At 6:00 P.M., An Anticipated “Non-Meeting” with Counsel was held on Litigation and Personnel in Accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (b).

At 6:30 P.M., An Anticipated “Non-Meeting” with Counsel was held on Proposed Collective Bargaining in Accordance with RSA 91-A:2, I (b).

I. CALL TO ORDER (7:00PM)

Mayor Blalock opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mayor Blalock, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors Perkins, Dwyer, Lown, Pearson, Spear, Cyr and Denton

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Police Chief David Mara lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Police Week In Portsmouth

Assistant Mayor Splaine read the Proclamation in recognition of Police Week and Peace Officers’ Memorial Day. Mayor Blalock presented the Proclamation to Chief of Police David Mara who accepted with thanks and appreciation.

2. Recognition of National Small Business Week

Councilor Spear read the Proclamation in recognition of National Small Business Week and presented it to Greta Johansson, NH District Director of the US Small Business Administration. Ms. Johansson said a few words regarding the importance of supporting small businesses and accepted the Proclamation with thanks and appreciation. Mayor Blalock also recognized Economic Development Manager Nancy Carmer in the audience.

Mayor Blalock then recognized and welcomed Nancy Colbert Puff from the audience who will be replacing David Allen as Deputy City Manager.

City Manager Bohenko thanked Deputy City Manager Allen for his years of service.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2016

Councilor Lown moved to accept the minutes of April 18, 2016 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.
VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Julianna Flintosh, stated she and her husband live directly behind the proposed new lot at 678 Maplewood Avenue and are opposed to the proposed business zoning. She continued that there are other suitable locations for businesses and that there is already an empty strip-mall on Maplewood Avenue. She concluded that she is in favor of single residences that will enhance the neighborhood.

Joe Russell, Attorney representing 678 Maplewood Ridge LLC - read a statement on behalf of his client in short; they are requesting to move business zoning line 133' towards Interstate 95 to build an affordable housing project to include workforce housing, micro units as well as market rate housing units. He continued that since applying to the ZBA in January 2016, people have commended the team for including a variety of housing for various income levels because no one else is doing it. He stated the ZBA suggested they bring this proposed amendment to the City Council. He then presented to the City Council documents which have also been distributed to the Planning Board, for a 20 year deeded development restriction on the property and forces compliance with workforce housing initiatives being proposed to show sincerity in development of workforce housing in the City of Portsmouth. He stated that this is not a business-related development as some naysayers would have them believe and they are requesting the 2nd reading be passed and give them a new and fair Planning Board review. He stated that subsequent to the April 21st Planning Board meeting they identified, in their opinion, a clear conflict of interest, which was undisclosed by a Planning Board member who chose not to recuse himself. He concluded that they have played by the rules and hope this proposal can continue to move forward in a positive direction.

Peter Sommsich – spoke on the proposed ordinance regarding water irrigation meters stating that there should be an additional tier added for people who use less than 10 or even 5 units and feels that the rates should be raised for commercial users as they are making a profit from the use of the meters.

Barbara and Vassilios Pamboukes– spoke representing Cutts Cove Neighborhood Association stating that their small neighborhood is concerned that the traffic will be increased with the proposed 678 Maplewood Avenue project although they are in favor of workforce housing and some growth, but it shouldn’t have a negative impact.

Jeff Kisiel – spoke in support of continuing the discussion of the 678 Maplewood Avenue rezoning request in order to allow neighbors to speak and also to allow time for people to look at the construction page which shows the various safety features that will be added in the neighborhood like sidewalks on both sides, bike paths, etc.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 – ZONING ORDINANCE DELETE THE EXISTING ARTICLE 5A – CHARACTER DISTRICTS IN ITS ENTIRETY AND INSERT IN ITS PLACE THE NEW ARTICLE 5A – CHARACTER DISTRICTS DATED JANUARY 11, 2016 CONTINUED FROM THE MARCH 21, 2016 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AMEND ARTICLES 4, 5, 11, 12 & 15 OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE AS SET FORTH IN THE DOCUMENT TITLED “CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO ZONING ORDINANCE” JANUARY 11, 2016
AMEND THE ZONING MAP AS SET FORTH IN THE FOLLOWING MAPS DATED JANUARY 11, 2016;

(a) MAP 10.5A21A – CHARACTER DISTRICTS AND CIVIC DISTRICTS;
(b) MAP 10.5A21B – BUILDING HEIGHT STANDARDS;
(c) MAP 10.5A21C – SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR FAÇADE TYPES, FRONT LOT LINE BUILDOUT & USES

Mayor Blalock stated this public hearing is continued from March 21, 2016.

Planning Director Rick Taintor explained the history of the ordinance to date stating that there have been several opportunities for public input and comment. He stated that Portsmouth Listens held study circles and some of their suggestions have been incorporated into the new draft ordinance. He stated the version that the Planning Board reviewed at the April 21, 2016 meeting is very different from the first draft and therefore, the ordinance should be substituted as a whole and re-advertised for another public hearing.

City Manager Bohenko stated he recommends that the public hearing be held this evening and continued to May 16th with the City Council making the amendment by substitution later in the agenda.

Mayor Blalock read the public hearing notice and continued the public hearing asking for speakers:

Esther Kennedy – stated she is glad the public hearing will be kept open until May 16th as she feels there is a lot of misconception and confusion in the public regarding this ordinance and the changes that have been incorporated. She stated that there should be a public information session as well as a thorough explanation on the city website.

Larry Lariviere – stated he participated in the study circles and stated that there were over 60 people who spent many hours collectively reviewing this. He urged the Council to listen to the people and not just Planning Board recommendations.

Seeing no other speakers, Mayor Blalock stated the public hearing will remain open to the May 16, 2016 City Council meeting.

B. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF REFUNDING BONDS OF UP TO THIRTEEN MILLION ($13,000,000.00) DOLLARS TO REFINANCE CERTAIN OUTSTANDING BONDS OF THE CITY SO AS TO REDUCE INTERESTS COSTS, AND TO PAY ALL COSTS INCIDENTAL AND RELATED THERETO

Mayor Blalock read the public hearing notice and opened the public hearing asking for speakers. Seeing none, Mayor Blalock closed the public hearing.

VIII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

A. Approval and Acceptance of Donation Re: Memorial Bench

Councilor Lown moved to accept the donation of a memorial bench from Kim and Holly Cedarstrom in honor of Caitlin Cedarstrom Morris. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.
B. Donations in Support of the Explorer Cadets:
   - Kittery Lion Club in appreciation for a speech given to the Club by Cadet Acadia Spear - $202.00
   - Ms. Vivienne B. Vanluven - $20.00
   - Ms. Susan J. and Mr. John D. Herney - $20.00
   - Dr. David Ferland and Ms. Lynda Cadieux - $82.00

Councilor Spear moved to accept the donations totaling $324.00 in support of the Police Explorer Cadets. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

C. Grant from the NH Office of Highway Safety for Portsmouth Bicycle/Pedestrian Patrol - $6,195.20

Councilor Lown moved to accept and approve the grant in the amount of $6,195.20. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

A. Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 10 – Zoning Ordinance
   Delete the existing Article 5A – Character Districts in its entirety and insert in its place the new Article 5A – Character Districts dated January 11, 2016
   Continued from the March 21, 2016 City Council meeting

   Amend Articles 4, 5, 11, 12 & 15 of the Zoning Ordinance as set forth in the document titled “Conforming Amendments to Zoning Ordinance” January 11, 2016

   Amend the Zoning Map as set forth in the following maps dated January 11, 2016;

   (a) Map 10.5A21A – Character Districts and Civic Districts;
   (b) Map 10.5A21B – Building Height Standards;
   (c) Map 10.5A21C – Special Requirements for Façade Types, Front Lot Line Buildout & Uses

Councilor Spear moved to recess the public hearing to May 16, 2016 City Council meeting, seconded by Councilor Lown.

Councilor Dwyer clarified that the changes that have been incorporated are in the ordinance labeled “New” and requested that the “Old” document not continue to be published as this may be causing the confusion.

City Manager Bohenko stated he will do more to get the “New” version out to the public and the old document will not be published after this meeting.

Councilor Perkins stated that the Planning Board had a work session on the responses from Portsmouth Listens and all of that information is on line as well.

Motion passed.

Councilor Perkins moved to substitute the original ordinance as recommended by the Planning Board for the version of the amended ordinance (labeled “new”), seconded by Councilor Dwyer.
Councilor Spear stated he understands that amendments to the new version can be made after the 2nd reading on May 16th, but he would like to express some concerns at this time. He stated he hopes the presentation will go into more depth on the differences of opinions on square footage, height issues and on street versus off street parking for residences. He stated that people always say they want to preserve the character of the neighborhood as it exists today, but the parking issue currently is that not all residents have off-street parking and this helps keep neighborhoods more affordable and exciting and he wants to make sure that we don’t do more harm than good.

Councilor Dwyer stated she would like to add to the list the prohibition of ground floor residential uses and the real nature of the exceptions.

Motion passed.

Councilor Lown moved to postpone second reading of the substituted ordinance to the May 16, 2016 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Spear and voted.

B. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 11, Section II, Section 11.216:B – Sewer User Charges/Records/Hook-up to Allow an Approved Irrigation System and a Water Meter at a Monthly Service Fee in addition to the Consumption Charge, said Fee to be Determined by the City Council during its Annual Budget Process

Councilor Spear moved to pass third and final reading of the proposed ordinance as presented, seconded by Councilor Lown.

Councilor Denton stated at some point he would like to revisit this but feels it is a good starting point.

Councilor Dwyer asked what we do about the people with existing meters who do not meet the requirements of the new ordinance.

City Manager Bohenko stated letters will go out to these homeowners who will be grandfathered until the houses transfer ownership.

Motion passed.

C. Adoption of Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds of up to Thirteen Million ($13,000,000.00) Dollars to Refinance certain Outstanding Bonds of the City so as to Reduce Interests Costs, and to Pay all Costs Incidental and related thereto

Councilor Spear moved to adopt the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Bonds of up to Thirteen Million ($13,000,000) Dollars to Refinance Certain Outstanding Bonds of the City so as to reduce interest costs, and to pay all costs incidental and related thereto. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and passed on a 9-0 roll call vote.
X. CONSENT AGENDA

Councilor Spear moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.

A. Request for License to install Projecting Sign:

- Christi Watson owner of Fringe Hair Studio, LLC, for property located at 3 Market Square, 2nd Floor (Anticipated action – move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign License as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request)

Planning Director's Stipulations:

- The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;
- Any removal or relocation of the projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at no cost to the City; and
- Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason, shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works

B. Letter from Josh Pierce, Seacoast Area Bicycle Riders, requesting permission to hold the Bike/Walk to Work Day in the Seacoast on Friday, May 20, 2016 (Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power)

XI. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

A. Letter from Steve Leonard, Portsmouth Girls Softball Association President, requesting permission to hang a banner on the backstop at the Pease 1 field

Councilor Lown moved to refer to the City Manager with power, seconded by Councilor Spear.

Councilor Dwyer asked for clarification that there is not a new field being built. City Manager Bohenko stated no, it is a renovation of one of the 2 existing fields.

Motion passed.

B. Letter from Jeffrey Keefe, Portsmouth Athenaeum, requesting permission to hold parade on one of the following dates: Saturday, June 24th, Saturday, September 16th, Saturday, October 7th or Saturday, October 14th, all in 2017 in the downtown at 11:00 a.m.

Councilor Cyr moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.
C. Letter from Michael Dolan requesting to set up a small table in the downtown area for street performing

City Manager Bohenko explained that Mr. Dolan would prefer to be in the downtown area, but he feels that the Vaughan Mall area, closer to Congress Street, will be a more suitable location and will work with Mr. Dolan accordingly.

Councilor Spear moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor Lown and voted.

XII. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

1. Request for First Reading Re: Proposed Zoning Amendment - Transportation Corridor District

Councilor Spear moved to authorize the City Manager to bring back the proposed Ordinance for first reading at the May 16, 2016 City Council meeting, as recommended by the Planning Board. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.

2. Report Back Re: Request to Rezone Land at 678 Maplewood Avenue and an adjacent parcel (Assessors Map 220, Lots 89 and 90) from Single Residence B (SRB) to Business (B)

City Manager Bohenko clarified that this is not an ordinance and therefore it is not a first reading and there is not going to be a second reading.

Planning Director Taintor reviewed the history of the request to rezone land at 678 Maplewood Avenue and an adjacent parcel from Single Residence B (SRB) to Business (B). He stated at its meeting on March 14, 2016, the City Council voted to refer to the Planning Board a letter from Joseph R. Russell, attorney for Maplewood Ridge LLC, requesting that two parcels on Maplewood Avenue be rezoned from Single Residence B (SRB) to the Business (B) district. The stated purpose of the requested rezoning is to allow the development of the combined parcels for “affordable housing in the form of town houses and apartments, including micro-units and designated (deed restricted) workforce housing units.” These parcels were the subject of similar requests that were considered by the Planning Board in 2012 and 2013, as well as an application for several zoning variances that was considered by the Zoning Board of Adjustment in February 2016. In all three cases, these prior requests for rezoning or variances were denied.

He continued the Planning Board considered this request at a meeting on March 17, 2016, and held a public hearing on the request at its meeting on April 21, 2016. Much of the discussion at the public hearing focused on the uncertainty of the development potential under the proposed zoning. For example, the Business district does not currently permit townhouses, and only permits multifamily residences as part of a mixed-use development in which business uses constitute at least one-third of the total floor area. Therefore, even if the parcels were rezoned as requested, the owner would need to apply to the ZBA for variances in order to achieve the stated purpose. Furthermore, since contract zoning is not allowed in New Hampshire, the City cannot ensure that the site will be developed as described in the request letter. Instead, a rezoning would open the parcels up to the full range of uses allowed in the Business district. Thus, while the Board continues to support the
objective of providing additional affordable housing in the City, there would be no guarantee that a rezoning to Business would achieve that objective. In addition, concern was expressed about the residential density allowable under the proposed Business zoning. Alternative rezoning approaches that would permit a lower density of multifamily residential development might be more acceptable. Following extensive public comment at the April 21st public hearing, and based on the above considerations, the Board voted unanimously to recommend that the City Council not rezone the parcels as requested.

Councilor Dwyer stated this was a good summary and feels that people were confused and feels that had we had the bandwidth the last time we were rezoning, we could have looked at rezoning this as well. She stated there has been a question of conflict of interest but feels it would be appropriate for the Planning Board to look at it again without considering a proposed project but to look at the parcel. She stated we may need zoning that we don’t have yet and look at what restrictions are appropriate.

**Councilor Dwyer moved to accept the Planning Board recommendation to not rezone the parcels as business and to refer back to the Planning Board to examine other options for rezoning, seconded by Councilor Spear.**

Councilor Perkins stated she is the Council representative to the Planning Board and agrees that there was interest in this by the Planning Board but it was the business aspect that was important to the determination of the vote and feels that this motion is appropriate.

Councilor Lown stated for 30 years we have been talking about affordable housing and we have been asking developers to come forward with workforce housing, micro units, etc. and this developer should be commended for coming forward with this. He stated he is in favor of sending this back to Planning Board and understands their concerns, but they are willing to sign and record a restrictive covenant that would be an enforceable restriction subject to gaining a variance. He concluded that every time this comes up, people say they are in favor of it, but not in their neighborhood.

Councilor Spear asked why they went for a business and not residential zone.

Planning Director Taintor said that Business was the zoning next to them and if they asked for something different it may appear as spot zoning.

Councilor Spear continued that from a process standpoint, can’t the Planning Board on its own initiative decide to make it a different zone without coming back to Council.

Planning Director Taintor stated it was briefly discussed, but due to timeliness to report back to Council, they did not.

Councilor Pearson stated she supports finding a creative solution and lives in a neighborhood with mixed uses and a lot of the fears that have been articulated aren’t always the case. She continued that businesses aren’t always gas stations, but can be small businesses that enhance the neighborhood.

Councilor Cyr stated he lives on Maplewood Avenue, but on the other side of 95 and not near this area and has received many comments regarding this proposal. He stated people are concerned with traffic density and also feels there is a fear of the unknown, especially with business. He stated that we have to start recognizing that we can’t always get our own way but also need to make sure that neighbors have their say and are heard and find a happy medium.
Assistant Mayor Splaine stated he lives in an area where there are 42 very affordable units which are next to businesses and he is very comfortable there. He continued that there is a need for affordable housing throughout the city and feels there has to be a way to collaborate with developers to make something work. He stated we should learn more of neighborhood concerns as this will be affecting every part of the city and now is the opportunity to make it right. He asked when this would come back before the Council.

Planning Director Taintor stated that the Planning Board meets next on May 19th and then the Planning Board can schedule a public hearing for the June meeting and they can try to reach out in other ways as well. He stated it would probably not come back to the Council until July.

Assistant Mayor Splaine stated it would be good to find a consensus instead of being contentious.

Councilor Cyr stated that what he was hearing from the neighbors was that “they are doing this to us again” and feel that they have already fought this fight. He agrees that the tone needs to be changed.

Motion passed.

3. Outdoor Sidewalk Café Providing Alcohol Service – Birdseye Lounge, LLC

Councilor Cyr moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into an Area Service Agreement with Birdseye Lounge, LLC for Outdoor Alcohol Service on City land for the 2016 season subject to City Council Policy No. 2012-02 regarding use of City property for sidewalk cafés providing alcohol service, seconded by Councilor Spear.

Councilor Cyr asked if there is any allowance for outdoor music at these outdoor service locations.

City Attorney Sullivan stated that if the music was heard off-property, it would be in violation of the ordinance.

Motion passed.

4. Traffic Signal Easement Re: 361 Islington Street

Councilor Cyr moved to authorize the City Manager to accept a traffic signal easement from Lucky Thirteen Properties LLC over property located at 361 Islington Street. Seconded by Councilor Lown and voted.

5. Proposed Deer Street Garage Building Committee

City Manager Bohenko stated he is recommending Mayor and City Council appoint a five member Building Committee for the proposed garage at 165 Deer Street. He stated he would like to suggest that the membership be (2) City Council Members, (1) Economic Development Commission Member, and (2) members from the public. He stated this would be similar to the Library Building Committee and would be advisory only. He stated it is not a necessity but it is good to have.

Councilor Dwyer clarified that there is no statutory authority and would be advisory only.
Assistant Mayor Splaine stated he agrees that this is a good idea but wants to clarify the difference between advisory and making decisions, stating that the City Council makes the decisions.

City Manager Bohenko stated that under the Charter, once the project is approved, it is under his authority anyway. He stated that this committee will only be advisory but he does take it seriously as it is another viewpoint.

**Assistant Mayor Splaine moved to allow Mayor Blalock to appoint members to the Deer Street Garage Building Committee. Seconded by Councilor Cyr and voted.**


Fire Chief Achilles stated that the Fire Engine was purchased 30 years ago for $150,000 and has been a front line vehicle up until last year. He stated it was kept in reserve but they are ready to go out to bid on it and estimates approximately $10,000 - $20,000.00.

**Councilor Lown moved to authorize the City Manager to dispose of the 1987 Fire Engine either through the sealed bid process or through GovDeals an online auctions site, in which the equipment is sold to the highest bidder. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer and voted.**

City Manager Bohenko then discussed the Fire Boat which was recently approved to be transferred to the Town of Gilford. He continued that the City has been contacted from Selectmen in New Castle concerned with that transfer so he has held off to this point. He continued that the boat needs repairs and improvements, but he would entertain an agreement of at least 5 years with any interested communities, for $10,000 each for repairs and upkeep. He stated if that happens, he will come back to the Council with legal documents.

Assistant Mayor Splaine stated he is pleased that this is being reconsidered as he was opposed to this at the time. He then asked if we have been working with Pat Ford regarding her concerns with the Isles of Shoals.

Chief Achilles stated yes, he has reached out to the Town of Rye Fire Chief as the Isles of Shoals is located in Rye. He stated that Dartmouth has a med-flight option that can get out there faster than we can as well as the Coast Guard is available to them. He stated we originally reached out to other communities to regionalize the boat but no one was interested.

Councilor Pearson stated that another vessel was discussed and asked if that would be available or is it too small for that use. Chief Achilles stated it would be too small and is meant to limited river responses in Portsmouth.

7. Water Line Easement – Nimble Hill Road, Newington

**Councilor Spear moved to authorize the City Manager to accept a waterline easement from Dennett Farm LLC to serve the minor subdivision off of Nimble Hill Road. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.**

**Informational items**

1. Events Listing
2. Household Hazardous Waste Day
3. Update Re: C-PACE
City Manager Bohenko stated there is a Budget Work Session on Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the Levenson Room at the Library from 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. as well as the Budget Public Hearing on May 11, 2016 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

Councilor Spear asked about the African Burying Ground connection to Vaughan Mall and is there going to be an easement needed from TD Bank. City Manager Bohenko stated that Assistant City Manager Moore is working with representatives from TD Bank and the condominiums on this.

Councilor Dwyer stated there is a sketched plan and TD Bank is being very cooperative and it is planned to come up to the Music Hall plan recently presented.

Mayor Blalock stated May 23rd is the one year anniversary of the African Burying Ground and he will be laying a wreath at 9:00 a.m. at the memorial. He stated he will also be appointing a stewardship committee for the African Burying Ground for the term of this Council.

**B. MAYOR BLALOCK**

1. Resignation – David Witham of the Zoning Board of Appeal

Mayor Blalock stated Mr. Witham has been a real asset to the City and has served on the ZBA for 16 years, many as Chairman. He stated he ran the meetings well which was difficult under sometimes controversial issues.

Councilor Lown stated that Mr. Witham is an unsung hero and we were lucky to have him. He stated we will accept the resignation with regret.

**Councilor Spear moved to accept the resignation of David Witham from the Zoning Board of Adjustment (effective July 1, 2016) with thanks and regret. Seconded by Councilor Pearson and voted.**

**C. COUNCILOR PERKINS**

1. Housing Committee Overview

Councilor Perkins stated she was appointed by Mayor Blalock to Chair the Housing Committee to build upon work done by staff and past efforts, but not reinvent the wheel. She stated they will be working with neighborhoods to get their voices heard and to proactively look at the city as a whole.

Mayor Blalock commended Councilor Perkins on the memorandum as it was well-written and set clear objectives.

**XIII. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Lown moved to adjourn at 8:55 p.m. Seconded and passed unanimously.

Valerie A. French
Deputy City Clerk