

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JULY 25th, 2017 MONTHLY POLICE COMMISSION
MEETING

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers

Brenna Cavanaugh, Chair
Joseph J. Onosko
Joe Plaia

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The July 25th, 2017 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Room of the police department for the purpose of going into non-public session.

The Chair called for a motion to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91:A, 3-II (c), “Matters which, if discussed in public, would adversely affect the reputation of any person...”

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to enter non-public session for the purpose delineated above.

Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed as follows:

Commissioner Cavanaugh:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Plaia:	“Aye.”

The motion passed to go into non-public session at 4:35 p.m.

The public session was called to order at 5:41 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. (An archived video of the meeting is available on the city’s website.)

The following people were present: Commissioners Cavanaugh, Onosko, and Plaia, Chief Robert Merner, Captain of Operations Frank Warchol, K-9 Unit Commander Sgt. Eric Kinsman, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the public.

II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chief Merner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

The Chair asked for a motion to accept the minutes.

Action: Commissioner Onosko moved to accept the minutes of the June, 27th, and the July 11th, 2017 meetings.

Seconded by Commissioner Plaia.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the minutes of the June 27th, and July 11th 2017 meetings.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** (The following is a brief summary of each person's comments and represents the speaker's personal opinion. The entire meeting can be viewed online by going to the city's website and clicking "Channel 22", and then clicking on "Archived 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 meetings.")

There was no public comment.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1. Commissioner Cavanaugh:

- a. Webber Estate Funds – The Police Department has received a disbursement check from the estate of Geraldine Webber in the amount of \$188,129.88. The Chair asked several questions regarding the use of the funds as well as questions that had been asked by councilors and citizens regarding the use of the funds. Administrative Manager Karen Senecal said the stated intent of the funds was not to supplant our operating budget funds, but rather to supplement the budget.

Chief Merner said in policing there is a constantly evolving need for changing equipment. He said the department doesn't want to just come up with a punch list of items to buy; rather, working with our survey research partners at UNH we are looking at a comprehensive strategic five-year plan for things we legitimately need, to include specialized training.

2. Commissioner Plaia:

- a. Packets – Commissioner Plaia explained it has been a long-standing practice for on-duty officers to deliver city council packets to some of the councilors. He said he would like to make a motion to order the officers to stop delivering city council packets and bring the matter up for discussion and a vote.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to order the officers not to deliver city council packets while on duty.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko. Commissioner Onosko said he would second the motion to bring it to the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Onosko said while he felt the matter didn't need to be handled formally by a motion, he did not think the officers should be delivering packets on duty with all they have to do. Accordingly it was a motion he could support. Commissioners Cavanaugh and Plaia said neither the Fire nor the Police Commission have their meeting packets delivered to their homes, and since everyone is right in town, it is a small matter to come in and get the meeting materials.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed to order the officers not to deliver city council packets while on duty. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Cavanaugh:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye.”
Commissioner Plaia:	“Aye.”

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. Public Works Director Peter Rice updated the Commission on the city hall/police department façade repair & remodel project.
2. Sgt. Eric Kinsman updated the Commission on the department K-9 Unit. Sgt. Kinsman said the unit had about 40 deployments last quarter, 20 hours of training with the Boston Police K-9 School, and an additional combined 75 hours of specialized training. All of this is accomplished by the teams while on-duty. Both K-9s are current on their certifications. Sgt. Kinsman talked about a number of aspects of K-9 teams and their work, as well as several call outs.

3. ACO Bonnie Robinson was recognized by Chief Merner for again achieving 100% dog licensing compliance for the 4th year in a row. This is no small feat in a city that has nearly 3000 dogs in residence.
4. Chief Merner updated the Commission on the status of Portsmouth's pursuit of CALEA Accreditation. At this juncture, we are ahead of schedule.
5. Chief Merner updated the Commission on traffic stats for the month of June.
6. Donations:
 - a. Donations:
 1. A disbursement check in the amount of \$188,129.88 from the Estate of Geraldine W. Webber was accepted by the Commission.
Action: Commissioner Plaia moved to accept the disbursement check in the amount of \$188,129.88 from the Estate of Geraldine W. Webber and forward to the city council for their action.
Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.
On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the disbursement check in the amount of \$188,129.88 from the Estate of Geraldine W. Webber and forward to the city council for their action.
7. Karen Senecal gave the Commission a financial report and a facility update on the police department building.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Commissioner Cavanaugh, the other Commissioners and the Chief have received a number of complaints on an individual in Market Square. Chief Merner said they are working with our social service partners to develop a long term plan for this particular situation. We are also working on solutions for other types of issues that chronically come up in the downtown area regarding itinerant musicians and artists. Chief Merner requested that for these types of calls, the public not use the 911 lines to make reports, but to call the shift commander's office instead, so the emergency lines are not tied up.

VIII. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

The next regularly scheduled Police Commission meeting is August 22nd, 2017 with the regular 4:30/5:30 p.m. start time.

IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

Action: Commissioner Plaia moved the July 25th, 2017 Police Commission meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to adjourn the July 25th Police Commission meeting at 6:31p.m.

END OF MEETING

Respectfully submitted,

Kathe Levesque., Exec. Asst. to the Chief

Joe Plaia, Clerk of the Commission

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