

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2023 (Tuesday)  
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: 7:00 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.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Katzman, 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

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

9/25/23

TAX VOUCHERS – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed unanimously.

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20231010-01 to #20231010-20. / M. Helfand

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. E-waste update – Our last E-Waste recycling event this year will be held December 9<sup>th</sup> at the High School from 9 am to 12 pm. The collection event is open to any RI resident, and we will post another reminder as we get closer to the date. A truck will be stationed at the Prudence Island Transfer Station one week before e-waste events to collect and transport e-waste items to the high school for the Saturday event.

2. Harvest Festival – Parks and Recreation will host a Harvest Festival this Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at Glen Park. The event will run from 1:30 to 4:30 and is free to all and there will be live music, kids activities, and concessions. If necessary, a rain date will be the following Sunday on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

3. Senior Center update – I was asked to provide a quick update regarding the Church Community Senior Center project. We are still awaiting approval of the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant, submitted by the Town on July 12<sup>th</sup>. This grant will provide the funds to acquire the senior center condominium component of the project. The CDBG applications are currently under

review, and we expect award announcements any day now. Work is still continuing on the development of 100% construction plans and specifications. Additionally, test holes for the project's required septic system have recently been completed. Start of construction is still anticipated to be in mid/late Spring 2024.

4. Reminder of the October 23, 2023 Council meeting location – Lastly, just a reminder that the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Town Council meeting will take place at the Portsmouth High School Auditorium. Start time will still be 7:00pm and people will be able to participate remotely.

### RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignation:

a. Juvenile Hearing Board – Motion to accept David Belazarian's resignation with regret made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Appointments:

a. Juvenile Hearing Board – Motion to reappoint Paul Kelly made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Dog Park Committee – Motion to appoint Richard Nassau made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Community Electricity Aggregate Program update. – No votes taken.

2. Update on the Harbor Commission Subcommittee's progress on the beach problems. – Motion to move forward with the implementation of the Harbor Commission's suggestions as provided, and for town staff to work on new and proposed ordinances for the Town Council approval prior to advertising for a Public Hearing, made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

### NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Report on current Senior Center activities. – No votes taken.

2. Request approval of \$20,619.00 in ARPA funding for the purchase and assembly of a 14' x 40' enclosure to shelter fire apparatus. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed unanimously.

3. PUBLIC HEARING: Request from Andrew Jones for approval for a variance to the sound limits set forth in the Portsmouth Noise Ordinance for a Neighborhood Block Party in the Taylor Road cul-de-sac, Portsmouth on October 28, 2023, from 2:00 – 8:00 p.m. Event date changed from Oct. 22 to Oct. 28.

Mr. Jones, 122 Wapping Rd., Portsmouth, explained that because they are having amplified music at the neighborhood block party, he wanted to apply for the sound variance. He has been working with Lieutenant O'Neil regarding parking.

Motion to close the public hearing, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to approve the Sound Variance made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Request consideration of recommendations for a more transparent government. – No votes taken.

5. Neighborhoods are for neighbors letter. – No votes taken.

6. Provide direction to town administration to develop options for residential property tax structures or programs favorable to Portsmouth primary residence property owners, such as different tax rates for owner-occupied versus non-owner-occupied properties, or primary residence versus non-primary residences, or other tax rate structures, programs, or exemptions. – No votes taken.

7. Discussion of handicap accessibility and provide direction to town administration regarding

possible new and/or amended ordinances and regulations relating to ADA compliance issues.  
– No votes taken.

8. Request approval to award Church Community Housing Corporation the CDBG Administrative Services for July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2032. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Levesque. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Levesque, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Notification of proposed G-2 Natural Gas Pipeline Replacement Project. / Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 14 10:00 AM – Prudence Island Town Council Meeting (Saturday)  
Oct 23 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting, PHS Auditorium, 120 Education Ln  
Nov 13 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
Nov 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 9:30 PM

---

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk