

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
JULY 27, 2020 MINUTES

On July 27, 2020, the Portsmouth Town Council met in Executive Session at 6:15 PM. At 7:00 PM, the Portsmouth Town Council Meeting 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 25 people.

6:15 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, Daniela T. Abbott

Time: 6:17 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL §42-46-5(a)(2) pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

1. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Potential Litigation
2. RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2) Collective Bargaining – DPW and Police – Sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation, or work sessions pertaining to collective bargaining or litigation

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

Time: 6:54 PM

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Mr. Aguiar stated that there was an Executive Session prior to the Town Council meeting. One vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0. The School Department sent out a transportation survey and encouraged all to fill it out.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to receive as presented made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. 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. CRMC – PUBLIC NOTICE:

An Application of Craig & Marybeth Clark, 701 Park Avenue, Portsmouth, RI 02871, for a State of RI Assent to construct and maintain a residential boating facility consisting of a 4ft x 27ft fixed pier extension to an existing facility, a 4ft x 25ft gangway, an 8ft x 18.75ft terminal float, and two boat lifts. The facility is proposed to extend approx. 45 feet beyond mean low water achieving a water depth of approx. 7 feet. Location: 701 Park Avenue.

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. Daily Liquor License, Class F1

Island Park Preservation Society, 21 Beach Street, for a fundraiser at 706 Park Avenue on September 6, 2020 from 12:00-10:00 pm (#1736) – Motion to approve both F1 Daily Liquor Licenses for Island Park Preservation Society made by Mr. Hamilton, Seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.

2. Daily Liquor License, Class F1

Island Park Preservation Society, 21 Beach Street, for a fundraiser at 706 Park Avenue on August 23, 2020 from 11:00 am-7:00 pm (#1745)

3. Victualler License – Annual, New

Progasco Operating I, LLC d/b/a Neon Marketplace, 3302 East Main Rd (#1742) – Motion to approve both the Victualler License and the Holiday License for Progasco Operating I, LLC d/b/a Neon Marketplace made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Holiday License – Annual, New

Progasco Operating I, LLC d/b/a Neon Marketplace, 3302 East Main Rd (#1742)

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

MINUTES – Motion to receive the minutes as presented made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.

TCM 6/10/20

TCM 6/22/20

TCM 7/20/20

TAX VOUCHERS

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20200727-01 to #20200727-15. – Motion to approve Tax Vouchers #20200727-01 to #20200727-15 made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. COVID update –

- Portsmouth Playgrounds will reopen on August 1st. Portsmouth Department of Public Works will sanitize playground equipment on a regular basis. Signs will be posted reminding patrons to:
  - Maintain proper social distancing of at least 6 feet.
  - Use hand sanitizer prior to and immediately after using the equipment.
  - Stay home if you feel sick.
  - Avoid crowds and seek an alternate playground if a large group is present.
  - Wear face masks as appropriate.
- The Portsmouth Emergency Food Bank has relocated. To allow St. Barnabas to return their facilities to normal use, the St. Johns Lodge No. 1 of the Freemasons has offered the Town use of their facility at 81 Sprague Street for the Food Bank.

- Starting Wednesday July 29th it will be open from 10 AM to 4 PM Wednesdays and Fridays for food distribution and to accept donations. People in need or donating food may come to the parking lot and follow the signs.
- More information can be found on our website.
- Portsmouth Free Public Library is now open to the public. Browsing is allowed but patrons are requested to limit their visits to 30 minutes. Masks are required and social distancing must be maintained. 7 public access computers are available for use by appointment or on a space available basis. The Book Nook is open for purchases, but donations are not being accepted at this time. Hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9 AM to 5 PM, Tuesday and Thursday 9 AM to 6 PM. Please contact the Library for further information.

2. Aquapalooza report –

- The unofficial “Aquapalooza” event held annually in Potter Cove at Prudence Island was this past Saturday.
- There was particular attention on this year’s event due to pandemic concerns.
- Our strategy was to encourage compliance with safe boating rules and regulations while also encouraging compliance with COVID guidelines.
- Portsmouth organized a strong enforcement presence and monitored the cove for overcrowding. The Governor’s Office gave us latitude to determine the safe limit of the number of people allowed in the cove.
- In all, we had seven boats on scene. I’d like to thank the USCG, the RI State Police, DEM, and Bristol for helping us ensure public safety during the event.
- Our officers were out on the water till approximately 9pm. The number of boaters who attended this year was much less than previous years, and the officers believe that the large law enforcement presence this year served as a deterrent.
- While the cove never had to be officially shut down due to attendance, boaters began to set up outside the cove in open waters which presented a challenge for enforcement. Jet skis were reported as a problem as they estimated approximately 150 of them throughout the day.
- The Harbor Master reported, for the most part, that boaters were respectful and were accepting of restrictions due to COVID-19.
- There was one arrest for BUI which was handled by DEM and a separate event in which one person sustained an apparent broken leg. There was also one boat that was beached on a sandbar during low tide.

3. RI Senate Grant –

- It’s my pleasure to report the receipt of a RI Senate Grant in the amount of \$600.
- The grant is to be used to purchase a Wi-Fi enable Computer Tablet for use by the Fire Marshal during field inspections.

4. EMA Forum regarding Preparing for Extreme Weather –

- On Wednesday, our Emergency Management Director, Ray Perry, will lead an interactive online forum to discuss personal preparedness for individuals and families.
- The forum is being sponsored by the Common Fence Point Preparedness Committee and all Portsmouth residents and employees are invited to attend.
- Please call (401) 874-6135 or contact Ray Perry for more information.

**Just a reminder:** August 10<sup>th</sup> is a RI Holiday. As such, town offices will be closed, and the next Town Hall meeting will be August 11<sup>th</sup>.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointments:

a. Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (Re-Appt.) Motion to re-appoint Mr. Robert Andrews made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

b. Housing Authority – Motion to appoint Mr. Ronald Harnois made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Symmetry Partners Report. – No motions made.

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

3. Request to advertise for a virtual Public Workshop on a Complete Streets ordinance. – Motion to advertise for a virtual Public Workshop to be held on September 16, 2020 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Community Energy Aggregation plan summary and request for Public Hearing. – Motion to advertise for a Public Hearing to be held on August 11, 2020 made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 5-2. Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Aguiar in dissent.

5. Resolution authorizing transfer of the Prudence Island School property to the Prudence Island School Foundation. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

6. Request approval of a resolution authorizing twelve questions to appear on the ballot for the November 2020 General Election for changes to the Home Rule Charter. – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Request permission to erect a 70 ft. free-standing antenna tower on land owned by the town at the Portsmouth Transfer Station, at no cost to the town, and to lease the land for \$1 a year. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion to amend to require the contract be presented to the Town Council for approval, made by Ms. Ujifusa, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0. Motion to approve the main motion as amended passed 7-0.

2. Notice of Availability for the Prudence Island Light (aka Sandy Point Lighthouse) at no cost to the Town. – Motion for the Town Council to endorse a letter of support to the Prudence Island Conservancy made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Ujifusa. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Resolution recognizing and honoring African American history in Rhode Island and urging the adoption of African American Education in Rhode Island's K-12 schools starting in the 2021-2022 academic year. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

4. Resolution opposing transfer of RI Turnpike and Bridge Authority (RITBA) revenue and

management authority to the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT). – Motion to approve made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 6-0. Mr. Aguiar recused.

5. Request Capital Improvement, Preservation, Recreation, and Quality of Life Bond appear on the ballot for the November 2020 General Election. – Motion made by Mr. Kelly, no seconded received. Motion failed.

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

1. Monthly RIRRC Report. / R. Antaya
2. Resolution in opposition to S-2547/H-7900, relating to aeronautics – airports and landing fields – airport zoning. / Middletown Town Council
3. Resolution defending the rights of Burrillville citizens guaranteed under the First Amendment and declaring Burrillville a “First Amendment Sanctuary Town.” / Burrillville Town Council
4. Resolution to support 2020-H 7575 and 2020-S 2711 to amend Article I by adding Section 24, Right to an adequate education. / Smithfield School Committee
5. Resolution condemning racism and urging efforts to recognize and stop racism. / Little Compton Town Council
6. Letter stating displeasure with summer behaviors. / S. Panaggio
7. Event Notification – Bike to the Beach for Autism, September 5, 2020. / R. Walsh, Autism Speaks

FUTURE MEETINGS

Aug 11 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting (Tuesday)  
Aug 24 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting  
Sep 14 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 9:20 PM

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Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk