

**TOWN OF PORTSMOUTH, RI
RESOLUTION # 2019-xx-xx B**

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AN UPDATE TO THE TOWN CENTER PLAN
AND PROPOSAL FOR A TOWN CENTER TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF) DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, a Community Survey was conducted in 2013 to gather long-term planning input from residents and when asked what is “one thing [we] could be doing to improve the quality of life in Portsmouth,” the top responses were improvements to roadways and sidewalks, and more business development (town center / downtown); and

WHEREAS, the town commissioned a “Town Center Plan” in 2003, of which only a few elements have been implemented to date; and

WHEREAS, our draft Comprehensive Community Plan refers to the “signature” Town Center Plan throughout and relies on the Town Center District as a principal avenue for Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, Major Amendment #19 to the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) has several projects for roadway improvements along East Main Road and the Town Center District planned for 2020 thru 2024 (STIPIDs 1379, 1380, and 9005); and

WHEREAS, it is critical for Portsmouth to engage with state officials to ensure these improvements are implemented as planned and in accordance with our Comprehensive Community Plan and Town Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, several properties within the Town Center District have been bought, sold, leased, or otherwise listed on the real estate market in recent years; and

WHEREAS, our draft Comprehensive Community Plan states that an efficient transportation network is “essential to the economic vitality and quality of life in Portsmouth;” and

WHEREAS, implementing redevelopment strategies and safety improvements within our Town Center District will enhance the quality of life in Portsmouth and build a stronger sense of community; and

WHEREAS, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a tool which the Town can implement to help incentivize and guide economic development that contributes to the quality of life of our residents, while helping fund critical infrastructure improvements that benefit the whole community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Portsmouth Town Council requests our Planning Board and Planning Department undertake a review and update of the Town Center Plan, in preparation for implementation of the STIP projects in coming years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, in conjunction with our Town Administrator, Director of Economic Development, and utilizing local and regional resources available, the Portsmouth Planning Department perform an analysis of the suitability of a Town Center Tax Increment Financing District to prioritize Economic Development in our Town Center District and help finance the necessary infrastructure improvements.

LET IT BE KNOWN, this resolution was passed and adopted by the Portsmouth Town Council this 9th day of September, 2019.

Kevin Aguiar, President
Portsmouth Town Council

ATTEST: _____
Jennifer West, Town Clerk