

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 8, 2021  
MINUTES

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin M. Aguiar and Andrew V. Kelly in Town Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT BY ZOOM: Linda L. Ujifusa, Daniela T. Abbott, Michael Buddemeyer, Keith E. Hamilton and J. Mark Ryan

Time: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SITTING AS THE PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

1. Roll Call

PRESIDENT’S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – There was no Executive Session held.

CONSENT AGENDA – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, 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

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

Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20210208-01 to #20210208-04. / M. Helfand

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

1. Covid Update

- The Town of Portsmouth has teamed with Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems to use its Providence Building, located off of West Main Road, to serve as our COVID-19 Vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) Clinic.
- The Town plans to use the facility for the vaccination of Portsmouth residents. By State direction, those 75 years of age and older, will be the first to receive the vaccines as soon as they become available.
- The State has announced that vaccine doses are expected to be available in mid to late February. Portsmouth is compiling a list of residents 75 years of age or older only. Anyone not within this age group cannot be considered at this time. This current sign-up program is NOT a Registration for a Vaccine Appointment, but a means by which the Portsmouth Eligibility Team may contact residents to make an appointment when vaccine doses become available. We will work from oldest to youngest in this age group.
- Signing up for the 75 YOA or older Eligibility List is easy:
  - E-mailing [vaccine@portsmouthri.com](mailto:vaccine@portsmouthri.com);
  - Leaving a message at our (401) 643-0323 hotline that is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday; or
  - Fill out an information form at a link which will be published tomorrow.

- Although medical conditions may be a consideration, Eligibility Team members are not medical professionals. Consequently, are not asking for or accepting requests for medical considerations.
- It is recognized that some residents will have transportation challenges. Ideally, a family member or good friend can assist those with such a challenge. The Portsmouth Eligibility Team will work, on a case-by-case basis, to help those with transportation challenges. In the initial vaccination program, homebound candidates cannot be accommodated. Procedures for the homebound are being formulated at the State level.
- If you have already sent an e-mail or spoke to a Town Hall staff member and they recorded your contact information, you have already been added to the Eligibility List and need not sign-up again. No further action is required by you.
- Once vaccine doses have been allocated and made available, we will contact those on the eligibility list to register for a vaccine appointment.
- As of today we anticipate it may take more than two months to vaccinate those 75 and older.
- We are asking everyone to be patient. If another opportunity emerges for you to receive first dose from another source you may take that opportunity, just please let us know.
- This will all be published online and released to the press tomorrow.

## 2. Covid Relief Fund Update (CRF)

- The State's anticipated COVID Relief Fund Distribution has been revised. The FY 21 estimated total CRF Distribution for Portsmouth has been revised upward to ~\$816.
- Documentation was submitted last week to RI DMF for reimbursement of appropriate expenditures iaw State direction.

## 3. SNEP Update

- In December I gave you a short update on the Southeast New England Program (SNEP). SNEP approved our application for storm water and watershed management assistance last spring.
- The Town requested assistance in developing a town-wide Climate Resiliency Planning and Financing strategy.
- An MOU describing work to be done between the Town and SNEP is being developed and will be ready for your review at the next Council meeting.
- The MOU will include details concerning:
  - A facilitated process with town officials to further refine and prioritize highest priority capital needs;
  - A Public workshop;
  - Consultant services to work with municipal staff to provide cost estimates to include in the CIP;
  - and leadership training with the Town Council to ensure understanding and support for climate resiliency planning and financing.

## RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

### 1. Appointments:

- a. Portsmouth Conservation Commission – Motion to reappoint both John McDaid and Constance Harding to the Portsmouth Conservation Commission made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0.
- b. Portsmouth Conservation Commission
- c. Harbor Commission – Motion to reappoint David Garceau to the Harbor Commission made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Monthly finance report. – Motion to receive and place on file made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Road Safety Assessment – East Main Road, Mitigation Measures Update. – No votes taken.

NEW BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)

1. Senior Center update and Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Portsmouth and Church Community Housing Corporation, regarding the development and use of the former Coggeshall School and Ann Hutchinson School for housing. – Motion to put a dated certain under section 3.3 that the Memorandum of Understanding will end on December 31, 2025 unless extended by mutual agreement of both parties made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by both parties. Motion passed 7-0. Motion after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Whereas to add after the word housing to add with an emphasis on senior housing, and a senior center made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Kelly. Motion passed 7-0. Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding as amended made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.
2. Resolution Supporting Senate Bill 64, An Act Relating to Motor and Other Vehicles – Automated Traffic Speed Enforcement System. Motion made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion failed 3-4. Ms. Abbott, Mr. Buddemeyer, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Kelly in dissent.
3. Solid Waste and Recycling Committee Report. – No votes taken.
4. Ratification of Appointment of Finance Director. – Motion to approve Lisa Lasky as Finance Director made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.

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

1. Resolution Requesting the Governor of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island General Assembly Adjust Public Health Guidelines and Executive Orders that are Harming Rhode Island's Small Business Community. / Cranston City Council
2. Resolution Requesting the Governor of Rhode Island and the Rhode Island General Assembly to Allocate \$8 Million of the New Stimulus Money to Afterschool and Summer Programs. / Cranston City Council

FUTURE MEETINGS

- Feb 22 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
Mar 08 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

Mar 22 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting  
Apr 12 7:00 PM – Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 10:08 PM

---

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk