

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 22, 2025
MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: David M. Gleason, Sondra Blank, Keith E. Hamilton, Mary A. McDowell, Sharlene Patton, Juan Carlos Payero, and David Reise

Time: 7:00 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

Directions to view licensing applications: 1) Click on [OpenGov](#), 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

Payment Voucher #1106 on 9/4/25 in the amount of \$117,389.88 as approved by the Finance Director

Payment Voucher #1109 on 9/11/25 in the amount of \$324,170.74 as approved by the Finance Director

2. CRMC – Public Notice 2025-07-11

The application of Lloyd & Deanna Monell, 54 Aquidneck Avenue, Portsmouth, RI 02871 for a State of RI Assent to construct and maintain a new mechanical float lift for an existing residential boating facility. Project location: 54 Aquidneck Avenue.

MINUTES – Motion to approve made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

9/8/25

TAX VOUCHERS – Motion to approve made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20250922-01 to #20250922-02. / M. Helfand

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Curbside and Transfer Station sticker sales – Prudence Island: 93 of 436 households (343 not signed up); Transfer Station: 2010; Curbside: 3180 = 5190 of 6566 eligible households. 1,376 households (~21%) haven’t signed up for either. Regarding curbside, I’d like to remind everyone again that it is important that bins are placed at the curb the night before but no later than 6:00 AM on collection day, leaving at least two to three feet of space between them. We ask that residents please keep bins curbside until they are emptied, as trash and recycling carts may be collected at different times by different trucks.

2. Portsmouth 250th Commission update – A web page for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence has been created on the Town website. Links to the RI 250 Commission and the Nation’s America 250 websites can be found there and the Portsmouth 250th Commission will soon maintain a calendar of local commemorative events on this page.
3. Stage 1 submission to RIDE – The School Administration has submitted the Stage 1 application to the RI Department of Education. To remind everyone, the Stage 1 application is the first step in a multi-stage application required in the development of a school district capital master plan. The application identifies the current capital improvement focus areas for the district’s schools and can be found on the Town website under News and Announcements.
4. Annual Police Department Awards and Promotion Ceremony – The 11th Annual Police Department Awards and Promotional Ceremony will be held this coming Wednesday at 6pm. The event will be held at the Glen Manor House. Last Friday, Sergeant Ryan Stinson and Officer Daniel Serina were honored by the RI Dept of Transportation as Highway Safety Champions. Sergeant Stinson was recognized for his work in occupant protection, and Officer Serina for his efforts in speed and impaired driving enforcement. Their dedication reflects our Police Department’s commitment to roadway safety.
5. New date for Bike and Stroll event – The new date for this event will be Saturday, November 1st. Specific details are still being planned and will be available on the Town’s website as soon as possible.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignations:

Dog Park Committee – Motion to accept Mil Kinsella’s resignation with regret made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Appointments:

Economic Development Committee – Motion to reappoint Daniel Corrigan made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Motion to appoint Jeanne Smith made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Reise. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Payero in dissent.

Zoning Board of Review – Motion to appoint Paul Maleck made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Legal Counsel updated Town position for discussion and approval of Aquidneck Island Long-Term Gas Capacity Study. – Motion to approve with the following amendments, refer to both National Grid and RI Energy throughout; Change 1. to read “The Town of Portsmouth opposes a moratorium on new gas hook-ups on Aquidneck Island, as it is not in the public interest”; add the changes to 4 that were made at the last meeting to add “help conserve natural gas”; Change 5 to add “and provide findings to the Council” at the end of the sentence, Change Mr. Rainer’s title from Town Manager to Town Administrator, made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Patton. Motion passed 4-3. Ms. Blank, Ms. McDowell and Mr. Payero in dissent.

- a. Memo concerning Gas Hook-up Moratorium for Aquidneck Island. / Sen. L. Ujifusa

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request to have field fees for the 2025 tournament waived for Seveney Fields.– Motion to waive fees failed 2-5. Mr. Payero and Ms. Blank for.

2. Request to advertise for a public hearing for a sound variance to allow for a block party in the Taylor Road cul-de-sac on October 25, 2025 from 10:00 am – 11:00 p.m. (OpenGov #2989). – Motion to approve the request to advertise for a public hearing on October 14th made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Request approval of a resolution regarding the Restoration of General Revenue Sharing to Cities and Towns. – Motion to approve as amended made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Discuss our voting processes on motions and amendments. – No votes taken.
5. Discussion that the Town of Portsmouth consider installing telephone pole banners along Park Avenue. – No votes taken.
6. Request to establish a Bike & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Payero, seconded by Ms. Patton. Motion passed unanimously.
7. Discuss and determine next steps for the working draft of the revisions to the sign ordinance, Chapter 405 Zoning, Article IX Specific Development Regulations, Section B Signs. – Motion to approve with a response due within 45 days, made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Monthly RIRRC Report. / Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corp. [Click here](#)
2. Application and submission portal open for adult-use retail cannabis licenses. Under the Rhode Island Cannabis Act, the Commission may issue up to 24 retail licenses statewide, divided equally across six geographic zones. Applications must be submitted through the State of Rhode Island’s Cannabis Licensing Portal by Monday, December 29, 2025, at 4:00 pm. / RI Cannabis Control Commission [Click here](#)

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Oct 14 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting (Tuesday)
Oct 27 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Nov 10 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Payero. Motion passed unanimously.

Time: 8:43 PM

Jennifer M. West, CMC, Town Clerk