

TO: JOHN P. BOHENKO, CITY MANAGER

FROM: KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK

RE: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MARCH 3, 2008, EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, ONE JUNKINS AVENUE, PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

PRESENT: MAYOR FERRINI, ASSISTANT MAYOR BLALOCK, COUNCILORS NOVELLINE CLAYBURGH, DWYER, SMITH, KENNEDY, SPEAR, RAYNOLDS AND PANTELAKOS

1. At 6:30 p.m., an Anticipated “Non-Meeting” with counsel was held regarding Negotiations - RSA 91-A:2 I (b-c).
2. Proclamation – Youth Art Month – Councilor Spear read the Proclamation declaring March as Youth Art Month. Wendell Purrington thanked Mayor Ferrini and the City Council for their continued support and for issuing this Proclamation.
3. Proclamation – Music in our Schools Month – Councilor Smith read the Proclamation declaring March as Music in our Schools Month. Wendell Purrington thanked Mayor Ferrini and the City Council for their continued support and for issuing this Proclamation.
4. Presentation - “Strawbery Banke A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making” – Jeff Gilbert, Chair of Board of Trustees and Larry Yerdon, President of Strawbery Banke – Mr. Gilbert, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Larry Yerdon, President of Strawbery Banke presented the City Council with copies of Dennis Robinson’s book entitled “Strawbery Banke A Seaport Museum 400 Years in the Making”.
5. Acceptance of Minutes – February 11, 2008 – Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the February 11, 2008 City Council meeting.
6. Public Comment Session – There were three speakers: Nicki Noble (Tourism Initiatives); Bob Pollard and Bill St. Laurent (School Board Middle School Site).
7. Public Hearing – Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY2009-2014 – Held a public hearing.
8. Public Hearing - Resolution Authorizing a Bond Issue of up to One Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,300,000.00) for the purchase of land to relocate Fire Station 2 – On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to adopt the proposed Resolution, as presented.
9. Public Hearing - Resolution Increasing the Maximum Income Limit for Individuals Qualifying for the Elderly Real Estate Tax Exemption to \$31,640.00 for single and \$39,030.00 for married and total assets may not exceed \$105,470.00 whether single or married – Held a public hearing. Voted to adopt the Resolution Amending Elderly Exemption Income and Asset Limits, as presented.

10. Public Hearing - Resolution Increasing the Maximum Income Limit for Individuals Qualifying for the Disabled Real Estate Tax Exemption to \$31,640.00 for single and \$39,030.00 for married and total assets may not exceed \$105,470.00 whether single or married – Held a public hearing. Voted to adopt the Resolution Amending Disabled Exemption Income and Asset Limits, as presented.

11. Public Hearing - Ordinance amending Chapter 7, Article III, Section 7.330 – No Parking – Raleigh Way:

- Southerly side from Kearsarge Way to a point 65' westerly of Kearsarge Way
- Northerly side from Saratoga Way to a point 55' westerly of Saratoga Way

Section 7.336 – One Way Streets – Vehicular traffic shall move only in the indicated directions on the following streets:

- Concord Way: in a easterly direction from Crescent Way to Preble Way
- Porpoise Way: in a westerly direction from Saratoga Way to Crescent Way
- Raleigh Way: in a westerly direction from Ranger Way to Crescent Way

Held a public hearing. Voted to pass second reading and schedule a third and final reading at the March 18, 2008 City Council meeting.

12. Voted to suspend the rules in order to continue the meeting beyond 10:00 p.m.

13. Voted to suspend the rules in order to take up Item XI. D. - Letter from School Board Re: Funding Request for Middle School Architect.

14. Letter from School Board Re: Funding Request for Middle School Architect – On a unanimous roll call 9-0, voted to authorize the City Manager to expend up to \$70,500.00 for design alternatives for a Parrott Avenue site to include architectural and related services for the four tasks required for Phase 1 and reimbursable expenses in accordance with the agreement with JCJ Architects but pending satisfactory completion of two conditions: (1) receipt of a revised letter from the School Board requesting Phase I financial support for design alternatives for a Parrott Avenue site; (2) an agreement that the School Board will provide monthly in person reports to the City Council on the progress, decisions, and discussions during the period of Phase 1.

15. Consent Agenda – Voted to adopt the Consent Agenda, as presented.

- A. Letter from Aaron Wensley, Children's Museum, requesting permission to hold the Annual 5k Road Race and Kid's Fun Run on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power**)
- B. Letter from MaryLiz Geffert, Seacoast Local, Inc., requesting permission to hold the Seacoast Local Festival on Saturday, June 7, 2008 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and further request to close Pleasant Street between Congress and Porter Streets (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power**)
- C. Letter from Robert Sutherland, Jr., St. John's Lodge, requesting permission to hold a 5k "Out of Hibernation" Road Race on Saturday, April 26, 2008 (**Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power**)

- D. Letter from Jennifer Kennedy, Blue Ocean Society for Marine Conservation, requesting permission to conduct a coastal cleanup at Peirce Island on Saturday, April 19, 2008 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)
 - E. Letter from Kathy Beebe Keefe, Sexual Assault Support Services, requesting permission to hold the 1st Annual KidSafe 5k Run on Pease Tradeport Saturday, April 26, 2008 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)
 - F. Letter from Anna Moskov, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, requesting permission to hold the Seacoast Safari for CF on Saturday, July 19, 2008 and Sunday July 20, 2008 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)
 - G. Letter from Peter Somssich, LPPT Parade Committee, requesting permission to hold the 2nd Annual Labor Portsmouth Peace Treaty Parade on Sunday, September 28, 2008 (***Anticipated action – move to refer to the City Manager with power***)
16. Letter from Kathie Lynch, Portsmouth Little League, Inc., requesting permission to affix temporary signage to the fences at Plains and Hislop fields from April 12, 2008 through the end of the summer program and further to maintain signage to the rear of the Plains scoreboard – Voted to refer to the City Manager with power.
 17. Letter from Wendy Segit, Seacoast Mental Health Center, Inc., requesting permission to hold a fundraiser by placing life-size fiberglass dog and cat figures, painted by local artists around the downtown area during July, August and part of September, 2008 – Voted to refer to Art Speak for a report back.
 18. Letter from Anthony Moulton, Miles for Miracles, requesting permission to set up a treadmill in Market Square in order to raise funds for a child on Saturday, March 15, 2008, Sunday, March 16, 2008, Saturday, April 5, 2008 and Sunday, April 6, 2008 – Voted to approve the request at the Vaughan Mall location.
 19. Letter from Thomas Watson requesting to enter into an agreement with the City for the reconstruction of his dock at 200 Newcastle Avenue – Voted to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a license agreement with Thomas Watson and Kathleen Salisbury to allow a dock to be reconstructed on the northerly side of Newcastle Avenue.
 20. Letter from Abigail Wiggin, Seacoast Growers' Association, requesting an amendment to the License Agreement to allow the sale of wine and mead by Piscassic Pond Winery – Voted to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute the amendment to the City's Agreement with the Seacoast Growers' Association in order to allow the sale of wine and mead by Piscassic Pond Winery.
 21. Letter from Portsmouth Listens requesting permission to hold a Celebration of Sustainability on Saturday, April 19, 2008 at the Middle School and Public Library with the closure of Parrott Avenue from the Middle School to the courthouse from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Voted to refer to the City Manager with power.

22. Request to Dispose of Surplus Vehicles – Voted to authorize the City Manager to dispose of surplus vehicles by the sealed bid process.
23. Remcon Associates, Inc. (formerly Avanti Development) Re: Sidewalk Easement Deed – Voted to accept and place this matter on file.
24. Boarding House Permit – Voted to refer the request for a Boarding House Permit for 21 Brewster Street to the City Manager with power.
25. Work Session Re: Capital Improvement Plan (Not on agenda) – The City Council agreed to establish a Work Session on Tuesday, March 18, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Eileen Dondero Foley Council Chambers regarding the Capital Improvement Plan.
26. Appointments to be Voted – Voted to appoint Harold Whitehouse and Steven Marison to the Peirce Island Committee; the appointment of Joe Couture to the Portsmouth Housing Endowment Fund Advisory Board until March 3, 2011; reappointment of John Howe and Christina Westfall to the Traffic & Safety Committee until January 1, 2009; and the reappointment of David Witham to the Zoning Board of Adjustment until December 1, 2013.
27. Appointment of Blue Ribbon Committee on Housing – Mayor Ferrini announced that he has created a Blue Ribbon Committee on Housing. Details of the Committee as described below:

Timeline: Committee to convene in April and terminate after 180 days. The Committee shall report back to the City Council at the first meeting in October 2008.

Charge of Committee:

- Develop (or frame) a “white paper” on housing options and issues in Portsmouth, including existing data about available housing, existing types or support/programs for housing available in the City, and identification of issues related to housing
- Identify creative solutions that other communities have used to address the housing issues Portsmouth is facing and which are relevant to the local setting, including preserving existing affordable housing stock and creating additional affordable opportunities
- Determine a short list of local opportunities for future policy and actions by the City and other local stakeholders, e.g., financial institutions, nonprofit organizations, etc.
- Identify necessary topics for state legislation that affect the ability to increase affordable housing options.

Recommended Committee Members:

- Two members from the City Council
- One State Legislator
- One Economic Development Commission Member
- One Portsmouth Housing Authority Representative
- One representative from The Housing Partnership
- One representative from Rockingham Planning Commission
- One representative from the real estate/development community
- One representative from the finance/banking community
- Mayor (ex-officio)
- City Manager or his designee (ex-officio)

28. Ten Year Rule (City Council Rule #47 – Appointments to Boards and Commissions) – Voted to postpone this matter until the March 18, 2008 City Council meeting.

29. Proposed Consolidation of City Committees – Councilor Smith requested that Mayor Ferrini create a Blue Ribbon Committee to review the Board and Commission Listing for the Consolidation of Committees with three members of the City Council. Councilors Smith, Dwyer and Pantelakos volunteered to serve on this Committee. Mayor Ferrini requested that the Committee create a charge to bring back for consideration at the March 18, 2008 City Council meeting.

30. Amendments to Taxi Ordinance – Voted to refer to the City Attorney to draft amendments to the Taxi Ordinance for first reading at the March 18, 2008 City Council meeting with the following amendments:

- Section 7.219 B.1. – Rates for Taxi Fares: Increase the additional one-eighth mile from \$.35 to \$.45
- Section 7.219 B.2. – Rates for Taxi Fares: Increase the waiting time from \$.25 to \$.45 per minute.
- Section 7.219 B.4. – Rates for Taxi Fares: Increase the discount for passengers who are age sixty or over from 10% to 20%.

31. Amendments to Taxi Ordinance – Voted to refer to the City Attorney to draft an amendment to Section 7.213 – Fees and Terms for Permits/Licenses of the Taxi Ordinance for first reading at the March 18, 2008 City Council meeting with the following amendment:

- Section 7.213 D. – Fees and Terms for Permits/Licenses: Additional language as follows: “Any taxi cab failing the vehicle inspection and having their medallion pulled will have 24 hours to make the repairs and be re-inspected without having to pay a fine.”

32. Adjournment – At 12:00 a.m., voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, CMC/CNHMC
City Clerk