

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 8, 2019 MINUTES

6:00 PM – Town Council Chambers, Portsmouth Town Hall, 2200 East Main Road

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar, Linda L. Ujifusa, J. Mark Ryan, Keith E. Hamilton, Leonard B. Katzman, Andrew V. Kelly and Daniela T. Abbott

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Rainer, Kevin Gavin, Lisa Mills, Jennifer West, Eva Mancuso Esq., and Corey Silvia

Time: 6:01 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) – Potential Litigation – One motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURN – Motion to seal the minutes and adjourn into Open Session made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

Time: 6:50 PM

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

Time: 7:00 PM

EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLAN

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by a Moment of Silence for our men and women serving around the world in harm's way.

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – The Council voted to join other Cities and Towns in Rhode Island in a lawsuit against opioid distributors and manufacturers and their alleged ongoing role in the opioid epidemic.

A proclamation was read for the retirement of Fire Marshal William Ethier.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Bills
2. Request from the Armenian National Committee of Rhode Island to Fly the Armenian Flag on April 24, 2019.

Motion to receive all and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

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 – Annual:

Woof Woof Pet Boutique and Biscuit Bar LLC, 31 Bradford St., Bristol (#1426) – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

MINUTES

TCM 3/25/19 & Exec. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Status of FY 19-20 budget – The proposed Town and School budgets are complete and hard copies have been made available for your review. The budgets are available on the Town and School Department websites.

2. Appointment of new Deputy Chief of Police – We had number of candidates to consider for the Deputy Chief of Police position and the choice was very difficult. Each candidate would have been a fine choice and I think that is a testament to the high level of training, leadership and esprit de corps that exists in our Police Department. Ultimately, the Police Chief and I selected Lt. Mike Arnold to replace Maryanne Perry as Deputy Chief. He will serve as interim until Maryanne’s retirement date on April 26 – after which, he will be permanently promoted to the rank of Major.

3. Sakonnet River Bridge - RIDOT Request to Rescind ROD – On April 2nd, I was notified by RI DOT that they officially requested the Federal Highway Administration rescind the 2013 Revised Record of Decision (ROD) on the Sakonnet River Bridge. The ROD granted federal authority to impose tolls on the bridge. By requesting the rescission, RIDOT removes any doubt that tolls will be imposed on the bridge. The FHWA could not enact the rescission on its own because RIDOT is the project sponsor and joint lead agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process at the site. We are now waiting for the FHWA to act.

4. Old Stone bridge update – I previously reported that a section of the north face of the Old Stone Bridge had collapsed. At a meeting last Wednesday, arranged by Sen. Seveney, I met with the Director of RI DOT to discuss ownership of the property and emergency repairs. Director Alviti settled once and for all the lingering question of ownership and not only acknowledged RIDOT ownership of the bridge but committed to an emergency effort to repair the damage, stabilize the structure, and ensure safety of navigation near the debris. The repair effort commenced Thursday morning.

5. E-Waste collection and shredding event scheduled – The Town has scheduled four electronic waste drop-off dates for all residents. Our first event will be Saturday, April 20 from 9am-NOON at the Portsmouth High School parking lot. Additionally, our Recycling Coordinator has arranged a free shredding day for all residents to be held Saturday, May 4 from 9am-NOON in the Clements Marketplace parking lot. There will be a 3 box maximum.

6. Summer employment opportunities – The Recreation Department has announced its summer employment opportunities. We are currently seeking Lifeguards for Sandy Point Beach and Sailing Instructors. Information about the open positions and how to apply can be found on the front page of our Town Website.

7. Glen Farm Annual Easter Egg Hunt – The Recreation Director has announced the date for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year’s event will be held at the Brown House on Saturday, April 20 at 1:00pm. We ask that children bring their own basket or bag. More information can also be found on the front page of the Town’s website.

8. Tree City USA – It my pleasure to announce Portsmouth has again received designation as a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. My congratulations to our Tree Commissioner Scott Wheeler, Tree Warden John Fitzgerald, and our DPW Director Brian Woodhead for the work they put in to keeping Portsmouth beautiful.

9. Police Station construction update – Since the last report, abatement of material inside the old Police station has been completed and the demolition of the building will begin tomorrow morning. It was pushed out one day due to the rain today. No new change orders have been received. Police are now moved into the new building and individuals responsible for building operations and systems maintenance have been trained. The Contractor is currently clearing the punch list and monitoring the balancing of the air handling system. Once the old station is demolished and debris removed, the contractor will layout and pave the parking lot and complete the installation of loam and seeding. Again, the dedication ceremony will be held at 9:00am on Friday, May 31st.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Approval of By-Laws for the Portsmouth Dog Park Operating Committee and request name be changed to Portsmouth Dog Park Committee. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Request to reschedule Public Hearing for proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment to Article XIX for a “payment in lieu” option for low and moderate income housing requirements from April 8 to May 13, 2019. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request resolution to work with RIDOT to develop East Main Road sidewalk improvements. – Motion to approve the request made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Request fee waiver of Harbormaster, Police and Fire details for 100th anniversary community celebration. – Motion to accept Ms. Rossi’s request to be rescheduled at a later date, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Request approval of the West Side Development Advisory Committee By-laws. – Motion to approve the By-Laws with the following modifications: Article V Section 5, change Town Center Meetings to Committee Meetings and in Article VI Section 2 B, change Agency to Committee made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton for discussion. Motion to move the following amendment to increase the membership from 7 to 11 so that a quorum would be 6 made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 4-3. Dr. Ryan, Ms. Ujifusa and Ms. Abbott in dissent. Proposed motion made in two parts: Part 1 of the motion to amend Article III for the report to be presented in the 3rd calendar quarter made by Mr. Katzman, seconded Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0; Part 2 of the motion for Article II Section 3 to be deleted made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion failed 3-4. Mr. Aguiar, Ms. Ujifusa, Ms. Abbott and Mr. Hamilton in dissent. Motion to approve the main motion with the approved amendments passed 7-0.

4. Request resolution in support of the state-wide Census 2020 efforts. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Hamilton in dissent.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter of thanks for the Proclamation for the Portsmouth Garden Club’s 85th anniversary celebration. / W. Coderre, Corresponding Secretary
2. Letter of congratulations on earning recognition as a 2018 Tree City USA. / D. Lambe, President, Arbor Day Foundation.
3. Project to replace highway signs in poor condition and incorporate mileage based exit numbering. / S. Pristawa, Rhode Island Dept. of Transportation

Motion to receive all correspondence and place on file made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Apr 22 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting: Budget – Overview and Discussion on Revenue
- Apr 23 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting: Budget – Discussion of Town and School Expenditures
- Apr 24 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting: Budget – Continuation of Budget Discussion as needed
- Apr 25 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting: Budget – Continuation of Budget Discussion as needed
- May 13 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

Time: 8:11 PM

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk