CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, COUNCIL CHAMBERS PORTSMOUTH, NH
DATE:  MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2007 TIME:  7:00PM

- 5:30 p.m. – Reception for Eileen Dondero Foley in Portsmouth Room
- 6:30 p.m. – Formal Dedication of the Portsmouth City Council Chambers in honor of Eileen Dondero Foley

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER [7:00PM or thereafter]
II. ROLL CALL
III. INVOCATION
IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 12, 2007
VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION
VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CIP) FY2008-2013
B. RESOLUTION INCREASING THE MAXIMUM INCOME LIMIT FOR INDIVIDUALS QUALIFYING FOR THE ELDERLY REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION TO $30,600.00 FOR SINGLE AND $37,740.00 FOR MARRIED AND TOTAL ASSETS MAY NOT EXCEED $102,000.00 WHETHER SINGLE OR MARRIED
C. RESOLUTION INCREASING THE MAXIMUM INCOME LIMIT FOR INDIVIDUALS QUALIFYING FOR THE DISABLED REAL ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION TO $30,600.00 FOR SINGLE AND $37,740.00 FOR MARRIED AND TOTAL ASSETS MAY NOT EXCEED $102,000.00 WHETHER SINGLE OR MARRIED
D. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE III, SECTION 7.330 – NO PARKING – MAPLEWOOD AVENUE BY THE ADDITION FROM THE US ROUTE 1 BYPASS NORTHBOUND OFF RAMP TO PROSPECT STREET

PROCLAMATION

1. Formal Dedication of the Portsmouth City Council Chambers in honor of Eileen Dondero Foley

VIII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS AND DONATIONS

A. Acceptance of Donation to the New Library Building Fund
   • Attorney Robert A. Shaines - $5,000.00 (Second payment of 3-year pledge)
   • Frank and Tracey Clarkson - $5,000.00
   • William S. and Theresa P. Holden - $1,000.00

   (Sample motion – move to approve and accept the donation to the New Library Building Fund as listed)

IX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

A. Adoption of Resolution Increasing the Maximum Income Limit for Individuals Qualifying for the Elderly Real Estate Tax Exemption to $30,600.00 for single and $37,740.00 for married and total assets may not exceed $102,000.00 whether single or married

B. Adoption of Resolution Increasing the Maximum Income Limit for Individuals Qualifying for the Disabled Real Estate Tax Exemption to $30,600.00 for single and $37,740.00 for married and total assets may not exceed $102,000.00 whether single or married

C. Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.330 – No Parking – Maplewood Avenue by the addition from the US Route 1 Bypass northbound off ramp to Prospect Street
D. Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.321 (G) – Snow Emergency Parking Ban; Section 7.324 – Limited Parking – One Hour by the deletion of Chatham Street: southerly side from Summer Street to Winter Street; Section 7.326 – Limited Parking – 15 Minutes by the addition of Hanover Street: northerly side, first two spaces east of High Street; northerly side, two spaces 246 feet west from the intersection of High Street; Section 7.327 – Limited Parking – Two Hours – by the addition of Church Street: easterly side, two spaces 26 feet south of State Street; Section 7.330 – No Parking – Hanover Street by the addition of the southerly side from Market Street to a point 285 feet east of Fleet Street; and Section 7.403 to be entitled Length of Vehicles – Vehicles Parking in Off-Street Parking Areas shall not exceed 19 feet in length

X. CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WOULD BE IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA

A. Acceptance of Donation to the Coalition Legal Fund
   - Town of Hanover - $1,000.00

   (Anticipated action – move to approve and accept the donation as listed, to be placed in the Coalition Legal Fund)

B. Acceptance of Donation to the New Library Building Fund
   - David M. Holden and Laurinda L. Hill - $200.00
   - Ashlie W. and N. Tim Peters - $100.00

   (Anticipated action – move to approve and accept the donations as listed, to be placed in the New Library Building Fund)

C. Letter from Matt Lyman, March of Dimes, requesting permission to hold the annual WalkAmerica on Saturday, April 21, 2007 (Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power)

D. Letter from Jeanine Sylvester, Runner's Alley, requesting permission to hold the 10th annual Runner's Alley/Redhook Brewery Memorial 5k on Sunday, May 27, 2007 (Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power)

E. Letter from Jay Diener, Seacoast Half Marathon, requesting permission to hold the 2nd Annual Seacoast Half Marathon on Sunday, November 11, 2007 (Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power)

XI. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

A. Letter from David A. Smith requesting permission to place a granite bench in Prescott Park in memory of his son Dean


D. Letter from Lindsay Hanson, Events Coordinator for New Hampshire Public Radio regarding the City of Portsmouth hosting the National Public Radio Program StoryCorps and requesting a parking space for a mobilebooth from July 2, 2007 through July 28, 2007

E. Letter from Paul Sorli Requesting a Revocable License for a Canopy over a portion of a City sidewalk at 78 Market Street

XII. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

*Items which require Action under other sections of the Agenda*

1. Public Hearing:
   1.1 Public Hearing Re: Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY2008-2013

2. Public Hearing/Adoption of Proposed Resolution Amendments:
   2.1 Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution Amending Elderly Exemption Income and Asset Limits *(Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the Agenda)*
   
   2.2 Public Hearing/Adoption of Resolution Amending Disabled Exemption Income and Asset Limits *(Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the Agenda)*

3. Public Hearing/Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance Amendments:
   3.1 Public Hearing/Second Reading Amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.330 – No Parking – Maplewood Avenue *(Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the Agenda)*
3.2 Public Hearing/Second Reading Amending Chapter 7, Article III, Sections 7.321 (G) – Snow Emergency Parking Ban; Section 7.324 – Limited Parking – One Hour – Chatham Street; Section 7.326 – Limited Parking – 15 Minutes – Hanover Street; Section 7.327 – Limited Parking – Two Hours – Church Street; Section 7.330 – No Parking – Hanover Street; and Section 7.403 to be entitled Length of Vehicles *(Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the Agenda)*

4. Letter from Paul Sorli Requesting a Revocable License for a Canopy over a portion of a City sidewalk at 78 Market Street *(Action on this matter should take place under Section XI of the Agenda)*

**City Manager’s Items Which Require Action**

1. Request to Grant an Easement to Verizon New England, Inc.
2. Report Back Re: Blunt Painting Request
3. License Agreement with PSNH for Emergency Access to Atlantic Heights Neighborhood
5. Planning Board Report Back Re: Proposed Amendments to Central Business A District

**Informational Items**

1. Student Government Day
2. Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Boards & Commissions Term Limits
3. Amended Schedule Re: Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Re-use for Public Listening Sessions
4. Legislative Informational Meeting on Wastewater
5. Economic Development Commission

**B. MAYOR MARCHAND**

1. Appointments to be Considered:
   - Thomas Heany, Portsmouth Housing Authority
   - Charles LeMay, Zoning Board of Adjustment
   - Thomas Grasso, Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment
   - Elena Maltese, Alternate to the Historic District Commission
2. *Reports

**C. COUNCILOR SMITH**

1. Traffic & Safety Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the February 8, 2007 meeting
2. Parking Committee Action Sheet and Minutes of the February 8, 2007 meeting
3. Proposed Gambling at Pease International Tradeport SB225
XIII. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XIV. ADJOURNMENT [AT 10:00PM OR EARLIER]

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Planning Board minutes of the January 4, 2007; January 18, 2007 and January 20, 2007 meetings
2. Site Review Technical Advisory Committee minutes of the January 30, 2007 meeting
3. Zoning Board of Adjustment minutes of the January 16, 2007 meeting
4. Historic District Commission minutes of the January 10, 2007 and January 31, 2007 meetings

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC WHO ARE HEARING IMPAIRED: Please contact Dianna Fogarty at 603-610-7270 one-week prior to the meeting for assistance.
5:30 p.m - Reception for Eileen Dondero Foley in Portsmouth Room.

6:30 p.m - Formal Dedication of the Portsmouth City Council Chambers in honor of Eileen Dondero Foley.

Acceptance of Grants/Donations:

1. **Acceptance of Donation to the New Library Building Fund.** Attached are copies of checks donating funds to the New Library Building Fund.

   - Attorney Robert A. Shaines for $5,000.00 (Second payment of 3-year pledge)
   - Frank & Tracey Clarkson for $5,000.00
   - William S. & Theresa P. Holden for $1,000.00

*I would recommend that the City Council approve and accept the donations to the New Library Building Fund as listed. Action on this matter should take place under Section VIII of the Agenda.*
Items Which Require Action Under Other Sections of the Agenda:

1. **Public Hearing:**

   1.1 **Public Hearing Re: Proposed Capital Improvement (CIP) FY2008-2013.** In accordance with Section 7.7 of the City Charter, a Public Hearing on the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for FY2008-2013 will take place on Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. At that time, I have requested that the staff make a 10-minute PowerPoint presentation giving the public an overview of the proposed Capital Plan. It should be noted that because the full presentations of the six-year capital plan took place on both the January 18th Planning Board meeting and the January 29th City Council work session, that a summary version of that presentation will be made on Monday evening primarily dealing with items that are appropriated for FY08 and those major items for future years. In addition, I will have copies available of the summary pages for the public, as well as the capital expenditures that will be proposed in the FY08 budget. Also, a copy of the Capital Plan in its entirety is on our web page (www.cityofportsmouth.com). If people wish to web stream the City Council work session where the Capital Plan was reviewed in detail, they may do so by web streaming under Webcast Archives.

   The City Council is required, in accordance with Section 7.8 of the City Charter, to adopt the Capital Plan subsequent to the Public Hearing and before the City Manager submits his budget to the City Council. I anticipate that I will be transmitting my proposed FY2008 budget to you on or about April 6, 2007. Given that projected date, the City Council must adopt the proposed Capital Improvement Plan no later than its March 19th City Council meeting.

   Please bring your Capital Improvement Plan with you. If you need another copy, please let me know.

   I would suggest that action on this matter be taken at the March 19th City Council meeting, at which time I will recommend adoption of the CIP with any appropriate amendments.

2. **Public Hearing/Adoption of Proposed Resolution Amendments:**

   2.1 **Public Hearing / Adoption of Resolution Amending Elderly Exemption Income and Asset Limits.** As a result of the February 12th City Council meeting, under Section VII of the agenda, I am bringing back for second reading and adoption the proposed attached resolution for amending Elderly Exemption Income and Asset Limits. Also, attached is a spreadsheet provided by the City Assessor’s Office outlining the tax impact of the elderly exemption for FY07.
Last year, the City Council took the following action as it relates to elderly and disabled exemptions:

1. Resolution #8-2006, adopted April 3, 2006, increased income limits for Elderly Exemptions from property tax to $30,000 for a single taxpayer and $37,000 for married taxpayers, maintaining asset limit at $100,000.

As you recall, at your April 3, 2006 City Council meeting, discussions took place which resulted in a request by the City Council to review this issue on an annual basis including both the income and asset limitations.

For your information, the Assessor’s office mails a notification annually to all elderly persons who currently receive this exemption to update their application. By law, all new applicants must submit an application and required documentation by April 15th. This would be for assessments as of April 1, 2007, for the 2007 tax year or FY08.

It would be my suggestion that the City Council adjust these exemptions by 2% including asset limitations, which is the annual inflation rate from November 2005 through November 2006.

*I would recommend the City Council move to pass second reading and adopt the Resolution Amending Elderly Exemption Income and Asset Limits as presented. (This requires a majority vote.) Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the agenda.*

2.2 Public Hearing / Adoption of Resolution Amending Disabled Exemption Income and Asset Limits. As a result of the February 12th City Council meeting, under Section VII of the agenda, I am bringing back for second reading and adoption the proposed attached resolution for amending Disabled Exemption Income and Asset Limits.

Last year, the City Council took the following action as it relates to disabled exemptions:

1. Resolution #9-2006, adopted May 1, 2006, increased income limits for Disabled Persons Exemption from property tax to $30,000 for a single taxpayer and $37,000 for married taxpayers, maintaining asset limit at $100,000.

As you recall, at your April 3, 2006 City Council meeting, discussions took place which resulted in a request by the City Council to review this issue on an annual basis including both the income and asset limitations.

For your information, the Assessor’s office mails a notification annually to all disabled persons who currently receive this exemption to update their application. By law, all
new applicants must submit an application and required documentation by April 15th. This would be for assessments as of April 1, 2007, for the 2007 tax year or FY08.

It would be my suggestion that the City Council adjust these exemptions by 2% including asset limitations, which is the annual inflation rate from November 2005 through November 2006.

*I would recommend the City Council move to pass second reading and adopt the Resolution Amending Disabled Exemption Income and Asset Limits. (This requires a majority vote.) Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the agenda.*

3. **Public Hearing/Second Reading of Proposed Ordinance Amendments:**

3.1 **Public Hearing/ Second Reading Amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.330 – NO PARKING -Maplewood Avenue.** As a result of the February 12th City Council meeting, under Section VII of the agenda, I am bringing back for public hearing and second reading the attached proposed amendment to Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.330 – No Parking – Maplewood Avenue pursuant to the Traffic and Safety Action Sheet dated January 12, 2007.

*I would recommend the City Council move to pass second reading and hold third and final reading at the March 19th City Council meeting as presented. Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the agenda.*

3.2 **Public Hearing / Second Reading Amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.321 (G) – Snow Emergency Parking Ban; Section 7.324 – Limited Parking – One hour – Chatham Street; Section 7.326 – Limited Parking – 15 Minutes – Hanover Street; Section 7.327 – Limited Parking – Two Hours – Church Street; Section 7.330 – No Parking – Hanover Street; and Section 7.403 to be entitled Length of Vehicles.** As a result of the February 12th City Council meeting, under Section VII of the agenda, I am bringing back for public hearing and second reading the attached proposed ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, various sections as outlined.

*I would recommend the City Council move to pass second reading and schedule a third and final reading at the March 19th City Council meeting as presented. Action on this matter should take place under Section IX of the agenda.*

4. **Letter from Paul Sorli Requesting a Revocable License for a Canopy Over a Portion of a City Sidewalk at 78 Market Street.** Attached under Section XI of the agenda is a letter from Paul Sorli requesting a revocable license for a canopy over a portion of a City sidewalk at 78 Market Street and a memorandum from Chief Planner Lucy Tillman.

*I would recommend the City Council move to grant a revocable license to KRS Realty LLC as proposed on the attached memorandum. Action on this matter should take place under Section XI of the agenda.*
**Consent Agenda:**

1. **Donation to the Coalition Legal Fund.** Attached is a copy of a check from the Town of Hanover for $1,000.00 donating funds to the Coalition Legal Fund, which will be utilized to continue our fight to eliminate the statewide property tax.

   *I would recommend the City Council move to approve and accept the donation as listed, to be placed in the Coalition Legal Fund. Action on this item should take place under Section X of the agenda.*

2. **Acceptance of Donation to the New Library Building Fund.** Attached are copies of checks donating funds to the New Library Building Fund.

   - David M. Holden & Laurinda L. Hill for $200.00
   - Ashlie W. & N. Tim Peters for $100.00

   *I would recommend that the City Council approve and accept the donations to the New Library Building Fund as listed. Action on this matter should take place under Section VIII of the Agenda.*

**City Manager's Items Which Require Action:**

1. **Request to Grant an Easement to Verizon New England, Inc.** Attached for the City Council’s review and consideration is an easement on behalf of Verizon New England (Nextel), which was requested by Message Center Management with respect to the Constitution Avenue – Water Tower. This easement has been reviewed and approved by both City Attorney Robert Sullivan and Public Works Director Steve Parkinson; the approximate location is shown on the attached aerial photo. *Therefore, I would recommend the City Council move to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an easement to Verizon New England (Nextel) as shown.*

2. **Report Back Re: Blunt Painting Request.** This is a report back on the letter from Deborah Childs requesting permission for the Portsmouth Historical Society to borrow the painting entitled “A View of Portsmouth from Freeman’s Point” by John S. Blunt as referred to the City Manager at the January 22, 2007 City Council meeting.

   Staff and I met with Ms. Childs and Richard Candee of the Portsmouth Historical Society (PHS) on February 5, 2007 to discuss the request to borrow the painting for an upcoming exhibit this summer. The result of the meeting was to take the following steps:

   1. City will have the painting professionally appraised by Michelle DuBois of Manomet, MA and insured for the appropriate amount. This will enable the City to enter into the necessary agreements with the Historical Society to borrow the painting. Note: The painting was appraised on February 20th.
2. City will have the painting professionally stabilized and cleaned by conservator Anthony Moore of York, Maine prior to being professionally removed from the City Council Chambers. Note: Estimated cost for this work is $2,500 with Portsmouth Historical Society contributing $500. PHS will explore lending another Portsmouth-themed art piece to hang in Council Chambers until the Blunt painting is returned.

3. Following cleaning and stabilization, the painting will be professionally transported to the John Paul Jones House for the Portsmouth Historical Society Blunt exhibit scheduled for June 1- October 31, 2007.

4. Following the exhibit, the painting will be professionally transported back to the conservator to have the painting’s backing repaired and ultimately returned to the City. Cost for this work is roughly $3,000. The City is exploring a grant from the NH Moose Plate program for this work.

I would recommend the City Council move to authorize the City Manager to enter into such agreements as may be necessary to implement the plan outlined above.

3. **License Agreement with PSNH for Emergency Access to Atlantic Heights Neighborhood.** The City of Portsmouth and PSNH have had discussions with regard to the creation of an emergency access to and from the Atlantic Heights neighborhood. As you know, PSNH owns land abutting the Atlantic Heights neighborhood and there is an existing service road on the property. Attached is an aerial of the proposed emergency access. In order to accomplish this task, PSNH is prepared to grant the City of Portsmouth a revocable license for emergency access. The access would only be available for those emergencies when access via the public ways is not available. The access would be limited by gates (their service road is currently gated) and both PSNH and the City would have necessary keys. The City would, in the first instance, be responsible for making any improvements to the service road that the City deems necessary to make it passable, such as clearing brush or grading. Thereafter, PSNH would keep it passable and plowed.

PSNH has requested to be held harmless and indemnified from any losses as a result of the City’s use of the road. Although the City does not typically indemnify this is an atypical situation and PSNH is not receiving any consideration/payment as part of this license. This indemnification obligation would create an unfunded and possibly uninsured obligation relative to any liability for damages from use of the road. Given that the road would be used only in the event of an emergency resulting in closure of the public way into the Atlantic Heights neighborhood, the risk is relatively small but the Council needs to be aware that the risk exists.

The access that is given by the license is not permanent; it is not an easement; it does not create a public right-of-way. It is a temporary right of access that can, upon notice, be terminated by PSNH. If the City Council authorizes me to enter into this license agreement, I will meet with representatives from PSNH, the Police, Fire, and Public Works Departments to develop a protocol for its use in emergency situations. Subsequent to
the development of that protocol, I will establish a meeting with the neighborhood to
discuss on what conditions and circumstances this emergency access will be utilized.

*I would recommend the City Council move to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a license agreement with PSNH for the purpose of creating an emergency access for the Atlantic Heights neighborhood.*

4. **Report Back Re: Maxam Land Acquisition and Conservation Easement.** In December of 2005 the City acquired the Maxam Property made up of three parcels of land off of Coach Road in the southernmost part of the City. The City expended $25,000 from its conservation fund; the NH Coastal Program provided $45,000 for the purchase of this property through its Coastal Grants program and the Seacoast Land Trust provided the final $5,000 for the total purchase price of $75,000.

Originally, the property was to be purchased by the Seacoast Land Trust (SLT). SLT wrote a grant application to the NH Coastal Program to purchase this property. However, it was determined they were not eligible recipients as a non-profit group. The City agreed to receive the property and provide a conservation easement to the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (The name of the newly combined Seacoast Land Trust and the Rockingham Land Trust).

On February 15th 2007 the Planning Board voted to recommend acceptance of the Maxam Property as a City owned parcel and execute the conservation easement deed. Attached, please find a map showing the 27 acre area in question and a copy of the conservation easement. *I would recommend the City Council authorize the City Manager to accept this parcel and execute the conservation easement deed for the property.*

5. **Planning Board Report Back on Proposed Amendments to Central Business A District.** Please find attached a memorandum from Planning Director David Holden, which is a report back from the Planning Board on proposed amendments to Central Business A District. *I would recommend the City Council move to accept the report back from the Planning Board.*

**Informational Items:**

1. **Student Government Day.** I would like to remind you that at the March 19th City Council meeting, students participating in Student Government Day will be sitting down with Council members. When we have the names of your counterparts, we will send them to you.

2. **Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Boards & Commissions Term Limits.** In response to the work session on Boards and Commissions Terms Limits, I have attached a memorandum from City Attorney Robert Sullivan, which I think has interesting possibilities to address this issue.
3. **Amended Schedule Re: Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Re-use for Public Listening Sessions.** For your information, attached is an amended schedule regarding the Mayor’s Blue Ribbon Committee on Building Re-use Public Listening Sessions. Please note that the Creek Athletic Club & Plains School Listening Session is on March 27, 2007.

4. **Legislative Informational Meeting on Wastewater.** The New Hampshire Water Pollution Control (NHWPCA) and New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) will be hosting a breakfast for State Legislators on Wednesday March 7, 2007. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information regarding wastewater treatment, biosolids management and septage disposal to the Legislators. I have enclosed the flier which was distributed to all State Legislators. Peter Rice, Water/Sewer Engineer and Paula Anania, Chief Plant Operator will be attending the meeting.

As a follow-up to this meeting, a number of treatment plants throughout the State will be holding Open houses and tours of their facilities on Friday March 9, 2007. The Peirce Island treatment plant will be open for tours between 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

5. **Economic Development Commission.** The next Economic Development Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 9, 2007, at 7:30 a.m., in Conference Room A of City Hall. I have attached the upcoming Agenda and draft Minutes from the meeting held on February 2, 2007.