

# PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

## MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

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

Joseph J. Onosko, Chair  
Stefany Shaheen, Commissioner  
Thomas Hart, Commissioner

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. via the City’s Zoom meeting platform, following the non-public session.

**The following people were present:** Commissioners Onosko, Shaheen, and Hart, Chief Mark Newport, Admin. Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Jackie Burnett, members of the Department and the public.

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Executive Assistant Jackie Burnett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON:**

November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to accept the minutes of the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Police Commission Meeting.

**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes of the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Police Commission Meeting. The vote was as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Commissioner Onosko:  | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Shaheen: | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Hart:    | “Aye” |

- 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 scrolling down the home page of the City’s website to “Recent Meeting Broadcast”, or “City YouTube Channel...” which is in the blue box just below it.)

There being no one wishing to speak, the Chair closed the public comment section.

V. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **POLICE COMMISSION:**

1. Purchase of new safety equipment.

Chief Newport provided the Commission with an update regarding requested safety equipment upgrades, as the current equipment is 15 years old.

The Chair called for a motion to accept the purchase of firearms for the Police Department totaling \$52,000 from the Geraldine Webber fund.

**Action: Commissioner Hart moved** to accept the purchase of firearms for \$52,000 from the Geraldine Webber fund.

Wording of the motion was discussed and clarified to include “...firearms, training and holsters up to \$52,000”.

**Commissioner Hart amended his action, and moved** to accept the purchase of firearms, training and holsters up to \$52,000 from the Geraldine Webber fund.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to authorize the purchase of firearms, training and holsters up to \$52,000 from the Geraldine Webber fund.

Commissioner Onosko: “Aye”

Commissioner Shaheen: “Aye”

Commissioner Hart: “Aye”

2. Next Community Forum on Police Reform: Tuesday, January 12th at 5:30pm via Zoom. For those unable to attend, this meeting will be aired/recorded on Channel 22 and the City’s Youtube channel.

The Chair briefly discussed the purpose of the Community Forum and proposals brought forth by members of the public.

3. Building Update
  - a. Chief Newport provided the Commission with an update on the progress of renovations, mold remediation and current building issues. The department is working closely with City officials on current and future projects.
4. PPD Budget Process
  - a. The Commissioners, Chief Newport and Admin. Manager Karen Senecal have committed to holding Special Police Commission meetings, open to the public, to conduct roundtable discussions regarding the FY '22 budget. These meetings are in addition to the regular monthly Police Commission meetings and will be posted to the Municipal Meetings Calendar on the City's website. Feedback from the public is encouraged. The dates are as follows:
    - i. Wednesday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 from 3:30pm-5:30pm
    - ii. Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 from 3:30pm-5:30pm
    - iii. Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 from 3:30pm-5:30pm

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE, cont'd:**

1. Thanks and Recognition:
  - a. Chief read thank you note from a local mother, recognizing officers for swiftly locating her daughter who went missing after wandering off at a park.
  - b. The Chief recognized the efforts of multiple PPD employees for their participation and collaborative efforts in coordinating the 5-0 Food Drive for GATHER (1,320 lbs. of food gathered and \$6,227.05 raised in monetary donations).
    - i. Coordinators: Officer Thomas & Det. Cashman.  
Volunteers: Chief Newport, Officer Denman, Det. Munson & Dispatcher Walsh.
2. Accreditation Update
  - a. The department is undergoing for certification process for eligibility to apply for Department of Justice discretionary grand funding. CALEA is assisting in certifying our policies on our behalf.
3. Monthly Traffic Stats
4. Financial Report – Karen Senecal
  - a. Strategic Plan – Updating now.
  - b. Grant Applications Update – Currently working on ICAC CARES Act funding. We also will be looking for grants to help offset the cost associated with building a new police facility –

searching federal, state, foundations, etc.. The Chair has offered to lend his assistance in researching potential grant opportunities.

- c. Facilities Report – A discussion regarding the police facilities took place as an item of new business for the Commission – see above.

**VII. PATROL DIVISION:**

- a. This report was included in the 11-24-20 commission meeting packet.

**VIII. COURT OFFICE REPORT:**

- a. This confidential report was included in the 11-24-20 commission meeting packet.

**IX. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

**X. NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

The next regular commission meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020 via Zoom, with the public session beginning at 5:30 p.m..

**XI. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

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

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** the December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Police Commission Meeting be adjourned.

**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to adjourn the December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 Monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:20pm. The vote was as follows:

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Commissioner Onosko:  | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Shaheen: | “Aye” |
| Commissioner Hart:    | “Aye” |

END OF MEETING

*Jackie*

*Respectfully Submitted By Jacqueline Burnett, Executive Assistant*

*Reviewed By Commissioner Harte, Clerk of the Commission*

*Tom Hart*