

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 26, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Daniela T. Abbott

Time: 6:00 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) Personnel: Town Administrator – With regards to your review with the Town of Portsmouth, please be advised that RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) requires that any discussions of the job performance, character, or physical or mental health of a person or persons provided that such person or persons affected shall have been notified in advance in writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting.

ADJOURN – Motion to seal the minutes and adjourn into Open Session made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 6-0.

Time: 6:40 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 – Mr. Aguiar stated that there was a satisfactory review of the Town Administrator's annual evaluation. There was one vote taken to receive the report and place it on file.

PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

Award of Financial Reporting Achievement to Lisa Mills, Finance Director

CONSENT AGENDA

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

2. CRMC – Finding & Notice of Violation 19-0130

Elizabeth & Patricia Fairchild, 5 Circuit Drive, Warren, RI 02885 – Have undertaken construction of a dwelling and clearing within 200 feet of a coastal wetland at your property

located at 0 Sunset Avenue, Portsmouth, RI, Plat 69, Lot 5 without benefit of a CRMC assent or in violation of a Council Order

3. CRMC – Finding & Notice of Violation 19-0156
Common Fence Point Beach Association, c/o Jaqueline Shearman, 933 Anthony Road –
Have undertaken clearing of vegetation on a coastal feature at your property located in the wetland area across from 152 Common Fence Point Boulevard, Portsmouth, Plat 2, Lot 179 without benefit of a CRMC assent or in violation of a Council Order
4. Peddler License – Specific Event: Firefly Yoga Festival, Glen Park, September 14, 2019
 - a. Molly Sexton d/b/a Miracle Stone Studio, 13 Fairwood Dr, Middletown (#1543)
 - b. Dudley Levenson d/b/a Inspired Planet, 6 Dunmore Ct, Lenox, MA (#1547)
5. Peddler License – Annual:
Paul Coimbra d/b/a Nutty Concept Inc., 7 Oregon St, Fall River, MA (#1545)
6. Victualler License – Annual:
Marco’s Subs, Inc., 2340 West Main Road (#1541)

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 6-0.

MINUTES

TCM 8/13/19–Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0

TAX VOUCHERS

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20190826-01 to #20190826-07. – Motion to approve as presented made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 6-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. GFOA Award – As signified by the recognition just afforded to Lisa Mills, I just want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone on the staff whose consistent focus throughout the year on our fiduciary responsibility to the residents of Portsmouth helped earn this year’s Certificate for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the Government Finance Officers Association.
2. Appointment of Town Clerk to RI Historical Records Advisory Board – Gov. Raimondo has appointed Town Clerk, Ms. Jennifer West, to the Rhode Island Historical Records Advisory Board. This is quite an honor and reflects well on herself and the entire Town.
3. Update on Parks and Recreation Community Needs Survey – With respect to the survey, we received five responses to the RFP and we will evaluate the proposals next week and present a scored matrix with a recommended vendor at the next Council meeting.
4. Update on Mt Hope Park – DPW’s current work on the Mt. Hope Park property, focused on making the park safe for use, is near completion. Work will continue this week on installation of loam, seeding, signage, removal of graffiti, installation of rip-rap, and final mowing. Our goal is to complete the work by the end of the week before we remove the fence on Friday. I’d like to thank DPW Dept. for working very hard within a very constrained budget to make this park safe for use.

Additionally, Portsmouth was honored to have the first Rhode Island Slave History Medallion Installation yesterday at Patriots Park. To quote from their website, rishm.org, "The Rhode Island Slave History Medallion project is a statewide public awareness program committed to marking those historic sites connected to the history of slavery in Rhode Island... to make that history easily accessible by telling a more complete story of the cultural and economic development of the State of Rhode Island." Also, at Patriot's Park on Sunday, the Newport County NAACP held its annual wreath laying service commemorating the 241st Anniversary of the Battle of Rhode Island in Portsmouth, where the First Rhode Island Regiment, the first contingent that included African

American and Native American slaves and freemen, successfully held off Hessian troops during the Revolutionary War. Portsmouth has a complex and rich history and we are honored to be part of a commitment to educate the public about that history.

In response to the number of accidents on East Main Road lately – Officers have been directed to ramp up traffic enforcement on East Main Rd. Particular attention will be focused on peak times, early morning commute, lunch time and evening commute.

Prudence Island Internet – We have been approached by a firm that believes they have a solution to providing PI residents access to higher speed internet. It will require us to evaluate the placement of a microwave dish antenna on the Town owned tower behind the fire station. We will evaluate and make provide the Council an update at a future meeting.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment:

a. Board of Canvassers

Motion made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton, to have the Clerk send out another request to the Republican Committee to submit more names for the open position on the Canvassing Authority Board and for the Republican alternate and to include the statute in the letter and have the names presented at the next Council meeting. Motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Monthly finance report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Proposed project to convert the Coggeshall School building into a new Portsmouth Youth Activities Center. – Mr. Rainer stated they have received another proposal. Motion to task Mr. Rainer and Mr. Talipsky to compare and contrast both proposals as fast as possible and bring it back to the meeting on 9/9/19 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 6-0.

2. Request to use a portion of the Town ROW (Anthony Rd) for parking at the Common Fence Point Improvement Association Hall. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Request to advertise for a Public Hearing to amend Chapter 83 Alarms: Article II Sections 12 and 14, and Chapter 170 Fees: Article XII Sections 30 and 33. – Motion to approve advertising for a Public Hearing to amend Town Ordinances on October 15, 2019 made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Monthly RIRRC Report. / R. Antaya

2. Event Notification – Bike to the Beach for Autism, August 31, 2019. / R. Walsh, Autism Speaks

3. Support for Resolution Relative to Public Access to the Shoreline. / Charlestown Town Council

4. Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awarded to Portsmouth for its comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2018. / Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada

Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Sep 09 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

Sept 14 12:00 PM - Town Council Meeting - Prudence Island (Saturday)

Sep 23 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 6-0.

Time: 7:59

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk