

PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 27TH, 2018 POLICE COMMISSION
MEETING

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

Joseph J. Onosko, Chair
Jim Splaine
Arthur Hilson

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The February 27th, 2018 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. in the Wm. Mortimer Conference Room of the Portsmouth Police Department.

The following people were present: Commissioners Onosko, Splaine and Hilson, Chief Merner, and City Negotiator Tom Closson.

The Chair called for a motion to go into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91:A, 3-II (a), “Dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee...”

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

Seconded by Commissioner Onosko.

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

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

The Commission entered non-public session at 4:15 p.m.

The public session resumed at 5:30 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers in city hall. (An archived video of the hearing 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, Aux. Officer Alana Dubaniewicz, Officer Bill Werner, Aux. Officer Allen Laughlin, Officer Chris Worthington, Officer

Jack Maloney, Officer Keegan Pearl, additional members of the Department and the public.

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

The Chair asked for a motion to suspend the agenda and move to the first four items under Chief Merner's report.

Action: Commissioner Splaine moved to suspend the agenda and move to the first four items under Chief Merner's report.

Seconded by Commissioner Hilson.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to suspend the agenda and move to the first four items under Chief Merner's report.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE:

1. Promotion of Auxiliary Sergeant Alana Dubaniewicz – Chief Merner promoted Auxiliary Officer Alana Dubaniewicz to the rank of Auxiliary Sergeant, effective immediately.
2. Official Welcome-Back & Recognition of Officers Bill Werner and Allen Laughlin from their recent military deployments overseas – Chief Merner gave a brief summary of their respective deployments.
3. Recognition of Officers Chris Worthington & Jack Maloney – Both officers received Letters of Commendation for their handling of a significant motor vehicle accident involving a car and an 18-wheel tractor trailer.
4. Recognition of Officer Keegan Pearl – Officer Keegan Pearl received the Chief's Award for an unparalleled proactive work ethic and willingness to exceed preconceived standards.

The Commission returned to the agenda as written.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON:

January 23rd, and the public hearing held on February 14th, 2018.

Action: Commissioner Hilson moved to accept the minutes of the January 23rd meeting, and the public hearing held on February 14th, 2018.

Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.

On a Voice Vote: The motion carried to accept the minutes of the January 23rd meeting, and the public hearing held on February 14th, 2018.

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.")

Mark Brighton – 285 Union Street: Mr. Brighton said he felt if something happened at Portsmouth High School, like what happened in Parkland, he is utterly confident Portsmouth officers would run toward the gunfire. He thought it would be good to hear what the possibilities are for increasing security at PHS. Mr. Brighton said he would want someone professionally trained in the high school, and would not 'squawk' about the cost of an officer. He closed by saying high schools have been loathe in the past to report troubled kids, and they need to change that.

Chief Merner addressed Mr. Brighton's concerns regarding Portsmouth High School. The Chief said he and his command staff had done a walk through of the high school about a week before the shooting in Parkland. He told Mr. Brighton that Portsmouth does have a full-time officer at the high school, and that SRO Detective Kozlowski is there every day.

He added he was awaiting confirmation from the School Superintendent's office on a tentative plan to be part of the School Board Meeting on the 13th, to address school security. The Chief said on March 20th there will be a joint meeting with students, parents, city management, school management, police, and fire to let everyone know what preparedness looks like in Portsmouth. Chief Merner said the Police Department had been working with the schools and had emergency plans in place prior to his arrival. There are multiple meetings calendared for March addressing school safety in Portsmouth.

There being no other persons wishing to speak, the Chair closed the public comment session.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a. Acceptance of the December 19th, 2017 minutes.

Action: Commissioner Hilson moved to accept the minutes of the December 19th, 2017 Police Commission Meeting.

Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the minutes of the December 19th, 2017 Police Commission Meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. POLICE COMMISSION:

Commissioner Splaine:

1. Conducting Police Commission Meetings Off-Site – The Commissioner said he would like to offer a motion at the next regular monthly meeting on this idea. Not so much a meeting, more of a forum, in places like the recycling center, because people come and go from there. Commissioner Splaine suggested some other venues and focus. He suggested each Commissioner assemble a list of possible locations for the next regular meeting.

Commissioner Onosko said that one way might be to extend the concept of ‘Coffee with a Cop’ to include the Commissioners as part of that kind of a dialogue event.

B. CHIEF OF POLICE, CONT'D:

5. Accreditation Update- We are in year two of the accreditation process. We are over 99% compliant on our standard operating procedures. We are at the 13% point for proofs for year one, and at 14% for year two. This represents over 100 proofs, and we are still ahead of schedule.
6. Monthly Traffic Data -
 - o December 2017 - 656 stops
 - o January 2018 - 688 stops

These numbers represent proactive, self-initiated work.

Chief Merner said we have purchased state-of-the-art motorcycle noise monitoring equipment. He explained how the equipment would be used to address motorcycle noise issues in the City.

7. The Strategic Plan – Chief Merner said he has been working with all of the divisions within the Department, and we have put together a five-year strategic plan. We are putting together a one-year plan, and a five-year plan on what our strategic outlooks will be. While there is

some possibility of change occurring to a degree, he wants to have a strategic plan in place that is guiding operations, decision-making, and future planning.

Commissioner Splaine said in 1991 he proposed a strategic plan for the year 2050. He said he would be interested in what the Chief thought policing would look like in 2050. He suggested we think about strategic planning for 2050 again.

8. Grants:

A “Safe and Active” grant has been awarded to the Portsmouth Police Department from Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth. The grant awards the Department 25 multi-sport helmets, and a supply of reflective devices, literature, a banner and other materials to promote injury prevention among children.

Action: Commissioner Hilson moved to accept the equipment and materials awarded by the grant.

Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to accept the equipment and materials awarded by the grant.

Chief Merner said upon receipt of the equipment, we will be working with our officers to arrange a day where we can distribute this equipment and materials to kids who might not otherwise be in a position to procure a helmet or replace an old or worn one.

9. Financial Report – Karen Senecal

- Building Report
- Fleet adjustments
- A Public Survey of 5,000 residents will be mailed out next Thursday. We should have the results back before the work session with the city council.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

- a. Commissioner Splaine requested the meeting packet be posted ahead of time. Commissioner Hilson said he felt getting the agenda out was enough.

- b. Commissioner Onosko proposed a work session with the Commissioners, the Chief and the Budget Manager sometime next week, perhaps next Thursday, the 8th, from 9 to 11 a.m. Commissioner Splaine said the City, and he thought possibly the school board, do not take formal votes at their work sessions, so he would prefer a special meeting be scheduled to take a vote, should they need to take a vote prior to the next scheduled monthly meeting on March 27th.

VIII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:

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

Action: Commissioner Hilson moved the February 27th, 2018 Police Commission Monthly Meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Commissioner Splaine.

On a Voice Vote: The motion passed to adjourn the February 27th, 2018 Police Commission Monthly 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