

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 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: 7:02 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – There was no Executive Session held prior to the meeting.

OB2. Request for clarification on Request for Proposal (RFP) pertaining to the operation of the Transfer Station for bulky waste drop-off and diversion items.
Motion to continue Old Business 2 to a date and time to be determined and to be held at a larger venue made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 7:04 Break

Time: 7:11 Return

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Butts Hill Fort Proclamation

CONSENT AGENDA– Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Levesque. 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

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

8/28/23 & Exec.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Meeting with RI Energy at Sakonnet Bridge Abutment – On August 29th, I coordinated a meeting at the Portsmouth Sakonnet Bridge Abutment, bringing together members of our staff, Harbor Commission, and representatives from RI Energy. The purpose of this gathering was to address the persistent concerns raised by neighboring property owners regarding activities on RI

Energy's property. In addition to addressing the abutters' concerns, we also engaged in discussions regarding the establishment of protocols to ensure first responder access to the property. Following the site tour and our discussions, the RI Energy representatives have committed to consulting with their organization to address the concerns raised during the meeting. They will then provide feedback to me once they have completed these internal discussions.

2. Sakonnet Coastal Bike and Stroll – Last Saturday marked a significant milestone as we hosted the inaugural Sakonnet Coastal Bike and Stroll event. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the collaborative efforts of numerous individuals and organizations who made this event possible. Special thanks go to John Vitkevich, our dedicated elected officials, volunteers, Bike Newport, the Providence Streets Coalition, Grow Smart RI, the RI Department of Health, and the Portsmouth Police, Fire, and Public Works departments. It's worth highlighting the exceptional support provided by the Portsmouth Police, who ensured the safety of our residents by conducting 64 escorts for those living on neighboring streets. The overall response from our community has been overwhelmingly positive. In the coming week, our organizing team will convene to carefully assess the feedback received and strategize ways to enhance the safety, minimal disruption, and overall enjoyment of future events like this.

3. Annual Police Awards Ceremony – The next annual Police Awards and Promotion Ceremony will be held at the Glen Manor House on Wednesday, September 27th. Families, Legislators, and Councilors should have already received invitations.

4. RI League of Cities and Towns Annual Dinner and Education Day – The RI League of Cities and Town's next annual dinner and education day will be held Thursday, September 28th. The event is designated as a day of training and interaction for municipal CEOs and department heads culminating in an all-membership business meeting.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointments:

a. Conservation Commission – Motion to appoint Murray Norcross made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously. Motion to appoint Brandon Ritt made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Fence Viewer – Motion to appoint Andrew Kelly made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Zoning Board of Review – Motion to appoint Andrew Kelly made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request to authorize the grant of a 10-year easement for a new trail extension to the Sakonnet Greenway Trail. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Narragansett Electric proposes to install Pole 9 for the purpose of supplying electricity to Hathaway Elementary School. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Request approval of proposed police retention plan. – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Monthly RIRRC Report. / Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp.

2. Thank you to the Portsmouth Fire Department. / M. Crawford, New Shoreham Town Manager
3. Portsmouth Water and Fire District Quarterly Financial Report for the period ending July 31, 2023. / N. J. Larsen, Senior Accountant

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Sep 25 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Oct 10 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting (Tuesday)
Oct 14 10:00 AM – Prudence Island Town Council Meeting (Saturday)
Oct 23 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 7:49 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk