

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX
DATE: MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2003

PORTSMOUTH, NH
TIME: 7:00PM

At 6:30 p.m., an Anticipated "Non-Meeting" with Counsel was held.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sirrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Sirrell, Councilors Grasso, Lown, Hynes, Pantelakos, Whitehouse, Marconi and St. Laurent

Absent: Assistant Mayor Hanson

III. INVOCATION

Mayor Sirrell asked everyone to join in a moment of silent prayer.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Lown led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PRESENTATION- SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEW POLICE CHIEF MICHAEL J. MAGNANT

Former Police Chief Bradley Russ presented Michael with the Police Chief's badge, which was pinned on Michael by his wife Denise.

City Clerk Barnaby administered the Oath of Office to newly appoint Police Chief Michael J. Magnant.

Police Commissioner Kelley spoke on behalf of the Police Commission and expressed their support and excitement to work with Michael.

Mayor Sirrell presented Michael with a letter of recognition for being appointed the new Police Chief.

Mayor Sirrell and City Manager Bohenko presented former Police Chief Bradley Russ with a chair in recognition of his years of service to the City of Portsmouth.

PRESENTATION – PORTSMOUTH VISITORS TO NICHINAN, JAPAN

Portsmouth High School students Zachary Rahn and Alexandra Dungerber, Assistant Superintendent of Schools Bob Lister, Portsmouth High School Principal Rick Gremlitz and chaperon Suzanne Foley discussed their recent visit to our Sister City Nichinan, Japan. Ms. Foley presented Mayor Sirrell with gifts from Japan.

PRESENTATION – 10 AFGHANS DONATED BY 71 YEAR OLD SENIOR CITIZEN

Mayor Sirrell said that she received 10 afghans from a 71-year-old lady who would like to remain anonymous. She said if someone is needy and would like one of these beautiful afghans to call the Mayor's Office and she would hand deliver it.

MAYOR'S AWARDS

1. Kathy Bartlett, International House of Pancakes

Mayor Sirrell presented the Mayor's Award to Kathy Bartlett who hosted a free Christmas Day dinner at the International House of Pancakes for those in need.

2. Emily Marden, Laidlaw Transit, Inc.

Mayor Sirrell presented the Mayor's Award to Emily Marden who provided rides for those individuals that attended the Christmas Day dinner at the International House of Pancakes.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 16, 2002

Councilor St. Laurent moved to accept and approve the City Council minutes of the December 16, 2002 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

Ed Lawrence said that the revaluation report should have been returned unacceptable because it was not a reasonable revaluation. He said that the average increase in values were over 100%.

VII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Acceptance of Grant for Goodwin Park Monument Work

Councilor Whitehouse moved to accept the grant from Heritage Preservation's Save Outdoor Sculpture program and authorize the City Manager to execute a Treatment Award Agreement. Seconded by Councilor Grasso.

City Manager Bohenko said that the grant would restore the monument in Goodwin Park for those who served in the Civil War. He said that no local dollars are being spent and the restoration of the monument should be completed by April of this year.

Motion passed.

B. Request for Approval to Apply for Coastal Grant Funds

Councilor Grasso moved to approve the application, acceptance and expenditure of federal funds distributed by the New Hampshire Coastal Program for the New Castle Avenue reconstruction project. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

C. Accept of Donation for the Portsmouth Honor Guard Special Flag

Councilor Lown moved to approve and accept the donation to the Portsmouth Police Department as listed. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

- A. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.336 – One Way Street by the addition of Sheafe Street: in a westerly direction from Chapel Street to Penhallow Street

Councilor Whitehouse moved to pass third reading. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

- B. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article XI, Section 7.1100 – Speed Limits by the addition of Section C: 15 MPH – Market Street (between Deer and Daniel Street); Section D: 20 MPH – Madison Street; Section E: 25 MPH – Market Street (between the intersection at Nobles Island and Deer Street; and Section G: 35 MPH Market Street (except that portion between the Nobles Island intersection and Deer Street which shall be 25 mph, see Section E and between Deer Street and Daniel which shall be 15 mph, see Section C)

Councilor St. Laurent moved to pass third reading. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

- C. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.330 – No Parking by the addition of Aldrich Road: both sides from Sewall Road a distance of 150 feet easterly; Friend Street: easterly side of Friend Street; Marcy Street: easterly side of Marcy Street from New Castle Avenue to Holmes Court

Councilor Hynes moved to pass third reading. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted.

IX. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

- A. Letter from Joseph Webster, National Multiple Sclerosis requesting permission to hold the MS Walk on Saturday, April 5, 2003

Councilor Marconi moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

X. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

1. Request to Establish Work Session Re: 2003 Holiday Parade

City Manager Bohenko said at the last City Council meeting there was a request to establish a work session regarding the time of the 2003 Holiday Parade. He said that he is recommending hold the work session on June 9th or June 23rd.

Councilor Whitehouse moved to establish a work session on June 9, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. regarding the 2003 Holiday Parade. Seconded by Councilor Lown and voted.

2. Request from Newington Board of Selectmen Chairman for Waiver of Municipal Services Fee

City Manager Bohenko said that the Town of Newington is requesting a waiver of the municipal services fee. He said that Newington is negotiating a lease to preserve the forest at the Tradeport. Currently the City receives fees for any property located in Newington or Portsmouth for the services provided by the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments. He recommended that the City Council approve the waiver of fees.

Councilor Grasso move to approve the request of the Newington Board of Selectmen for a waiver of the municipal services fee, pursuant to Section 2.1 of the Municipal Services Agreement between the City of Portsmouth and the Pease Development Authority. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

Councilor St. Laurent asked if the City would be losing any funds from granting this waiver.

City Manager Bohenko said that we would not lose any funds.

Councilor Marconi asked if there is any buried waste on the site.

City Manager Bohenko replied no.

Councilor Whitehouse commended the Newington Board of Selectmen for pursuing this piece of land to preserve it.

Motion passed.

3. Request for Approval of Pole License Agreement

City Manager Bohenko said that this is a request to approve a pole license for Public Service of New Hampshire to install a pole on Peverly Hill Road.

Councilor Marconi moved to approve the pole license agreement as recommended by the Public Works Department. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

City Manager Bohenko reported on the status of the snow removal budget for the City. He said, as you are aware there have been two major snowstorms since Christmas Day. He said that snow removal operations have been taking place since Christmas Day and continue with the latest weekend storm. We have currently expended over 2,111 man-hours. He reported that we have used over 67% of the snow removal budget to date and we have had to hire additional manpower to keep up with the operation. He commended the Public Works Department for their hard work.

Mayor Sirrell said that the Public Works Department should receive a great deal of credit for their hard work.

Councilor Marconi also commended the Public Works Department for their hard work during these snow storms.

B. MAYOR SIRRELL

1. Appointments

Mayor Sirrell passed the gavel to Councilor Grasso.

The City Council considered the appointments of Irwin Bierhans to the Blue Ribbon Committee on Cemeteries and Linda Browning to the Portsmouth Housing Endowment Fund Advisory Board. These appointments will be voted on by the City Council at their January 27, 2003 meeting.

Mayor Sirrell moved to reappoint Jameson French to the Trustees of the Trust Fund until January 1, 2006. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Councilor Grasso passed the gavel back to Mayor Sirrell.

Councilor Grasso requested that Mayor Sirrell send a letter of appreciation to the anonymous lady that donated the afghans.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:15 a.m., Councilor Marconi moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK