

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4TH, 2016 SPECIAL POLICE COMMISSION
MEETING

4:00 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Foley Council Chambers, City Hall

Brenna Cavanaugh, Chair Pro Tem
Joseph J. Onosko
Joseph Plaia

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** The January 4th, 2016 special police commission was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers.

Commissioner Cavanaugh said she would be running the meeting as chair pro tem. She explained the Roberts Rules provisions for a temporary chairperson.

Present during the public session: Commissioners Cavanaugh, Onosko, and Plaia, City Attorney Robert Sullivan, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the public and the press.

- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Commissioner Plaia led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

The chair explained the purpose of the meeting was to vote on the interim chief's contract so it would be ready to go in front of the city council at their upcoming meeting next Monday night. She asked if both commissioners had a chance to review the contract; they indicated they had. Chairwoman Cavanaugh asked if there was any debate or questions regarding the contract.

Commissioner Onosko reiterated the terms of the contract, saying it would take effect on 1/12 and run through 7/11/16.

The chair asked the city attorney if this contract is approved by the commission, and David Mara becomes interim chief, does Acting Chief Frank Warchol go back to acting deputy chief, or would we have two chiefs? Attorney Sullivan said David Mara would be chief. The city attorney indicated it would be Chief Mara's decision if Captain Warchol continues in the acting deputy chief's position.

ACTION: Commissioner Plaia moved to accept the contract for Dave Mara for interim chief from January 12th, 2016 to July 11, 2016.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

The Chair Pro Tem voted “Aye”.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed unanimously to accept the contract for Dave Mara of interim chief from January 12th, 2016 to July 11, 2016.

The chair asked if there were any other items under new business.

ACTION: Commissioner Onosko moved to have Dave Mara, under his current contract, also assume the role of interim chief.

Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.

The chair asked Attorney Sullivan for clarification: Attorney Sullivan said until the new contract is approved by the council, Chief Mara is working under the existing liaison contract. The wording of the liaison contract is somewhat vague; therefore, the commission can determine the duties of Chief Mara under the existing contract. Chief Mara can immediately assume the duties that would otherwise be performed by the chief; however he would not actually be the interim Chief of Police until that contract is signed by the city council.

Commissioner Onosko requested that “effective immediately” be added to the motion.

Clarification was requested on the motion. The city attorney clarified the motion is not to make Chief Mara the interim chief before the city council vote, it is to assume the duties of chief under the liaison contract.

Commissioner Onosko added the wording, “to assume the duties of interim chief until January 11th” to the motion.

The chair asked if it was necessary to make an amended motion. Since the motion had been seconded, but not voted on, it was not necessary to amend it.

Commissioner Onosko said he just added the qualifying language of assuming the duties of the interim chief rather than being the interim chief, to the original motion.

(For purposes of the minutes, the motion is restated:)

ACTION: Commissioner Onosko moved to have Dave Mara, under his current contract, also assume the duties of interim chief until January 11th, 2016, effective immediately.

Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.

The Chair Pro Tem Voted “Aye”.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed unanimously to have Dave Mara, under his current contract, also assume the duties of interim chief until January 11th, 2016, effective immediately.

IV. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The chair restated the next scheduled meeting of the police commission would be Tuesday, January 12th, 2016, in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The meeting will be called to order at 4:00 p.m. and it is anticipated the commission will go into non-public session immediately. The regular public session portion of the meeting will resume at or about 5:00 p.m.

V. MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business before the commission, the chair declared the January 4th, 2016 special meeting of the commission adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Kathe

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant

Reviewed By Commissioner Cavanaugh, Clerk of the Commission

Brenna Cavanaugh