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

Time 6:00 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keith E. Hamilton, David M. Gleason, Paul F. Kesson, Elizabeth A. Pedro, J. Mark Ryan and Linda L. Ujifusa

ALSO PRESENT: Richard Rainer, Lisa Higgins, Chief Lee, and John Menke

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2): Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation.

   A motion by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Dr. Ryan, to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2): Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Aguiar absent.

Time: 6:11 PM Kevin M. Aguiar arrives.

No motions made.

Motion to seal the minutes, and return to Open Session made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Kesson. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURN

TIME: 6:50 PM – Break
TIME: 7:00 PM – Return

President Hamilton announced that discussions continue with the Police Department and DPW. No votes were taken, negotiations continue.

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

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
PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Employee of the Year Award – President Hamilton presented Employee of the Year Awards to Ms. Fung Chan of the Finance Dept. (not present) and Officer Lee Trott of the Police Dept. Mr. Rainer presented a Town Administrator Award to Brian Woodhead of the Public Works Dept.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Bills – Motion by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Pedro to receive bills and place on file. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Kesson in dissent.

SITTING AS THE BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS

1. Daily Liquor License, Class F
   St. Johns Lodge #1 Corp., 81 Sprague Street, for a Clam Bake August 27, 2017 from 12:00 - 3:00 pm – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Ms. Pedro. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Peddler License – Specific Event
   Karuna DiLibero d/b/a Sacred Sadhana, 35 Webster Avenue, Newport for the Firefly Yoga Festival on September 16, 2017 – Motion to approve made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Mr. Aguiar. Motion passed 7-0.

Motion to adjourn as the Board of License Commissioners made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Pedro. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURN

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – This Saturday at 10:00, there will be a dedication for the Thurston Gray Pond at Melville Park.

MINUTES

TCM 6/14/17 – Motion to approve by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Kesson. Motion passed 7-0.
TCM 7/10/17 & Exec. – Motion to approve both TCM and Exec. minutes made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 7-0.
TCM 7/24/17 – Motion to approve by Mr. Aguiar, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 6-0-1. Mr. Kesson abstained.

TAX VOUCHERS

Request Approval for Tax Vouchers #20170815-01 to #20170815-12. / M. Helfand – Motion to approve the Tax Vouchers by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 7-0.
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. State Aid update - At our last Meeting I provided an update on the State Budget impasse and its potential impact on the Town. Since then, the Legislature has approved a budget and the Governor has signed it into law. Of note, we were anticipating a potential impact on School Aid and the MV Tax reimbursement due to the Tax’s phase out. There was a dip in school aid received on August 1st but the schools whole over the course of the FY in accordance with the enacted budget. So, long term, there is no impact to School Aid. With respect to the M/V Tax reimbursement, there is an $869.00 delta between what we anticipated and what was adopted, but the state intends to revise the formula and we expect the delta will be accounted for and reimbursed. As reported, we held off on the car tax bills in the hope and anticipation the budget impasse would be resolved. The car tax bills have been delivered to the post office and residents will soon receive them in the mail. Because they were delivered later than normal, we’ve extended the grace period for car tax receipts to Sept. 29th.

2. Report on Navy Quarterly Meeting of 10 AUG 2017 - On August 10th, I attended the Navy’s Qrty Community Leadership Meeting with the Commanding Officer of the Naval Station at his headquarters. We discussed the status of Tank Farm 2 and the demolition of the associated fuel tanks. Essentially, nothing has changed. The Navy still intends to demo the tanks but there is still no timeframe for the destruction – however, they stated the goal is to have the work complete by 2025. The Navy also reported that the utilities services associated with the Melville area are at capacity and there is no additional capacity to handle utility service beyond that which is deed allocated. With respect to the Navy property abutting the residences on Redwood Road, the Navy will be removing the current fence between this October and next spring. A new fence is planned to be placed on the Navy property line in the following year and the Navy will communicate the plan directly with the Town and abutting residences. Lastly, the Navy Base Annual Salute to Summer Concert and Fireworks show will take place August 26th. Gates will open to the public at 4:00pm.

3. New Police Station update - Regarding the new Police Station, we have completed the Design and Development phase and construction bid documents were made available on July 31st. Eleven contractors attended a mandatory pre-bid conference held onsite on August 9th. Bids will be opened at 2:00 pm on August 25th. A recommendation based on lowest qualified bid will be made to the Council on September 11th.

4. Portsmouth awarded GFAO Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting - Last month we received notification the Govt. Finance Officers Assoc. has awarded Portsmouth the GFAO Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the FY ending 2016. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. Congratulations to everyone in our Finance and Tax offices for their hard work and dedication to excellence.

5. Selection of new Deputy Fire Chief - Two months ago, we said our fond farewells to Deputy Fire Chief Mike O’Brien on the occasion of his retirement. A rigorous selection process ensued for the purpose of selecting our next Deputy – and I am proud to announce tonight the selection of Howie Tighe as Portsmouth’s newest Deputy Fire chief. His promotion is just the latest in a progressive series of significant career milestones and a tremendous reflection on his character, professionalism, and dedication to excellence in all he does. We are lucky to have him and I wish him the very best in this new assignment.
6. Veterans Honor Wall update - I’d like to close the loop on the Honor Wall project that started well over a year ago. As reported to the Council previously, we endeavored to find a more respectful and dignified home for the original Honor Roll which is now located in the main foyer of Town Hall just across from the new Honor Roll. The Town Quilt has been relocated just adjacent to the original rolls and nicely complements the display. I’d like to thank everyone involved in the project and hope those with strong emotional ties to the display are pleased with the outcome.

7. Report on meeting with Director of RI DOT - On August 9th the Town planner and I attended a meeting with RI DOT Director Alviti. The meeting was arranged by the Portsmouth Senate and House delegation for the purpose of reviewing projects on East and West Main Road. The Director reviewed with us DOT’s new approach to timing the design of projects and directed his staff to include the Town in the discussions and design of the East Main Road “Town Center” project. The design phase is anticipated to kick start again in 2018. Additionally, Director Alviti directed his staff to reevaluate the timing of roadway improvement on West Main from Kesson Drive to Mill Lane. The project is currently slated for 2023 and he asked his staff to see what could be done to move the project ahead of schedule.

8. Report on Roger Williams University Community Partnerships Center applications re: Glen Manor House - With respect to the operations at GMH, the Council directed the staff to develop a contract extension for the current managers, evaluate the condition of the mansion, and assess appropriate alternative business models for future operations. The contract extension has been executed. For the next two steps, we have entered into discussion with the RWU Community Partnerships Center and have two applications for University support. If accepted, the University will partner with the town to architecturally assess the building and, in parallel, assess, compare, and contrast alternative business models and formulate a recommended RFP for future operations.

9. Navy Commanding Officer Change of Command - Lastly, at the end of the week we will say farewell to an ardent supporter of intercommunity relations on Aquidneck Island. Captain Dennis Boyer will relinquish command of the Naval Station on Friday morning. Captain Boyer reinstituted and reinvigorated the quarterly community leadership program and has been extremely supportive of building lasting bridges between his staff and ours. He will be missed and we hope his successor will continue to build on the initiatives Dennis began.

Mr. Gleason asked about the status of the Brown House. Mr. Rainer stated that the work has been completed. DPW is building a wood fence around the perimeter that will match the one that lines Linden Lane. When that’s complete, we’ll hold a grand opening ceremony.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Resignations
   a. Economic Development Committee – Motion to approve the resignation with regret made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Gleason. Motion passed 7-0.
   b. Lower Glen Farm Preservation Committee – Motion to approve the resignations with regret made by Mr. Gleason, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Kesson opposed.

2. Appointments
   a. Economic Development Committee (1 Vacancy) – Motion by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Aguiar to appoint Ms. Abbott to the committee. Motion passed 7-0.
b. Melville Park Committee (Re-Appt.) – Motion by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Mr. Gleason to re-appoint Mr. Rizy to the committee. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Action – Approval of Professional Services Agreement for Town Solicitor Kevin Gavin. / R. Rainer – Motion made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Kesson. The motion passed 5-2, Ms. Pedro and Mr. Gleason opposed.

2. Presentation of Committee Reports and Request for Council Direction. / R. Rainer – Motion made by Ms. Ujifusa to direct Mr. Rainer to work with the Town Council and committees to prepare a proposal for improving our committees and present it to the Town Council by the first meeting in September, and that this proposal: 1) identifies specific issues for each committee to address – including clarifying their charters; 2) makes sure that the work undertaken by the committees is appropriately reviewed and acted upon by the TC; and 3) consolidates, reorganizes and possibly eliminates some committees, e.g., if they have been long inactive, have no charter, etc., seconded by Dr. Ryan. The motion passed 5-2, Ms. Pedro and Mr. Kesson opposed.


4. Presentation/Action – Present Results of the Solid Waste Recycling Survey and Request Scheduling of a Special Meeting to Discuss Solid Waste Options. / R. Talipsky – Motion by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Dr. Ryan, to hold a workshop on Aug. 29 at 7pm. All voted in favor of the motion.

5. Request Approval to Purchase DPW CIP Equipment, 2018 International 7400 Cab and Chassis with Sander and Plow for $148,638.00. / B. Woodhead – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Dr. Ryan. All voted in favor of the motion.

6. Request Approval to Award the Middle Road Drainage Improvements Contract. / B. Woodhead – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kesson, seconded by Dr. Ryan. All voted in favor of the motion.

7. Request Approval to Award the 2017-2018 Paving Projects Contract. / B. Woodhead – Motion to approve made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Kesson. All voted in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion/Action – Proposed Increase to Parking Fines. / L. Ujifusa – Motion to approve, with an increase to the handicap fine to $100 to align with State law, made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Gleason. All voted in favor of the motion.

2. Request to Approve Amendment to Town’s Pension Plan. / L. Higgins – Motion to approve made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Kesson. All voted in favor of the motion.
3. Discussion/Action – Review of the PRISM Cost Benefit Analysis of the Street Light Acquisition and Upgrade Project and Authorization of the Audit and Mapping Phase of the Project. / M. Asciola – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. All voted in favor of the motion.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letter in Opposition of Application for O’Reilly Auto Parts Store. / D. Goetzinger

2. Letter in Support of Traffic Light at Intersection of Bramans Lane & East Main Road. / S. VanDerhoof

3. Invitation to the 4th Annual Rock the Mansion to Benefit Newport County Community Mental Health Center on Thursday, October 19 from 6:00 – 10:00 pm at Ocean Cliff, Newport. / Newport County Community Mental Health Center

Motion to receive and place on file made by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Mr. Kesson. All voted in favor of the motion.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Aug 28  7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Aug 29  7:00 PM – Transfer Station Workshop
Aug 30  7:00 PM – Town Council Ethics Training (Wednesday)
Sept 11  7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting
Sept 16  TBD – Town Council Meeting - Prudence Island (Saturday)

Motion to adjourn by Ms. Pedro, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

ADJOURN

Time: 9:45 PM

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Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk