

PORTSMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 13, 2020 (TUESDAY)  
MINUTES

6:30 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 and Andrew V. Kelly

Time: 6:36 PM

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Motion to go into Executive Session under RIGL §42-46-5(a)(5) made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Mr. Katzman. Motion passed 6-0. Ms. Abbott absent.

1. RIGL §42-46-5(a)(5) – Any discussions or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the public interest.

Tim: 6:42 PM Daniela T. Abbott arrives via Zoom.

**ADJOURN** – Motion to adjourn and seal the minutes made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

Time: 6:56 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** – There was an Executive Session held prior to tonight’s meeting. No votes were taken.

**PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITIONS**

1. Presentation of the Portsmouth Award – Tracy Clements Anthony

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Motion to approve as presented made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. 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 SHM NEB, LLC, c/o Safe Harbor Marinas, 14785 Preston Road, Suite 975 Dallas, TX 75254, for State of Rhode Island Assent (in accordance with the

Marina infrastructure Maintenance Act of 1996 and the Marine Waterways and Boating Facilities Act of 2001, Rhode Island General Laws Chapter 46-6.1) and State of Rhode Island Water Quality Certification (in accordance with Chapter 42-35 pursuant to Chapters 46-12 and 42-17.1 of the RIGL, as amended) to perform

The project will include: Phased dredging that includes both maintenance and improvement (deepening) dredging. The dredging has two distinct sections, the entrance channel and the marina basin. The channel is approximately 4,750 CY of material and the basin is approximately 30,800 CY. The proposal is for the dredging to be performed over 5 years as budgeted and CAD disposal volume becomes available.

**MINUTES** – Motion to approve made by Dr. Ryan, seconded by Mr. Hamilton. Motion passed 7-0.  
9/28/20

**TAX VOUCHERS** – Motion to approve made by Mr. Katzman, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.  
Request approval for Tax Vouchers #20201013-01 to #20201013-11. / M. Helfand

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### 1. COVID Update

- The Governor has decided that RI will remain in Phase III for now. For more guidance on Phase III, visit: [reopeningri.com](http://reopeningri.com).
- Rhode Island has seen an uptick in COVID-19 cases. I urge all residents to refrain from hosting or attending gatherings with over 15 people; remain 6 ft apart when in public; and always carry a face covering with you for times when social distancing cannot be maintained, or in indoor settings. Now is not the time to let our guards down.
- I also urge everyone to do what you can to our local businesses. The pandemic is devastating many small businesses and they need our support. When you can, shop local; many of our small businesses have contactless pick up options or delivery.
- As a reminder:
  - 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.
  - For more information, please visit the Town website.

### 2. Senior Center Update

- Regarding the Anne Hutchinson Building, which houses the Portsmouth Senior Center:
  - I'd like to remind everyone that the State Fire Marshall office has determined the building is not suitable for this purpose. I discussed this with the Council earlier in the year.
  - The Senior Center is an independent non-profit agency, which draws significant financial support from the Town, and I expect that will continue.

- However, the capital improvements required to make the building suitable for use by this agency are quite expensive:
  - Nearly \$5M in deficiencies have been identified that would need to be addressed in the near and long term; and the replacement cost of the building is just a little over \$5M.
- The Town is not, insensitive to the needs of Aquidneck Island Seniors. In fact, I have been working to develop a solution that can address this agency's issue in the short and long term. The two problems the Senior Center face are: (1) how and where can membership's needs be met after the building can no longer be used and (2) what should and can be an appropriate long-term replacement for the building? I hope to brief the Council soon on possible courses of action.

### 3. Old Mill Lane LNG Update

- National Grid operations at their Old Mill Lane site will start ramping up again over the next week. Mats will be laid down starting this week and equipment will be brought on site in early to mid-November. The site will be fully operational by December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- As you may remember, the operation at Old Mill Lane was established last winter as a measure to mitigate the lack of natural gas supply to the island on the coldest days of the year. This is a stop-gap measure put in place until a permanent solution is put in place to address the Island's long-term capacity issues.
- National Grid has gone live with a webpage regarding their Aquidneck Island Long-Term Capacity Study, and four potential solutions portfolios, which also provides a means to submit feedback to the company. That study is available online at [ngrid.com/aquidneck](http://ngrid.com/aquidneck) and can be accessed through the Town's website.
- The goal of the study is to help inform more discussion and gather stakeholder feedback.
- In that vein, the company is hosting an Aquidneck Island Energy Matters Open House. Which I spoke of at the last Council meeting. Registration information was sent to rate payers and is also available on our website.
- National Grid hopes provide a recommendation by the end of the year on a path forward to pursue a long-term solution or solutions for our island.

**OLD BUSINESS (Discussion/Action)** – Motion to approve and have Chief Peters and Mr. Rainer look at other possible streets to be included, made by Mr. Hamilton, seconded by Dr. Ryan. Motion passed 7-0.

1. Request approval for proposed parking restrictions. / B. Peters

**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 Supporting an Emergency Exemption for all Rhode Island Municipalities in the Computation of the Maintenance of Effort Requirements Established by RIGL 16-7-23. / East Greenwich Town Council
3. Resolution Relating to State Assistance During the COVID-19 Emergency. /Little Compton Town Council

### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Oct 17 9:00 AM - Prudence Island Town Council Meeting (Saturday)

Oct 26 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting  
Nov 09 7:00 PM - Town Council Meeting  
Nov 23 7:00 PM –Town Council Meeting

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

Time: 7:19 PM

---

Jennifer M. West, Town Clerk