

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

ADDENDUM

Received: February 18, 2021 (after 9:00 a.m.) – February 22, 2021 (4:00 p.m.)

February 22, 2021 Council Meeting

New content:

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Mary Lou McElwain (ml259@comcast.net) on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 10:23:14

address: 259 South Street

comments: Mayor Rick, I hope you aren't serious about honoring Winovich! So he says Portsmouth is "coolest city"...big deal. Save naming a day for someone who deserves it. Please, this is a foolish publicity stunt.

City Councilors, I hope you stop The Mayors plan in it's tracks.

Thank you.

Mary Lou McElwain

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Anthony Rizas (tony_r@comcast.net) on Saturday, February 20, 2021 at 21:43:52

address: 10 ESSEX AVE

comments: Hello,

It has come to my attention that Pop-Up Portsmouth is once again looking to reduce parking revenue this spring and summer targeting the Worth Parking lot. The swift way that last summers lost parking revenue at the Bridge Street Lot was quickly approved was unreal.

And yet here we are again? Forget the lost revenue and take over a paid parking lot so that 5 business owners can make money? And don't forget the fact that those business owners do not all reside in Portsmouth.

My taxes increase each and every year. It will be a disgrace to all of us paying taxes in Portsmouth for you to rob us of parking profits and never mind the inconvenience of our treasured local businesses that need the fully opened Worth Lot to survive.

I suggest Prescott Park. Wouldn't that be just perfect? But wait, someone once told me that alcohol was not permitted on the terms that Portsmouth held the Prescott Park property.

So what Pop-Up? Alcohol is your breaking point? No alcohol no Pop-Up?

Covid is real; and really devastating and I am sad that so many of our local establishments are hurting. I see so many hibernating for the the winter.

But please, lets make this fair. Do not take revenue from the town and let every singe restaurant have the ability to offer outside dining. Not just a select 5 like was done last summer.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Andrea Amico (abrown3@worchester.edu) on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 18:50:15

address: 187 Grant Ave

comments: Good evening Portsmouth City Council, I am writing to express my strong desire to see safe summer recreation programs for city children. Pre-Covid, my children have always enjoyed the summer camps, swimming lessons, and outdoor pool options offered to us (as well as the Fall and Winter programs) by the city rec department. These programs keep my kids active and socially engaged with their friends. And although my children go to Dondero, they have friends throughout the city that attend the other elementary schools and have always loved being able to participate in these city rec programs and interact with their friends from the other city schools.

I appreciated the city offering some scaled down programs last summer (ie camps 1-2 days a week for an hour) and outdoor swim time by reservation only. It was not a lot, but it was something after being cooped up from March through June and we were appreciative.

This year has been very hard on children everywhere and they are desperately craving some sense of normalcy, community, and socialization (and parents are craving that, too). I am strongly in favor of outdoor camps and the outdoor pool being offered this summer with safety protocols in place. In the absence of city programs being offered to children in the city, we have enrolled our children in programs outside of the city (my son did some activities in Durham through Oyster River Rec Dept this winter). Which brings me to my next point that surrounding towns have continued to offer recreation programs (some quite robust) and opportunities to their communities with Covid protocols in place. I feel Portsmouth should follow the lead of these other towns doing a lot to help keep kids engaged, active, and safe when it is needed now more than ever.

Lastly, I would also like to recommend the city rec department consider programming for younger children, as well. My kids are currently 10, 7, and 4. My two older children have had to participate in other town rec department programs in the past when they were younger because Portsmouth only offers programs for school aged children. My kids played tee ball in Rye for two years and basketball in Kittery (due to Portsmouth not offering these programs and/or not offering programs to kids younger than 5). It was not a huge hardship for us to join teams in other towns (although I am sure it would be for some families), but I would love to see programming offered for 3-4 year olds in the city as I have a 4 year old daughter, as well.

Thank you for consideration. I am happy to see a new rec department director was hired. I look forward to learning of what programming will be offered this summer for the children in our city who desperately need some organized activities and programming after such a hard year.

Best,
Andrea Amico
includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Zach Chadwick (zachad@gmail.com) on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 21:11:21

address: 79 Lois Street

comments: We are in favor of adding traffic calming measures along middle road. We use the crosswalk at the end of Lois Street almost every day and have witnessed many near-accidents with cars not stopping or slowing down to let people cross. A flashing sign would be a welcome improvement.

Thank you.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by JoAnne Coles (jojocole04@gmail.com) on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 06:03:51

address: 369 Dennett St

comments: Eliminating the Middle Street bicycle lanes and returning \$223,764 to the federal government especially at this time of fiscal need is extremely unwise. Please simply implement the safety improvements recommended by the experts that the City Council heard recently. If the data supports bike lanes improve safety, why choose this battle to fight? Portsmouth will be paying a lot more in lawsuits, human injuries and possible fatalities. Let's consider that cost. Imagine what would happen if we took the bike lanes out (because people found them inconvenient, poor planning etc. against expert data) and someone dies. Imagine it was your son, or your neighbor. Someone will need to be prepared to answer in court why they were removed and why they were such a bad idea that the city was willing to have their residents pay this money back and more during a pandemic. It sends a strong message in my opinion that nobody is thinking about the well being of Portsmouth residents in a time such as this. There are many more important topics that we can be tackling to improve the lives and well being of our residents. Thank you for your time.

includeInRecords: on

Below is the result of your feedback form. It was submitted by Erik Anderson (andy42152@aol.com) on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 07:17:49

address: 38 Georges Terrace

comments: Dear Councilors

It is hard to ignore or not observe the variety of housing development projects that are in progress or planning stages through out the city. While considered progress or not their ultimate effect on the city will be expanded municipal services and larger water / sewer demand.

Knowing that past years have demanded water conservation measures and bans the future appears that these events will continue possibly at greater magnitude. Even last summer w/ COVID the hotel demand on water and sewer was minimized so adding constant and growing pressure on these utilities is clearly a concern.

How is this projected growth calculated against supply of these services and the planning aspects of these expansions..

Equally important is the demand on police, fire and municipal services that without doubt will require growth and cost.

Nothing is ever mentioned as to know the calculations of these subjects except to tout this development as bettering the city without impact costs a large subject with no assessment to the public Thank you for your time and any reply welcome.

Erik Anderson

includeInRecords: on

From: Nancy Johnson [mailto:n_johnson81@comcast.net]

Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 3:11 PM

To: Planning Info <Planning@cityofportsmouth.com>

Cc: Brinn Sullivan <bsullivan@cityofportsmouth.com>

Subject: City Council meeting 2/22/2021

This email is a thank you to Fire Chief Germain who will be presenting in section XVII A of the 2/22/21 City Council meeting.

We both received a most welcome phone call on Wednesday 2/17/21 that there were Covid-19 vaccinations available at the nearby, newly opened, Senior Center on Cottage St and we could show up immediately. We did. What a great use of our brand new Senior Center. What an efficient way for the City to help local residents. The space is beautiful, access is easy as it is directly off the Rt 1 Bypass, and there is plenty of parking.

A huge thank you to our fire department personnel who made this event possible.

Nancy & Brian Johnson, 81 Clinton St, Portsmouth

From: Nancy Johnson [mailto:n_johnson81@comcast.net]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2021 2:47 PM
To: Planning Info <Planning@cityofportsmouth.com>
Subject: City Council meeting 2/21/21; re: delay of Islington St

To: Mayor and members of the City Council; **for 2/22/21 meeting**
RE: Proposed delay of completion of Islington St in the CIP
Date: 2/21/21
From Nancy & Brian Johnson, 81 Clinton St, Portsmouth

We are hoping that the proposed delay of the completion of Islington Street will be removed from the CIP being voted on at the March 8 City Council Meeting.

Apparently the delay was proposed because city officials were getting the message that residents were getting weary of the ongoing construction and delays on Islington Street. We feel the completion of this project needs to be happening concurrently with the actual and potential increase in traffic from 30 Cate St, West End Yards, and 105 Bartlett St. Let's be proactive.

We fear that if it goes out to bid in 5 years that the cost, with inflation, may be prohibitive and some of the nicer features may have to be eliminated. Plus with so much more development potentially completed in our little West End, the traffic delays will be even more challenging for those of us who call this neighborhood home.

The part of Islington St going to Rt 33 is beautifully done. The part going to Maplewood Ave is the Gateway to our Downtown, and should be equally beautiful.

Finally, a thank you to the team responsible for the reconstruction of Islington St for their weekly update on what to expect. We might not have always been happy about the delays and detours, but having the information at the beginning of each week has been greatly appreciated.

Nancy & Brian Johnson, 81 Clinton St , in the West End
