

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23rd, 2018 MONTHLY POLICE
COMMISSION MEETING

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

Joseph J. Onosko
Jim Splaine
Arthur Hilson

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The January 23rd, 2018 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 4:13 p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Conference Room of the Portsmouth Police Department for the purpose of going into non-public session.

In the absence of an elected Chair, Commissioner Onosko called for a motion to designate a Chair pro tem for the first portion of the meeting until such time as the Commission elects a Chair for 2018 as prescribed by the City Charter.

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to nominate Commissioner Onosko to serve as Chair pro tem until the Commission elects a Chair for 2018.

Seconded by Commissioner Hilson.

Commissioner Onosko was nominated to serve as Chair pro tem for the first portion of the January 23rd, 2018 meeting.

On a Voice Vote: The Board appointed Commissioner Onosko Chair pro tem until the Commission elects a Chair for 2018.

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to nominate Commissioner Hilson to serve as Clerk pro tem of the Commission until the Commission elects a Clerk of the Commission for 2018.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

Commissioner Hilson was nominated to serve as Clerk pro tem of the Commission.

On a Voice Vote: The Commission appointed Commissioner Hilson to serve as Clerk pro tem of the Commission until the Commission elects a Clerk of the Commission for 2018.

The Chair pro tem called for a motion to go into non-public session as provided for under RSA 91-A: 3, II (a), “Dismissal, promotion or compensation of any public employee or the investigation of any charges against an employee..., and (c) “Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person...”.

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to go into non-public session for the purposes delineated above.

Seconded by Commissioner Hilson.

On a Roll Call Vote: The motion passed to go into non-public session for the purposes delineated above. The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye”
Commissioner Splaine:	“Aye”
Commissioner Hilson:	“Aye”

The motion passed to go into non-public session at 4:16 p.m.

The public session was called to back to order at 5:43 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 Onosko, Splaine, and Hilson, Chief Robert Merner, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque, members of the public and the press.

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

III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES:**

The Chair pro tem asked for a motion to postpone acceptance of the December 19th, 2017 minutes until the February meeting.

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to postpone acceptance of the minutes of the December 19th, 2017 Police Commission meeting until the February Commission meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Hilson.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to postpone acceptance of the minutes of the December 19th, 2017 Police Commission meeting until the February Commission meeting.

- 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.")

Individual Comment is limited to five minutes. There was no public comment.

Commission Splaine encouraged the Police Commission to consider adding a public Q & A session to be held on some type of regular schedule.

The Chair pro tem closed the public comment session.

- V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

- VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

1.) Commissioner Onosko:

- a. Election of Officers – by Charter, Amendment 'E', the Police Commission shall elect a Chair and a Clerk of the Commission each January to serve a one-year term.

The Chair pro tem called for nominations for the office of Chair for 2018.

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to nominate Commissioner Onosko to serve as Chair of the Police Commission for 2018.

Seconded by Commissioner Hilson.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to nominate Commissioner Onosko to serve as Chair of the Police Commission for 2018.

There were no other nominations.

The Chair pro tem called for a roll call vote to elect Commissioner Onosko to serve as Chair of the Police Commission for 2018. The vote was as follows:

Commissioner Splaine	“Aye”
Commissioner Hilson	“Aye”
Commissioner Onosko	“Aye”

The newly elected Chair called for nominations to serve as Clerk of the Commission for 2018.

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to nominate Commissioner Arthur Hilson to serve as Clerk of the Commission for 2018.

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to nominate Commissioner Hilson to serve as Clerk of the Police Commission for 2018.

There were no other nominations.

The Chair called for a roll call vote to elect Commissioner Hilson to serve as Clerk of the Police Commission for 2018. The roll call vote was as follows:

Commissioner Onosko:	“Aye”
Commissioner Splaine:	“Aye”
Commissioner Hilson:	“Aye”

- b. City Ethics Board Representative – Casting of lots to designate which Commissioner will sit on the City Ethics Board should it be convened during the year, as per City Ordinance, Chapter 1, Article VIII, Section 1.804. A.

Lots were cast via a marked coin, and Commissioner Hilson will be the Police Commission representative should the City Ethics Board be convened during 2018.

c. Appoint Dispatcher to Permanent Status:

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to appoint Dispatcher Allison O'Brien to permanent status.

Seconded by Commissioner Hilson.

On A Voice Vote: The motion passed to appoint Dispatcher Allison O'Brien to permanent status.

2.) Commissioner Splaine:

- a. Holding Police Commission Meetings in Locations Throughout Portsmouth – Commissioner Splaine asked the Commission to consider bringing the Police Commission meeting to locations and neighborhoods beyond city hall. He requested this be placed on the agenda for the next Commission meeting.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. Accreditation Update –

We are 99% compliant with our written directives, and are ahead of schedule on this. There are two percent, or two directives, remaining that are in the process of being brought into compliance with CALEA standards; they are nearing completion. We have already started working on something called 'Proofs' which show evidence of our on-going compliance with CALEA standards in our day-to-day operations. We are required to supply CALEA with over 1000 proofs on a yearly basis. We are moving into the second phase of accreditation about six weeks ahead of the forecasted timeline.

The Chair asked Chief Merner to briefly explain the significance of achieving CALEA certification. Chief Merner said it is the gold standard for policing, and Portsmouth is going for the higher of the two CALEA certifications available.

2. Monthly Traffic Data Report:

Stats for December, 2017:

- 656 stops
- 59 summonses

- 79 total arrests resulting from motor vehicle stops.
- 3. Letter of Recognition for Officer Steve Blanding – Officer Blanding received formal recognition for his off-duty actions involving an armed suspect.
- 4. Letters of Appreciation from Outside the Department – Chief Merner summarized the content of one letter, and read the other letter into the record.
- 5. Financial Report – Karen Senecal
 - a. Grant Applications Update
 - b. Facilities Report – The police department had a major leak in the hallway outside of roll call, which goes along with the burst pipes in the gym, and the return of the rats on the first floor. We have installed venting in the Evidence Room so odors from stored evidence do not permeate the Police Department or City Hall.
 - c. Karen commended city employees Jim Dumont, Steve Waitt, and Danny Zimmer, who are so responsive and ready to fix, help, and support our operations and our aging facility.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Commissioner Splaine: The Commissioner offered the Chief a copy of a document he authored in 1991 on 50 ideas he had for year round budgeting.

Commissioner Onosko expressed his thanks for the valuable contributions former Police Commissioner Joe Plaia made to the Police Commission during his tenure. Commissioner Plaia was obliged to resign his Commission seat when he moved his residence out of town.

NEXT MEETING: The Police Commission Public Hearing on the Budget is scheduled for Wednesday, February 14th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers. The regular monthly meeting of the Police Commission is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27th, at the usual 4:30/5:30 start time. (Non-Public at 4:30

p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Conference Room at the police department; Public Session at 5:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.)

NOTE: Please confirm the meeting via the city's website as the date approaches. Cancellations and time/venue changes will be posted on the website.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

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

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved the January 23rd, 2018 Police Commission meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Hilson.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to adjourn the January 23rd, 2018 Police Commission meeting at 6:32 p.m.

END OF MEETING

Kathe

Respectfully Submitted By Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant

Reviewed By Commissioner Hilson, Clerk of the Commission

Arthur L. Hilson