

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX  
DATE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2003

PORTSMOUTH, NH  
TIME: 7:00 PM

At 6:00 p.m., a Non-Meeting with counsel was held regarding negotiations with Police Commission and School Board.

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Sirrell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **II. ROLL CALL**

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

### **III. INVOCATION**

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

### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

### **PRESENTATION**

- 1, Reverend Dawn Shippee – North Church & Philip Pettis, Chair – North Church Cabinet

Dawn Shippee and Philip Pettis of the North Church presented the proposed renovations to the church and are holding a meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> for input.

### **PROCLAMATION**

- 1, Trick-or-Treating for UNICEF Day – October 30, 2003

Mayor Sirrell presented a Proclamation to Liz Roy declaring October 30<sup>th</sup> Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Day.

### **MAYOR'S AWARD**

1. John Tabor and Jim Noucas for Portsmouth Listens

Mayor Sirrell presented a Mayor's Award to Jim Noucas and John Tabor for their work with Portsmouth Listens.

### **V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 6, 2003**

Councilor St. Laurent moved to accept and approve the minutes of the October 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted.

## **VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**

Harold Ecker said that the federal building would be a great location for the new library.

Charles Vaughn spoke regarding Senate Bill 45 regarding Veterans Tax Exemption. He recommended that all veterans receive \$200 to \$300 for this exemption.

Barbara Newton requested approval from the City Council for the Players Ring lease.

Susan Sourman, Maple Haven Association President, presented Mayor Sirrell a check for \$730.00 to be used for upgrades to the Maple Haven playground.

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to suspend the rules in order to take up item XI. A. 1. – School Clericals Agreement. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

1. Request from the School Board for Approval of the Tentative Agreement between the Portsmouth School Board and School Clericals

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to approve the tentative five-year agreement between the Portsmouth School Board and the School Clericals. Seconded by Councilor Grasso.

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

## **VII. PUBLIC HEARING**

- A. ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, ARTICLE III, SECTION 7.336 – ONE WAY STREETS

Mayor Sirrell read the legal notice, declared the public hearing open, and called for speakers.

Assistant Mayor Hanson said that this amendment is the request of the neighborhood.

Erica Dodge spoke in support of the ordinance and said that this neighborhood is in favor.

After three calls and no further speakers, Mayor Sirrell declared the public hearing closed.

## **VIII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS**

- A. Homeland Security Grant for Update of Emergency Operations - \$12,254.00
- B. Homeland Security Grants – Round 1 \$48,183.73 and Round 2 \$49,816.00

City Manager Bohenko requested Fire Chief LeClaire to discuss the grants.

Councilor Lown moved to accept and approve the grants from the State of New Hampshire. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

## **IX. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

- A. Second reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.336 – One Way Streets

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to pass second reading of amended ordinance, as submitted, and schedule a third and final reading at the November 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

- B. Third and final reading of Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article XI, Section 7.1100 – Speed Limits by the addition of Simonds Road, Suzanne Drive, Wallis Road and Leslie Drive – 20 MPH

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to pass third and final reading. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

## **X. PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

- A. Letter from Attorney Bernard Pelech requesting the re-conveyance of a tract of land located on Edmund Avenue

Councilor St. Laurent moved to refer to the Planning Board for a report back to the City Council. Seconded by Councilor Grasso and voted.

## **XI. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

### **A. CITY MANAGER**

2. Report Back Re: COAST Trolley Service – Woodbury Manor

City Manager Bohenko said that he is recommending holding a work session to discuss the route changes.

Councilor Whitehouse moved to establish a work session regarding the COAST trolley service for December 8, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted. Councilor Marconi abstained from voting.

3. Report Back Re: Proposed Increase in Veterans Tax Exemption

City Manager Bohenko provided a report on this matter, which highlights the financial impacts. If the exemption were passed, it would become effective April 1, 2004. He noted that many of the Councilors are veterans and would not be able to act on this matter. Therefore, he requested the City Attorney to provide a legal opinion on which Councilors could vote on this matter.

Councilor Whitehouse moved to table this matter until the November 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Hanson and voted.

Councilor Lown requested a report on the effect to the tax rate with the increase.

4. Report Back Re: Use of Credit Card for Municipal Payments

City Manager Bohenko said that the Deputy City Manager provided a report on this matter.

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to authorize the City Manager to proceed with a pilot program for payment of parking tickets and boot with credit cards. Seconded by Councilor Hynes and voted.

5. Request for Approval of Pole License Agreement

Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to approve the request from PSNH for Pole License Agreement, #63-401, as recommended by the Public Works Department. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted.

6. Request to Extend the Lease between City of Portsmouth and the Players' Ring for the Building at 105 Marcy Street

City Manager Bohenko said that requested improvements to the building were made and recommends approval.

Councilor Marconi moved to authorize the City Manager to execute a lease between the City of Portsmouth and the Players' Ring for the use of the building at 105 Marcy Street for a period of November 1, 2003 through October 30, 2006. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

7. Application for a Grant from the Land and Water Conservation

Councilor Hynes moved to authorize the City Manager to apply for, accept and expend a grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program for the design and construction of a multi-purpose recreational field at the former stump dump. Seconded by Councilor Pantelakos and voted.

**B. MAYOR SIRRELL**

1. Maple Haven Donation (not on agenda)

Mayor Sirrell passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Hanson.

Mayor Sirrell moved to accept the \$730 donation for the Maple Haven playground improvements. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted.

2. Appointments

The following were considered and will be voted on at the November 17<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting: Peter Bresciano, Taxi Commission; Steve Miller, Conservation Commission; Eric Gustafson, Carol Hollis, Michael Twine, Recycling Committee; Geoffrey Lombard, Elizabeth Wright, Cemetery Committee; George Savramis, Planning Board.

Councilor Whitehouse moved to reappoint Frank Daggett to the Taxi Commission until December 31, 2005. Seconded by Councilor Marconi and voted.

Councilor Marconi moved to reappoint James Feehley to the Taxi Commission until December 31, 2005. Seconded by Councilor St. Laurent and voted.

Assistant Mayor Hanson passed the gavel back to Mayor Sirrell.

3. Reports

Mayor Sirrell announced that the Veteran Day Service will be held November 11<sup>th</sup> and encouraged the Council members to attend.

Mayor Sirrell announced that the Halloween Parade would be held on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

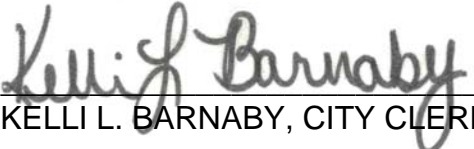
Mayor Sirrell informed the Council that the Goodwin Park Monument dedication would be held Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

**XII. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilor Pantelakos thanked the City Manager and staff for their work on the Dennett Street reconstruction project.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:25 p.m., Assistant Mayor Hanson moved to adjourn. Seconded and voted.

  
KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK