

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JUNE 22, 2020 MINUTES

On June 22, 2020, the Portsmouth Town Council meeting at 7:00 PM was live streamed on the web and by phone dial-in using the Zoom remote meeting service due to Covid-19 and the Governor's Executive order on social distancing and gatherings of no more than 15 people.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar in Town Council Chambers

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

Time: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Mr. Aguiar commented on the passing of former Town Clerk Kathleen Viera Beaudoin who served the Town, first as Deputy Town Clerk for 17 years and then Town Clerk for 10 years.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

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. Peddler License – Mobile Food Establishment (MFE):

- a. Amano LLC d/b/a A Mano Pizza & Gelato, 181 Bellevue Ave #315, Newport (#1721)
- b. Castaway Gourmet, LLC, 60 Selina Ln, Portsmouth (#1720)
- c. 1899 LLC d/b/a LaForge Casino Restaurant, 186 Bellevue Ave, Newport (#1732)

MINUTES – Motion to approve as presented made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

TCM 6/8/20 & Exec.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. COVID update – Rhode Island's cases of COVID-19 have, thankfully, been on a steady decline. On Friday, Governor Raimondo announced the details of Phase 3 of the state's re-opening. Some of the TENTATIVE details include:

- Social Gatherings (weddings, parties, networking events, catered events)
  - Limits for indoor settings, 50-75 people
  - Limits for outdoor settings, 75-150 people

- Places of public interaction (Retail, restaurants, gyms, museums, theaters, entertainment venues, houses of worship, close-contact business, office-based businesses, parks, beaches)
    - Limits for indoor settings
      - Indoor venues operating at a percent capacity or newly opening can increase up to 66% capacity with 6-foot spacing.
      - Indoor venues operating at a square footage capacity can increase up to 1 person per 100 square feet with 6-foot spacing.
      - Large venues of assembly such as concert halls and auditoriums that wish to have more than 250 people must submit a plan.
    - Limits for outdoor settings
      - No cap.
      - 6-foot distancing must be maintained.
      - Having more than 250 people in an outdoor place of public interaction is not recommended.
      - Large outdoor venues may be required to submit a plan for approval.
  - As a reminder, between now and Phase 3, the following guidelines remain in place for all residents and visitors:
    - Anyone who is sick should stay home and self-isolate. When people are in public, they should wear a cloth face covering.
    - Groups of no more than 15 people.
    - Always avoid close personal contact with other people in public.
    - 14-day quarantine for international travel, or those traveling from states with stay-at-home or shelter-in-place orders.
  - Lastly, the school department is working to develop various plans for next year to ensure that all schools can operate in a safe, productive manner. We will update families as soon as possible, so they can plan accordingly. For the 2020-2021 school year, all districts will be operating under the same statewide calendar.
2. RI Foundation Grant – We have been informed the Rhode Island Foundation has approved a Community Grant of \$10,000 to Portsmouth for an improved walking path at Sandy Point Beach. We anticipate \$3000 in-kind donations from the approved Capital Fund and in kind service support from DPW.
3. Stone Walls Project update – The Stone Wall project at the Glen Sports Complex is moving ahead. As a reminder, this is a project being done in partnership with the Preservation Society of Newport County and Preserve RI. We held a volunteer program information session tonight, prior to the Council meeting. Some details of the program:
- Training Workshop July 13-14, 9AM – 4PM
  - Program will run weekdays from July 13<sup>th</sup> to August 28<sup>th</sup>
    - Two shifts:
      - 9AM – 12:00 PM
      - 12:30 – 3:30 PM
      - Volunteers will work 3 hours a week for a total of 21 hours over the course of seven weeks.
      - No more than eight volunteers at any one shift.
      - PSNC will coordinate the volunteer schedule.
4. Financial software installation update – The installation of the new finance and accounting software is on track and will go live next week. The pandemic has hampered our training program

in that everything has had to be conducted remotely. This has been a chore for everyone involved and I just want to thank the Town and School staff who pushed through this arduous process to make things better for Portsmouth. Your work has not gone unnoticed and I thank you all for your perseverance.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Determine operating and implementation guidelines for Sandy Point and McCorrie Point Beaches. – No votes taken.
2. Monthly finance report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Final Approval of [Proposed FY 2021 Budget](#) (The Full Budget is Available for Review on the Town's Website at [www.portsmouthri.com](http://www.portsmouthri.com)) – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed 7-0.
  - a. Draft of FY 2021 Budget Ordinance – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Invitation and request to join in an Aquidneck Island grant for the Healthy Soils Healthy Seas Rhode Island Project via the Community Compost and Food Waste Reduction Project. – Motion to approve made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Resolution to develop a plan for a Community Choice Aggregation Program. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Review the Charter Review Committee report and proposed revisions of Town Charter. –
  - (201) Motion to continue to next meeting made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (202) Motion to continue to next meeting made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (204) Motion to approve changes as presented and present to the voters by ballot, made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (207) Motion to approve changes as presented and present to the voters by ballot, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (208) Motion to approve changes to #1 & #2 as presented and present to the voters by ballot and to defer # 3 to the next meeting, made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (209) Motion not to adopt proposed changes made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Hamilton in dissent.
  - (602) Motion to approve changes as presented and present to the voters by ballot, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (605) Motion to continue to next meeting made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (701) Motion to continue to the next meeting made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (704, 706, & 708) Motion to approve changes as presented and present to the voters by ballot, made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.
  - (710) Motion to approve changes as presented and present to the voters by ballot, made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-1. Mr. Kelly in dissent.

(902) Motion to have Town Solicitor look at the language and present recommended changes at the next meeting made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

(903) Motion to have Town Solicitor look at the State Statute, Rhode Island General Law Section 36-14-1 and the proposed changes and continue to the next meeting made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

(913) Motion to continue to the next meeting made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Determine if fires should be banned at McCorrie Point. – Motion to allow 3 fire permits per night, Monday-Thursday until 9 PM, Fri-Sun and the night before a holiday until 10 PM, ask DPW to designate 3 spaces on the beach, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion to amend the main motion to check with the RI Interlocal Risk Management Trust if a liability waiver is required, made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0. Motion to approve the main motion as amended passed 6-1. Ms. Abbott in dissent.

CORRESPONDENCE – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

1. Monthly RIRRC Report. / R. Antaya
2. Resolution committing to be anti-racist and offering support to those who expose bias and injustice. / Warren Town Council
3. Thank you letter for the final disbursement from the Community Block Grant program. / Child & Family

FUTURE MEETINGS

July 13 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting – Motion to move the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting to July 20<sup>th</sup> made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

July 27 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

Aug 11 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting (Tuesday)

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

Time: 11:26 PM

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Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk