal Road Program in my last report. Since then, we have been able to sign on to the RI DOT portal and it looks like we will be eligible for over \$40,000 in State reimbursements for scheduled paving remaining this year. We are working on approximately \$518K in reimbursements next fiscal year.
4. August 18th storm report – On Friday August 18th we experienced a rather severe thunderstorm storm with high winds and heavy rain. I am happy to relay that other than temporary flooding and downed tree limbs, Portsmouth suffered no damage to report. My thanks to Public Works for working through this event.
5. Town Hall closed for Labor Day holiday – Portsmouth Town Hall will be closed next Monday in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignation:

a. Zoning Board of Review – Motion to accept Langdon Harris’ resignation with regret, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Appointments:

a. Aquidneck Island Planning Commission – Motion to appoint Michael Mineau made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Zoning Board of Review – Motion to elevate Charles Donovan from alternate to full member, made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to delay appointing new members until the 2nd meeting in September, made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion failed 2-4. Mr. Gleason, Mr. Hamilton, Dr. Ryan, and Mr. Aguiar opposed. Motion to appoint Paul Laurienzo made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 5-1. Mr. Levesque opposed.

c. Zoning Board of Review – Motion to reappoint Eric Raposa made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Discuss new date for Prudence Island meeting. – No votes. New date shall be October 14, 2023.
2. Monthly Finance Report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Proposal converting the old Coggeshall Elementary School building into the new Portsmouth Youth Activities Center (PYAC). – Motion referring Mr. Ingraham’s request to the Parks and Recreation Committee and to have their recommendation come back to the Council in February 2024, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action) – Motion to move New Business 2 before New Business 1 made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Request to approve a proposed boat and mooring sticker program for the 2024 season. – Motion to accept the sticker program, increase the mooring fee by \$5.00 and to advertise to amend the Harbormaster’s ordinance to reflect the change in the mooring fee, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.
1. Request conditional tax abatement for Quaker Manor property taxes. Request to maintain the previous tax calculation (FY22 and prior) for 5 years, current year FY23 through 2027, thereafter returning to the normal tax obligation for this type of property. – Mr. Levesque recused himself from this item.

Time: 8:35 PM Mr. Levesque leaves the room.

Motion to task the Town Solicitor and the Town Administrator to create a 3.75% cooperation agreement with the Portsmouth Housing Authority until 2027 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 5-0-1. Mr. Levesque recused.

CORRESPONDENCE – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

1. Thank you from Meals on Wheels. / M. Grady, Executive Director
2. Invitation to the 70th anniversary celebration of the Columbus Monument in Newport on October 9, 2023 at 11:00am. / D. McCaffrey, Newport Festa Italiana, Chairperson

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Sep 11 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Sep 25 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Oct 10 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting (Tuesday)

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 5-0.

Time: 8:58 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk