

## PORTSMOUTH POLICE COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE JULY 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 MONTHLY POLICE COMMISSION MEETING

5:30 p.m. Public Session – Via Zoom Meeting Platform

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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** The July 28<sup>th</sup> 2020 Monthly Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m. via the City's Zoom meeting platform.

**The following people attended the Meeting:** Commissioners Onosko, Shaheen, and Hart, Chief Robert Merner, Captain Mark Newport, Admin Manager Karen Senecal, Exec. Assistant Kathleen Levesque. The meeting was televised on Channel 22.

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

- III. **ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD  
ON:**  
June 23<sup>rd</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to accept the minutes of the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Police Commission Meeting.  
**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes of the June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 Police Commission Meetings. The vote was as follows:

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

**Action: Commissioner Hart moved** to accept the minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Special Police Forum.

**Seconded by Commissioner Shaheen.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed unanimously to accept the minutes of the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Police Commission Meetings. 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.)

**Lisa Wolford:** Ms. Wolford was a participant at the July 14<sup>th</sup> Forum; she thanked the Commission for the commitments they made at that Forum and indicated she would like to be involved in the Forum that is planned for the fall.

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

**V. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. POLICE COMMISSION:**

- 1.) Update on the Building Following Recent Water Damage –  
- Capt. Newport briefed the Commission on the significant flooding in the shift commander’s office that occurred during the recent heavy rainfall. In the just-completed roof replacement over that part of the building, a gasket was not tightened properly. The water was getting in under the gasket

and created a 'waterfall' down into that office. The issue has been fixed.

- Pipes were perspiring down in the auxiliary area, which is deep in the basement part of City Hall, that also serves as the main floor of the Police Department. When the air conditioning is on, the pipes perspire. This caused additional mold damage to the area that had just undergone mold remediation. Ceiling tiles that were just replaced will have to be replaced again. Although these old pipes were wrapped, because they are made of iron, they continue to 'perspire' and re-create the mold issue. In order to permanently fix the issue, extensive replacement of pipes would have to occur. Two solutions are being looked at; it is likely the least invasive will be chosen, which will make the 'fix' only temporary. That would be to place large heavy-duty dehumidifiers into that part of the building.

- The mold remediation company is coming back in to clean and sanitize our cruisers. This is an offer the mold company made to the department free of charge. They will also be returning to evaluate what will be done in each of the remaining parts of the police department that have not yet received mold remediation. These areas include dispatch, the court offices, and the entire second floor. A work timeline will be developed.

2.) Summary of the July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Community Forum and Next Steps

- The Commission Chair said they are reviewing the recommendations that were offered by the citizens who participated in the July Forum. The next Forum will be held in October. The Chair mentioned a suggestion to have the City hire social workers to work alongside officers or to work in lieu of officers on certain kinds of calls. He reviewed other elements of the July 14<sup>th</sup> Forum.

3.) PD Mask Policy and Officer Safety Supplies

- Chief Merner briefly discussed the status of our PPE.

**B. CHIEF OF POLICE:**

1.) Chief Merner recognized the following Officers and Dispatchers: Officers Jordan Wells, Joe Melanson, Conall Loughlin, and Dispatchers Allison O'Brien and Tori Bemis, for Outstanding Police Work during a complex Domestic Violence call. He recognized Officer Keegan Pearl for his exceptional alertness and investigative

work resulting in identification of a violent individual. His actions made it possible for a well-coordinated multi-agency response that provided a strong level of proactive public safety. Officer Matt Loureiro was recognized for his tremendous police work in responding to multiple burglaries-in-progress by the same suspect. All of these calls came in during the same 24-hour period, mostly on the midnight shifts. Details of each call can be heard by listening to the re-broadcast of the July 28<sup>th</sup> Police Commission Meeting through the City's website/YouTube Channel.

2.) Grants & Donations:

A grant in the amount of \$24,759 from the New Hampshire Dept. of Justice for the Victims of Crime Act Grant Program, SFY '21 Subgrant Award.

**Action: Commissioner Shaheen moved** to accept the grant in the amount of \$24,759 from the New Hampshire DOJ for the Victims of Crime Act and forward to the City Council for their action.

**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to accept the grant in the amount of \$24,759 from the New Hampshire DOJ for the Victims of Crime Act and forward to the City Council for their action. The vote was as follows:

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

- 3.) Letters of appreciation from Outside the Department
- 4.) Accreditation Update
- 5.) Monthly Traffic Stats
- 6.) Financial Report

**VI. MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**VII. MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

There being no further business before the Commission, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. He said the next regularly scheduled Police

Commission meeting will be Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:30p.m. via the Zoom platform.

**Action: Commission Shaheen moved** to adjourn the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Monthly Police Commission Meeting.

**Seconded by Commissioner Hart.**

**On a Roll Call Vote:** The motion passed to adjourn the July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Monthly Police Commission Meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

*Kathe Levesque*

*Respectfully Submitted by Kathleen Levesque, Executive Assistant to the Chief  
Reviewed by Commissioner Hart, Clerk of the Commission*

*Tom Hart*  
*T.H. Hart*