

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021

PORTSMOUTH, NH  
TIME: 7:00PM [or thereafter]

### Remote Meeting via Zoom Conference Call

To register in advance for this meeting, click on the link below or copy and paste it into your web browser:

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_Sg-uYL3KQTqAWtI8QKsi\\_g](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Sg-uYL3KQTqAWtI8QKsi_g)

You are required to register in advance to join the meeting over Zoom, a unique meeting ID and password will be provided once you register. Please note, this meeting will also be broadcast on the City's YouTube Channel. Public comments for the Council's consideration can be emailed in advance via the City's web site: <https://www.cityofportsmouth.com/citycouncil/contact-all-city-councilors>.

Per NH RSA 91-A:2 III (b) the Chair has declared COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-25, and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members will be participating remotely and will identify their location and any person present with them at that location. All votes will be by roll call.

At 6:00 p.m., Anticipated Non-Public Sessions were held on the following topics:

1. Right-of-Way Issues related to the Peverly Hill Project – Consideration of Legal Advice – RSA 91-A:3 II (I)
2. Collective Bargaining Agreement in Accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a)

**Councilor Tabor moved to seal the minutes of the January 25, 2021 Non-Public Sessions.  
Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

Mayor Becksted recited that this is a Remote Meeting via Zoom Conference Call. Per NH RSA 91-A:2 III (b) the Chair has declared COVID-19 Outbreak an emergency and has waived the requirement that a quorum be physically present at the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order 2020-04, Section 8, as extended by Executive Order 2020-24 and Emergency Order #12, Section 3. Members location. All votes will be by roll call.

**I. WORK SESSION – *THERE IS NO WORK SESSION THIS EVENING***

**II. PUBLIC DIALOGUE SESSION [*when applicable – every other regularly scheduled meeting*] – **POSTPONED****

**III. CALL TO ORDER**

At 7:07 p.m. Mayor Becksted called the meeting to order.

#### IV. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Becksted, Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor and Trace

#### V. INVOCATION

Mayor Becksted asked everyone to join a moment of silent prayer in memory of Dana Francois and John Connors who recently passed away.

#### VI. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Becksted led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

#### VII. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – JANUARY 11, 2021

**Councilor McEachern moved to approve and accept the minutes of the January 11, 2021 City Council meeting with changes. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.**

#### IX. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Josh Denton spoke regarding implementing the recommended items from Toole Design in place for the bike lanes. He also addressed Pop Up NH and how important it is to get the preparations started early. He asked that the electrical lines for the Bridge Street lot be buried. He spoke to other sites such as the Worth Lot or the McIntyre being better sites for Pop Up. He reported that Pop Up NH would like to assist the City with preparations and stated time is of the essence.

Andrew Bagley expressed concern regarding the suggested mission of the Non-profit and Arts Blue Ribbon Committee. He said Portsmouth is open and we might want to consider a new name for the Reopen Committee. He requested that the City look into the requirement of \$3,000,000.00 liability insurance for businesses serving alcohol outside, as other municipalities do not charge that much.

Marie Bodi, McNabb Properties, said the request of January 11<sup>th</sup> has been modified and McNabb Properties have come to an agreement with the three restaurants and the plan will come forward for the City Council meeting of February 8, 2021.

Massimo Morgia spoke on the Brick Market project and stated he met with Ms. Bodi on the agreement for restaurants. He addressed the need for the sidewalks to remain open for access to his business. He said it is important that there is advance notice as to the agreement between the City and Mr. McNabb on the Brick Market project.

**Councilor McEachern moved to suspend the rules to take up Items XV. A.1. – Approval of Working Agreement between the Police Commission and Police Chief Mark Newport; XVII. B. - Presentation by Fire Chief Germain on COVID-19 Vaccinations; and XVII. D. – Presentation Regarding Middle Street Bike Lane Review. Seconded by Councilor Whelan.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

**XV. A.1. Approval of Working Agreement Between the Police Commission and Police Chief Mark Newport**

City Manager Conard said the City Council has reviewed the contract between the Police Commission and new Police Chief Mark Newport.

**Councilor Lazenby moved to ratify the agreement as presented with Chief of Police, Mark Newport. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Splaine.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

**XVII. B. Presentation by Fire Chief Germain on COVID-19 Vaccinations**

City Manager Conard stated because we are moving forward with vaccinations it is timely to hear from Fire Chief Germain on this subject.

Fire Chief Germain provided an update on the vaccination process and working to target the most vulnerable and at risk to the virus. He reported that the Fire Department is teaming up tomorrow with the Public Health Network on vaccinating individuals. He advised the City Council that vaccination PODS are currently located in Dover and Exeter and he is working to have a location here in Portsmouth. He stated that the site to register for the vaccine is difficult to navigate and Brinn Sullivan of the Senior Center is available to assist in the process.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said the Fire Department is well respect and would like Fire Chief Germain to address the need to get the vaccine and how the City could outreach to get employees vaccinated and provide incentives. Fire Chief Germain the vaccine has a good campaign and the Fire Department staff is at 90% vaccinated.

Councilor McEachern thanked Fire Chief Germain for working on a vaccination site here in the City.

Councilor Trace spoke in support of having a location in the City for receiving the vaccination.

Assistant Mayor Splaine asked the Fire Chief to speak to the 211 system. Fire Chief Germain said you could call 211 to speak with someone regarding receiving the vaccine.

Mayor Becksted said he knows of people that have notifications to be vaccinated at Pease Tradeport. Fire Chief Germain said it is the first he has heard of Pease being a location for receiving the vaccine.

Councilor Trace said that site is restricted to Federal Government employees and military personnel.

**XVII. D. Presentation Regarding Middle Street Bike Lane Review – Jeremy Chrzan, Toole Design**

Parking and Transportation Engineer Eby said Jeremy will be presenting on behalf of Toole Design regarding the Middle Street Bike Lane. Also, available is Bill Watson from the Department of Transportation to answer any questions of the Council.

Mr. Chrzan provided a detailed review of the work prepared by Toole Design for the Middle Street Bike Lane. He stated the goal was to make the area more safe and accessible for all ages. He spoke to reviewing the number of crashes in the area, which have decreased. He indicated that some modifications could be made to the plan to address the conditions of the scarring on the road and effects how the bicyclists are using the road. He also spoke to the roadway center line does not line up with the center any longer and new pavement markings would be needed.

Councilor Huda said she was confused that Mr. Chrzan did the plan and reviewed his own work. Mr. Chrzan said Toole Design did not do the construction but he was the lead reviewer. Discussion followed between Councilor Huda and Mr. Chrzan regarding various aspects of the review. Mr. Chrzan said all data was reviewed and he answered questions relating to repaving by Councilor Huda. Mr. Chrzan said the road is needing to be re-milled and resurfaced. He also addressed pavement markings and stated they could be eradicated and repaved but that is more of a long term recommendation.

Councilor Trace asked about sight distances for driveways. Mr. Chrzan stated they looked at the conditions before and after and measuring sight distances you would end up removing all parking on the street. He said on street parking needs to be looked at, overall lines and sights which has been addressed in their memorandum. Councilor Trace said she is concern with the home owners and their safety, and sight lines have been and are an issue. Mr. Chrzan said in a separated bike lane the sight line is better in many cases.

Councilor Kennedy thanked Mr. Watson and Mr. Chrzan for being here this evening. Councilor Kennedy asked what is the liability for the City receiving a report that people have clipped mirrors and that streets were not lined correctly and the width of the roadway have issues. She asked what liability is the State looking at because we could move the cars back to the road and move the bike lanes to another street. Mr. Chrzan said the width of lanes is only problematic with a curve. He spoke to the lanes matching 10 ½ on each side and if another street is better suited for a bike lane that was not part of their review. He said the City is exposed from a variety of issues such as doing something rather than nothing, but he is not an attorney.

Parking and Transportation Engineer Eby said parking right up against a driveway meets the driveway standards and is not considered a permanent structure.

Councilor Lazenby asked based on recommendations from Toole Design, NHDOT would not approve the changes as part of the initial grant and would seek pay back of the federal grant. Mr. Watson, DOT said based on recommendations we consider them operational and would not seek a return of funds for the grant as they would be minor improvements. He indicated other changes the DOT would not recommend or support outside the project. He stated if you are talking about substantial changes it would trigger the pay back however, any minor alterations they would be willing to discuss that with the City and make a determination.

Councilor Whelan asked Mr. Watson at what point in time would a grant pay back provision become null and void. Mr. Watson said the State believes the facility has a life pavement of 5 to 10 years that is generally when the State starts to lose interest in a pay back. He did advise the Council if they're looking for a hard number he does not have one. Councilor Whelan stated that the City needs to know how much the changes recommended will cost.

Councilor Tabor asked about flipping the lanes which would put the bike lanes between the traffic. Mr. Chrzan said safety and comfort is a key issue and feels that comfort would become an issue for bicyclists. He asked if we moved the bike lanes to a quieter and friendlier area to riders which, did not have the condition of cars parking on the road way would that mean a loss in funding. Mr. Watson said it would be a loss in funds and require pay back. He also indicated that you cannot abandon the project without having to pay back federal funding.

Councilor Kennedy asked what next steps would be to alter the plan and make it safe. Mr. Watson said that it not a question for Mr. Chrzan or him. He said you would need to give Public Works direction on what you expect to take and make changes to a small area. He said once you have reached a decision you would need to have a discussion with the State.

Councilor McEachern said moving the cars to the curb would result in the loss of funding. Mr. Watson said it would require a pay back. He did indicate if changes to a smaller area with modifications were made we would need a more detailed conversation for no pay back or a smaller pay back.

Discussion followed regarding parking of vehicles from Madison to Lincoln Streets and whether we could take the 19 spaces off Middle Street. Mr. Chrzan said the removal of on-street parking almost always make the conditions better.

Mayor Becksted called for a 10 minute recess at 9:08 p.m. At 9:20 p.m., Mayor Becksted called the meeting back to order.

## **XII. MAYOR BECKSTED**

### **1. Appointments to Portsmouth Arts and Non-Profit Blue Ribbon Committee**

Mayor Becksted said he has received 14 requests and is still considering applicants to serve. He announced that he is appointing Beth Falconer and Kathy Somssich to the Arts and Non-Profit Blue Ribbon Committee. He stated he would like Nancy Carmer to serve on the Committee as a staff representative.

2. Appointments to the Mayor's Blue Ribbon African Burying Ground Stewardship Committee
  - Ronald Baisden
  - JerriAnne Boggis, ex-officio
  - Kathleen Wheeler, ex-officio

Mayor Becksted announced he is appointing Ronald Baisden as a regular member and JerriAnne Boggis and Kathleen Wheeler as ex-officio's to the Committee.

3. Resignation
  - Adam Webster from the Conservation Commission

Mayor Becksted announced that Adam Webster has resigned from the Conservation Commission.

4. Request for First Reading on Ordinance Re: Land Use Regulatory Board Appointments Process

Mayor Becksted turned the virtual gavel over the Assistant Mayor Splaine.

**Mayor Becksted moved to bring back ordinance for first reading at the February 8, 2021 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

**On a roll call vote 8-1, motion passed. Mayor Becksted, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Assistant Mayor Splaine voted in favor. Councilor Lazenby voted opposed.**

Assistant Mayor Splaine returned the virtual gavel to Mayor Becksted.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said he is concerned with some of the missions of our Blue Ribbon Committees. He said we are all City Councilors first, and when a mission or direction is given it should be discussed by all City Councilors. He urged Mayor Becksted that when a directive is given to a Blue Ribbon Committee that he shares that with the City Council.

Councilor Lazenby asked if there is a timeline when you will stop accepting applications for the Non-Profits and Arts Blue Ribbon Committee. Mayor Becksted said we are still working on a timeline. He stated there are six people to serve and he wants to do this once and not make any mistakes. He said he has involved all 8 City Councilors in this process. Councilor Lazenby said he encourages Mayor Becksted to look at arts as much as non-profits. He said there are also for profit arts that would like to be involved in the Committee.

### **XIII. CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

#### **A. COUNCILOR HUDA**

1. Auditing Firm for the FY21 City Financial Audits

**Councilor Huda moved that the City Manager engage a new auditing firm for the FY21 City Financial Audits. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.**

Councilor Huda said we have had the same firm for 20 years and it is time for a change.

Councilor McEachern asked if we as a City Council could direct a change which is the job of the City Manager. City Attorney Sullivan said to add the operations to the questions the City Manager makes operational decisions but if the City Council believes the City should look at different auditing firms they would tell the City Manager and the City Manager could look at different firms. He said this would be an instruction to the City Manager to look at other auditing firms. He said the next step would be to draft an RFP and the selection of a company. Councilor McEachern said the motion is more to change the auditing firm but can we preclude the City Manager from the existing firm being part of the auditing process. City Attorney Sullivan said no because an RFP could produce only one firm, and to get to the heart of it, in the final analysis several firms come forward for the City to choose from and the City Council had a feeling that one firm should not be considered the City Council could tell the City Manager how they feel. He stated the City Manager will do what she feels is best.

Councilor Tabor asked the City Manager if she has considered this question. City Manager Conard said she has discussed the issue with staff. She said that we have had the firm for many years. She stated we would put out an RFP but all firms would be encouraged to reply. She also indicated we may not be able to change firms at this time in the audit.

Councilor Huda said auditing firms report to the City Council and we have had them for a long time and it is always good to get fresh ideas and new blood.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said the integrity of our finances is important.

Councilor McEachern said the intent of the motion is that we do an RFP.

Mayor Becksted said an RFP would be put out for an auditing firm for our next audit.

City Attorney Sullivan said the motion to be interpreted that the next step by staff would be an RFP.

Councilor Huda said the intent is you do an RFP in state and out of state because there are many auditing firms, as well as what the City Manager feels she needs to do to administer this.

Councilor Whelan said the motion should include going out for an RFP.

Councilor Kennedy revised the motion that the City Manager set up an RFP to engage a new auditing firm for the FY21 City Financial Audits. Councilor Huda agreed as maker of the motion.

On a roll call 8-1, voted that the City Manager set up an RFP to engage a new auditing firm for the FY21 City Financial Audits. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilor Lazenby voted opposed.

## **B. COUNCILOR HUDA & COUNCILOR KENNEDY**

1. Middle Street Bike Lanes

Councilor Kennedy said we need to take the information we received this evening under advisement and she will not be making a motion but will bring something forward in the future.

2. Initial CIP Review Meeting

Councilor Huda moved for a report back from the City Manager to the residents and the Council on the status of all outstanding bonds related to the Capital Improvement Plan including the following data:

- *Date the Bond was Approved by the Council*
- *Date of the Bond Issuance, Amount & Term of the Bond*
- *List of Bonds Approved by the City Council that are Unissued as of 12/31/2020*
- *List of the Projects that the Bond is providing Funds to Implement (If included in a pooling of projects, please note projects included by amount)*
- *Status to Completion of each Project (I.E. % Complete, 25%, 95%)*
- *Remaining Balance Attributed to each Project at 12/31/2020*

Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.

## **XV. CITY MANAGER'S ITEM WHICH REQUIRE ACTION**

### **A. CITY MANAGER CONARD**

2. Request for Public Hearings Regarding Elderly and Disabled Exemptions

*Assistant Mayor Splaine excused himself from the discussion and vote due to being eligible for the elderly exemption.*

Assessor Lentz reviewed the options with the City Council and said that she would leave the exempt amount the same. She reported that exemption amounts did not keep up with the market this year and she will not be doing a revaluation or update and recommended leaving the amounts alone until we do a new revaluation.

Mayor Becksted commended Assessor Lentz for bringing the information forward this year earlier in the process.

**Councilor Whelan moved to schedule public hearings at the February 8, 2021 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Tabor.**

**On a roll call vote 8-0, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine did not vote on this matter.**

3. Request for Work Session Regarding Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation

**Councilor Kennedy moved to establish a Prescott Park Master Plan Implementation work session on February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

4. 60 Penhallow Street (Brick Market) Request for Temporary Construction Licenses  
*(Tabled from the January 11, 2021 City Council meeting)*

City Manager Conard provided an update on the request of Brick Market.

Councilor Huda asked City Manager Conard to discuss Daniel Street loading zone. City Manager Conard stated the loading zone is not impacted just parking spaces. Councilor Huda asked if Mr. McNabb has contacted businesses on Daniel Street. City Manager Conard asked Ms. Bodi to speak on this matter.

**Councilor Huda moved to suspend the rules to allow Marie Bodi and Lynn Kramer to speak regarding 60 Penhallow Street Request for Temporary Construction License. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

Ms. Kramer advised the City Council that they have reached out to all the businesses along Penhallow Street but they will extend out to Daniel Street businesses.

Councilor Trace said she would have liked to see a copy of the agreement that went to the City between McNabb and the 3 businesses. She questioned whether the license works independently from shutting down the street as part of the license or would Mr. McNabb need to come back.

City Manager Conard said the agreement is still in progress with businesses which addresses the street closure.

Councilor Trace said she would like to see time and dates on the agreement when this would work as a closure of the streets.

City Manager Conard said that they were calculated by two license areas, three on Daniel Street and four on Penhallow Street.

Councilor Lazenby said if the City Council does not grant the extension tonight there would be a challenge to finish the work and the walls would be unsafe.

Ms. Bodi advised Councilor Kennedy that the business she is concerned with on Daniel Street, the coffee shop, has been addressed this evening. She stated that they have tried to address all of the concerns expressed by the Council since the January 11, 2021 City Council meeting.

**Councilor Whelan moved that the City Manager be authorized to execute and accept the temporary construction license for the parking spaces and sidewalks as requested. Seconded by Councilor Trace.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

5. Request for First Reading to Update Fine Structure for Parking Citations

City Manager Conard said the recommendation would be to schedule first reading of the ordinance at the February 8, 2021 City Council meeting.

**Councilor Kennedy moved to schedule first reading on the proposed amendments to the parking citation fine structure at the February 8, 2021 City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

Councilor Kennedy asked what the process would be to change other fines. City Manager Conard said you could bring them before the City Council at the February 8, 2021 City Council meeting.

**On a roll call vote 8-1, motion passed. Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine voted opposed.**

6. Request to Name Private Subdivision Road Located Off Banfield Road

City Manager Conard spoke to extensive research that was conducted on this request and the name being recommended. She indicated research shows this is not a concern and recommended naming the private lane Walford Lane.

**Councilor Kennedy moved that the City Council approve the request for naming of the new private road to Walford Lane. Seconded by Councilor Trace.**

**On a roll call vote 8-1, motion passed. Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Kennedy, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Splaine voted opposed.**

7. Donor Town Education Funding and Coalition Communities 2.0

City Manager Conard said that the City Council is being asked to participate in the Coalition Communities 2.0 and that previous contributions be used with the new group.

**Councilor Trace moved to authorize the City to participate in the newly formed Coalition Communities 2.0, and to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a MOU with the Coalition Communities 2.0 on behalf of the City in a form similar to the attached; and further that the City Council authorize that the City's previous contributions to the Claremont Coalition Fund a/k/a Statewide Property Tax Coalition Fund may be used by the Coalition Communities 2.0 to educate and advocate against any education funding formula that would use the property tax to create a donor town funding model. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

**On a roll call vote 8-0, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilor Kennedy recused from voting on this matter.**

**Councilor Kennedy moved to suspend the rules to continue the meeting beyond 10:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Trace.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

**XVI. CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilor Kennedy requested to remove Item XVI. E. – Letter from Rich Clyborne, The Gundalow Company, requesting permission to hold the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Round Island Regatta on Saturday, August 7, 2021 from the Consent Agenda.

**Councilor Whelan moved to adopt the consent agenda. Seconded by Councilor Tabor.**

- A. Request for License to Install a Projecting Sign for owner Sarah DiCecca, Wild Valentine, LLC for property located at 261 South Street (***Anticipated action - move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign Licenses as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request***)

**Planning Director's Stipulations**

- ***The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;***
- ***Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at no cost to the City; and***

- **Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works**

- B. Request for License to Install a Projecting Sign for owner Derrick Horton, Free State Bitcoin Shoppe for property located at 2 Bow Street (**Anticipated action - move to approve the aforementioned Projecting Sign Licenses as recommended by the Planning Director, and further, authorize the City Manager to execute the License Agreement for this request**)

**Planning Director's Stipulations**

- **The license shall be approved by the Legal Department as to content and form;**
  - **Any removal or relocation of projecting sign, for any reason, shall be done at no cost to the City; and**
  - **Any disturbance of a sidewalk, street or other public infrastructure resulting from the installation, relocation or removal of the projecting sign, for any reason shall be restored at no cost to the City and shall be subject to review and acceptance by the Department of Public Works**
- C. Letter from Kathie Lynch, Portsmouth Little League, Inc., requesting permission to Place Temporary Signs at the Plains and Hislop Park Baseball Fields during the 2021 Baseball Season (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act**)
- D. Letter from Maria Stephanou, Alzheimer's Association, requesting permission to hold the 2021 Annual Seacoast Walk to End Alzheimer's on Sunday, September 26, 2021 (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act**)

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

- E. Letter from Rich Clyborne, The Gundalow Company, requesting permission to hold the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Round Island Regatta on Saturday, August 7, 2021

**Councilor McEachern moved to refer to the City Manager with Authority to Act. Seconded by Councilor Lazenby.**

**On a roll call vote 8-0, motion passed. Assistant Mayor Splaine, Councilors McEachern, Whelan, Lazenby, Huda, Tabor, Trace and Mayor Becksted voted in favor. Councilor Kennedy recused from voting on this matter.**

## **XVII. PRESENTATIONS & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS**

### A. Email Correspondence

**Councilor Kennedy moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

### C. Update on the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee to Reopen Portsmouth 2021 to include Work Plan for 2021 as Requested at the December 14, 2020 City Council meeting

Mayor Becksted announced there will be no action on this matter this evening.

### E. Letter from Economic Development Commission Regarding Portsmouth Arts and Culture Outreach and Advocacy

Councilor Lazenby reviewed the discussion that took place in early January and stated that the Economic Development Commission would like to be involved as part of the Committee.

**Councilor McEachern moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

Councilor McEachern asked if we were being represented through Nancy Carmer, Economic Development Manager.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said there is a great deal of talent on the Economic Development Commission and perhaps a member would like to be on the Committee and an application may come forward at the next City Council meeting.

Councilor Trace said that she looks forward to an Arts and Culture Committee coming back.

Councilor McEachern echoed the sentiments of the Economic Development Commission and spoke to the economic impact of the arts. He said to include performing and non-performing arts is important to bring back the arts and culture in the City.

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

## **XVIII. CITY MANAGER'S INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

### 1. Report Back on the state of Broadband Internet Access in City as Requested by Councilor McEachern at the January 11<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting

Councilor McEachern asked if we plan to take the ability to bond those areas that might not be served through broadband, which is enabling legislation. He stated we can bond the money then that is passed onto the internet user as a usage fee until that is paid back.

Councilor Kennedy said that this is a great way to use CARES Act funds as it relates to the schools.

2. Report Back on Letter from Thomas Morgan Regarding Solar Farms

**Councilor Kennedy moved to refer this matter to the Sustainable Practices Blue Ribbon Committee for a report back to the City Council. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

Councilor Lazenby said there still may be a need for input from the Planning Board on this matter.

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**

**XIX. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS INCLUDING BUSINESS REMAINING UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING**

Assistant Mayor Splaine requested a report back from City Attorney Sullivan on the amount of liability insurance being required by the City for outdoor dining establishments serving alcohol.

Assistant Mayor Splaine said he would like to see a picnic table placed downtown. City Manager Conard said that is already being taken care of.

**XX. ADJOURNMENT**

**At 10:55 p.m., Councilor Kennedy moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Huda.**

**On a unanimous roll call vote 9-0, motion passed.**



KELLI L. BARNABY, MMC/CNHMC  
CITY CLERK