

**PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
AUGUST 24, 2020
MINUTES**

6:00 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: 6:01 PM

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 7-0.

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 writing and advised that they may require that the discussion be held at an open meeting. No motions made.

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

Time: 6:35 PM

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

Time: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Executive Session was held earlier for the Town Administrator’s review. No votes were taken.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to receive and place on file 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

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 August 23, 2020 from 11:00 am-7:00 pm (#1745) request date change to October 11, 2020. – Motion to approve the date change made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

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

TAX VOUCHERS – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20200824-01 to #20200824-02. / M. Helfand

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. COVID Update

- Rhode Islanders have, thankfully been heeding state health guidelines resulting in fewer reported cases of COVID-19. It is extremely important that we all continue to stay vigilant. As a reminder, the following is in place:
 - All gatherings must be limited to 15 people or less;
 - Violations are punishable by a fine of up to \$500 per person.
 - Limit your circle of contacts to 15 people or less;
 - Masks and face coverings should be worn when distancing is not possible;
 - Common surfaces should be cleaned frequently; and
 - Hands should be washed or sanitized often.
- RI Education Commissioner, Angelica Infante-Green has singled out Portsmouth for the excellent work put into our reopening plan. In Portsmouth Schools' plan, both their full and partial reopening scenarios have students in pre-kindergarten to grade 6 attending in-person instruction every day, while grades 7–12 would alternate between in-person and distance learning in their partial return.
 - A decision on how schools will reopen (full attendance, distance learning, hybrid, etc.) will be made by Aug 31st.
- There is updated guidance for those who need a COVID Test and need to know where to go:
 - **If you have symptoms:**
 - Stay home, and:
 - Call your primary provider; or
 - Call a community health clinic of respiratory clinic
 - **If you do not have symptoms:**
 - If you fall into any of these categories, you can sign up for a free test at [PORTAL.RI.GOV](https://portal.ri.gov):
 - Close-contact worker
 - 18-39 years old
 - Traveling to a state with >5% positive rate
 - Recently attended a large protest or demonstration
 - **If you have questions**, call the RIDOH COVID Hotline at (401) 222-8022

2. Emergency Food Bank Update
 - The Food Bank is now located at St. Johns Lodge No. 1 of the Freemasons at 81 Sprague Street. It is open from 10 AM to 4 PM Wednesdays and Fridays for food distribution and to accept donations.
 - I want to note that the Town has received a generous amount of cash donations that it intends to reinvest in the community. The establishment of the emergency food bank is part of our local emergency disaster relief operation. More information can be found on our website.

3. Upcoming Community Leadership Meeting
 - Captain Ian Johnson has been relieved by Captain James McIver as Commanding Officer, Naval Station Newport. The Community Leadership Meetings sponsored by his predecessors have unfortunately been postponed most of this year due to COVID but CAPT McIver has decided to resume this leadership forum early this Fall. I look forward to resuming these meetings and continuing our relationship with the leadership community in Aquidneck Island.

4. Report on meeting with Newport Beach Club
 - In response to issues and concerns raised by neighborhood residents, Town Staff met with the receiver of Newport Beach Club regarding parking and trash near the beach public access area at the end of Pheasant Drive.
 - The current caretakers are now removing trash three times a day.
 - Additionally, the receiver will place and/or replace signage and physical barriers to bring the access area into compliance with owner's obligations under the CRMC Assent, the Aquidneck Island Coastal Greenway Landscape Maintenance & Management Agreement, and the Development Agreement between the owner/developer and the Portsmouth Planning Board.
 - We will continue to monitor the issues raised by the residents and work with the receiver to ensure future ownership of the Newport Beach Club are aware of the obligations associated with the beach area.

5. Upcoming visit by The Honorable Charles A. Williams, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment
 - The Honorable Charles A. Williams, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment, will be in Newport on Wednesday for a visit to the base. While he is in the area conducting site visits, an important part of his travel is to meet with key local officials to discuss the Navy in their area. He will visit Portsmouth to meet with me on Wednesday afternoon.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Presentation of East Main Road Safety Assessment. – No Votes taken.
2. Discussion and approval of the Town Council FY 20-21 Goals and Priorities for the Town Administrator. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Ms. Abbott. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Monthly finance report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Hummock Ave Safety Improvement Resolution. – Motion to approve made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Request approval for fireworks display at Thriving Tree Coffee House. – Motion to approve made Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.
3. Request for approval for fireworks display at The Aquidneck Club. – Motion to approve made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

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

1. YMCA “No Golf” Golf Tournament Invitation. / M. DeAscentis Special Olympic Coordinator
2. Resolution Urging an Emergency Exemption in the Computation of the Maintenance of Effort Requirements Established by RIGL 16-7-23. / North Smithfield Town Council
3. Resolution in Support of Urging the State of Rhode Island to Allocate at least 10 Percent of its \$1.5 Billion in Federal Cares Act Funds to Establish a Grant Program for Small Businesses Impacted by Covid-19. / Jamestown Town Council
4. Resolution Requesting Support of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority. / Jamestown Town Council.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Sep 14 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Sep 16 7:00 PM - Town Council Complete Streets Workshop (Wednesday)
Sep 28 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting
Oct 13 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting (Tuesday)

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

Time: 9:13

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk