CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX PORTSMOUTH, NH

DATE: MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 2010 TIME: 7:00 PM [or thereafter]

At 5:45 p.m. an Anticipated "Non-Meeting" with Counsel was held regarding Personnel – RSA 91-A II (a) and Negotiations – RSA-91-A:2, I (b c).

I. CALL TO ORDER [7:00PM or thereafter]

Mayor Ferrini called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

<u>Present:</u> Mayor Ferrini, Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh, Councilors Lister,

Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer, Coviello, Kennedy and Smith

III. INVOCATION

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PRESENTATION:

1. Father Angelo Pappas (Recognize years of service as Police and Fire Chaplain)

Councilor Smith read a Proclamation recognizing Father Angelo Pappas and his years of service as the Police and Fire Chaplain and as being an overall outstanding community member.

Councilor Lister, Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh and Mayor Ferrini also spoke regarding the many contributions of Father Pappas and his wife Mary to the community and that they will be greatly missed.

Father Pappas accepted the praise and good wishes on behalf of his family stating that they hope to come back to the area to retire as this was truly a wonderful place to live and work.

Fire Chief Chris LeClaire and Police Commission Chair Jerry Howe both thanked Father Pappas for his years serving as Chaplain for the Police and Fire Departments.

Mayor Ferrini presented Father Pappas with a City of Portsmouth Chair which Father Pappas accepted with thanks and appreciation.

V. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES (There were no minutes on for acceptance)

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

<u>Donald Coker</u> spoke regarding the proposed permitted parking for the Middle School in the Parrott Avenue lot stating that there are other lots within a 7 minute walk that are underutilized that could be used for this purpose as the Parrott Avenue lot is always full. He asked the Council to keep the downtown residents, employees and taxpayers in mind when making this decision.

Martin Cameron, spoke regarding the moving of the WW I grave markers stating that he has received many calls that don't support the Council's recent decision to relocate the markers and want them to remain at the original Plains Indian Massacre Site. He stated the markers were placed there 75 years ago. He stated that one caller said that the Langdon Park deed should be check as he believes this marker placement could be a deed violation and cited some other possible violations. He stated the markers have been badly mistreated and were relocated to a more visible, but inaccessible site. He concluded by asking that the grave markers be returned to the original location in remembrance of the 26 heroes they represent.

<u>Phil Stokel</u> spoke regarding the Prime Wetlands Designation of his land at 73 Peverly Hill Road stating that he has spoken to Mr. Tate, a Fish and Game biologist, regarding the beaver problem that caused an artificial wetland to be created on his property. He explained that he spent half a day at the beaver dam and saw that most of the water is now gone and there were no beavers to be found. He asked the Council to reconsider the Prime Wetlands Designation of his property.

<u>Bill St. Laurent</u> began by stating he agrees with Mr. Cokers' comments regarding the 45 permitted spaces. Next, he discussed the grave markers stating that he feels they should be returned to the Plains ball field location as this was the site where the soldiers practiced their marching drills. He feels it could run along the sidewalk at Rte 33 as long as they didn't allow cars to park there, although there is a sidewalk cut where cars can pull in to park, but shouldn't be able to.

Jim Melfi stated he serves as the President of the Sherburne Civic Association and is speaking regarding the proposed CCRC. He stated that his Association was never contacted by the City for input on this proposal which will affect their neighborhood. He stated that for a city that is so "pro-neighborhood", they should have been contacted on this issue. He then continued as a private citizen and cited Town of Rye meeting minutes from 2008 where it was indicated that Portsmouth was going to change zoning for a certain company and he feels this is spot zoning. He stated that there is more to this issue than what is being discussed and feels that the residents of Portsmouth won't be able to afford to live at that facility.

VII. APPROVAL OF GRANTS/DONATIONS

- A. Acceptance of Donation to the Coalition Legal Fund
 - Town of Newington \$1,500.00

Councilor Coviello moved to approve and accept the donation, as listed, to be placed in the Coalition Legal Fund. Seconded by Councilor Smith and voted.

B. Acceptance of Donations from Jon and Gloria Wennberg to install a memorial bench in Market Square in memory of their daughter Heather - \$1,250.

Councilor Smith moved to accept the donation to install a memorial bench in Market Square. Seconded by Councilor Kennedy and voted.

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

A. First Reading amending the City Ordinances by the Creation of a new Provision entitled Chapter 10, Article VII, Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC).

Councilor Smith moved to pass first reading and schedule a public hearing and second reading of the proposed Ordinance, as presented, at the September 20th City Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilor Dwyer.

Councilor Kennedy referred to the August 4th memorandum asking how the access will be from Borthwick Avenue if they don't own those parcels. Planning Director Rick Taintor referred to the map stating the Borthwick Avenue access will be across the Parcel labeled HCA Realty Inc, which is just northwest of the Borthwick Forest LLC, which is opposite land owned by the City of Portsmouth.

Councilor Kennedy asked about the 13.7 acres owned by Borthwick Forest LLC, what is the one acre that is in current use. Mr. Taintor clarified that all except the 1 acre is in current use and has been taken out of the Agriculture zoning and would be subject to the tax penalty when it gets converted as they are taking it out of Agriculture and environmental usage.

Councilor Kennedy asked City Attorney Sullivan to define "spot zoning" as she feels that this is spot zoning. City Attorney Sullivan stated that zoning is based upon Planning science and legitimate science related reasons. He continued that spot zoning is action taken for one parcel which is inconsistent with what is around it. Councilor Kennedy asked if this is spot zoning. City Attorney Sullivan stated no.

Councilor Hejtmanek stated he would like to know the percentages that each category will have for rooms i.e. Independent Living, Assisted Living and Nursing Care units. Mr. Taintor stated that the mix is not defined and just requires that there are all three levels of care provided and that would be decided on an operational/business view. Councilor Hejtmanek stated that around the country there must be an average and that when this goes before the Planning Board as a conditional use, it would have to be defined. Mr. Taintor stated yes.

Councilor Lister stated he will not be supporting this although he appreciates the work by the staff and Planning Board, but he has concerns with neighborhood safety, availability and affordability to Portsmouth residents, strain on city services and hospitals with 200-400 elderly residents. He stated he also questions if it is spot zoning and wonders why the Sherburne Civic Assoc. wasn't contacted for input. He concluded by stating we should be supporting the senior services that are already in place in the City.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh asked if this is the appropriate time to make an amendment to the language. Mayor Ferrini stated typically the debate and amendments are done during the 2nd reading of an ordinance, but will not rule out any amendments this evening.

Councilor Dwyer stated that we are acting to move it to a public hearing and allow public input and feels that this is the appropriate action at this time.

Councilor Coviello stated he supports Councilor Dwyers point and he has heard some suggestions to add a gate at Islington Street and feels we should hear from the neighbors.

Councilor Smith stated he agrees and he always supports first readings and referring to a public hearing because citizens should have the opportunity to speak.

Councilor Hejtmanek also agrees and feels that the developers deserve to get an answer.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh stated she also wants to hear the public, but is frustrated that this is about one development instead of the zoning itself. She continued that she has a problem with the size of 400 residents because if even ½ of that number is married, this will add another 200 people and feels this contributes to the "graying of the Granite State". She stated she also wonders how many people will actually be able to afford this facility and stated that the City Attorney has informed her that they can't impose any provisions to make it more affordable for our residents. She stated she was glad to see Mr. Melfi speaking for the Sherburne neighborhood.

Councilor Kennedy stated she feels it is ironic that people are concerned with hearing citizens speak on this issue because they have been speaking since December 2008 and there have been petitions submitted against the access onto Islington Street, etc. She stated it is time to listen and say it is over now.

Mayor Ferrini passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh and spoke regarding the public process and stated he will support referring to second reading and public hearing.

The gavel was returned to the Mayor.

Motion to refer to a second reading and public hearing on September 20, 2010 passed on a 7-2 roll call vote. Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh, Councilors Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer, Coviello, Smith and Mayor Ferrini voted in favor. Councilors Lister and Kennedy voted opposed.

B. First Reading of Proposed Ordinance amending Chapter 10, Article X, Subsection 10.1010 of the Wetlands Protection Ordinance.

Councilor Smith moved to pass first reading and schedule a public hearing and second reading of the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, as presented, at the September 7th City Council meeting. Seconded by Councilor Coviello.

Councilor Smith stated he will move to amend at the second reading to remove the Stokel property from the Prime Wetlands designation.

Planning Director Taintor clarified that is not a part of this ordinance as this is a "housekeeping" ordinance.

Motion voted.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

A MOTION WOULD BE IN ORDER TO ADOPT THE CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Letter from Sister Mary Agnes, St. Charles Children's Home requesting permission to hold a 5K Road Race at Pease International Tradeport on September 6, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. (Anticipated action move to refer to the City Manager with power)
- B. Letter from Zhana Morris, Production Manager for the Music Hall requesting Parking Meter bags for the Music Hall's 2010-2011 season. *(Anticipated action move to refer to the City Manager with power)*

Councilor Smith moved to adopt the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilor Lister and voted.

XI. PRESENTATION & CONSIDERATION OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS

A. Letter from Officer Adam Kozlowski, member of the Portsmouth Police Honor Guard, requesting use of Alumni Field at 155 Parrott Avenue on September 11, 2010 to hold a wiffle ball tournament to raise funds for Jaden's Ladder.

Councilor Smith moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor Coviello and voted.

B. Letter from Ed Brown, Senior Vice Commander of the Disabled American Veterans requesting to hold a softball tournament on Alumni Field on September 18 and 19, 2010.

Councilor Smith moved to refer to the City Manager with power. Seconded by Councilor Coviello and voted.

C. Letter from Attorneys Raymond P. D'Amante and Roy McCandless on behalf of Stella, Nancy and Philip Stokel requesting reconsideration of Designation of Prime Wetlands for the Stokel Property on Peverly Hill Road

City Attorney Sullivan explained the process if this item were voted to be reconsidered. He explained that if this item is reconsidered, another public hearing would need to be scheduled.

Councilor Spear moved to accept and place on file. Seconded by Councilor Coviello. Motion passed on a 7-2 vote. Councilors Lister, Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer, Coviello, Kennedy and Mayor Ferrini voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh and Councilor Smith voted opposed.

After some clarification, it was determined that any further action would need to be taken up separately i.e., motion to reconsider, motion to set a public hearing, then motion to separate the Parcel 6 from the Prime Wetlands Designation.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh moved to reconsider the Prime Wetlands Designation. Seconded by Councilor Smith.

Councilor Coviello stated he appreciates the intent of the motion, but the designation as a Prime Wetlands means these areas are classified by the State as wetlands that need to be looked at more closely. He stated we are not scientists.

Councilor Smith agrees that we are not scientists but feels that the Wetlands Board does have that knowledge and that this is just adding another layer of bureaucracy. He stated this is a unique situation with wetlands that were caused by beavers that aren't there anymore.

Councilor Dwyer stated she wasn't here for the meeting where this was all explained and that if this goes to a public hearing she assumes the information will be presented again.

City Manager Bohenko stated that if this motion passes, he would also like direction from the Council to not submit any paperwork for the other designated Prime Wetlands areas because technically this action would open back up all of them.

Councilor Smith stated his intent is only to reconsider Parcel 6.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh stated that she doesn't understand wetlands and doesn't know anything about beavers and feels we owe it to a family that has been on this land for 150 years to look into this further.

City Manager Bohenko stated that this matter was studied for 2 years by the boards who do know the criteria and that the Prime Wetlands designation bring these areas to another level because they are considered high quality wetlands, so even if they are removed from the Prime Wetlands designation, the areas would still be wetlands.

Councilor Hejtmanek agrees that this study was conducted by a wetlands scientist and voted on by the Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

Motion to reconsider the Prime Wetlands Designation FAILED on a 3-6 roll call vote. Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh, Councilors Lister and Smith voted in favor. Councilors Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer, Coviello, Kennedy and Mayor Ferrini voted against.

XII. REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

A. CITY MANAGER

1. Permitted Parking for the Middle School

Lisa Destefano of Destefano Architects gave an overview of the parking issues that have come up that need to be addressed. She stated that the Parking Committee held a special meeting on July 16th to address parking concerns in relation to the Middle School. She stated that the State has not granted any waivers from their requirements for teacher parking and they also had to keep in mind library staff and patrons as well as ADA requirements. She stated the Youth Recreational facility is included as well.

Councilor Dwyer moved to reserve 45 parking spaces in the Parrott Avenue Lot as recommended by the Parking Committee. Seconded by Councilor Hejtmanek.

Councilor Kennedy asked about the Miller Avenue Lot and other area lots.

Ms. Destefano stated that they felt it was important to have one central area as this would help enforcement and management of the spaces.

City Manager Bohenko stated the other areas were reviewed.

Councilor Dwyer stated that the key was to keep all of the spaces in one place for management and enforcement and that they not take up one whole area. She stated that Miller Avenue lot is not owned by the City and is leased. She stated that the teachers are also downtown workers and taxpayers.

Councilor Smith agreed that the idea is to get them all in one location and also during snow months, they need to keep a clear pathway. He stated that these 45 spaces at the Parrott Avenue lot will also free up spaces on Parrott Avenue. He stated that this will give teachers specific spaces and they will be enforced during the specified hours. He stated that it was mentioned during the public comment session that this could be a contract issue and he stated it could become an issue.

Councilor Coviello asked the City Attorney if spaces can be designated at Miller Avenue even if we don't own that lot. City Attorney Sullivan stated yes, but the lease terms would need to be changed, but the City cannot designate spaces on City streets.

Councilor Coviello asked about the deed restriction which the school paid for the removal so are we following the guidelines of the State funding by giving some of that land to another use i.e. the library. City Attorney Sullivan stated that the restriction is removed so we can treat it the same as any city property. City Manager Bohenko stated there is a plan that shows where the library and the public will be allowed to park. He stated the restriction was removed because both the Library and Middle School technically did not have that authority but 30% reimbursement comes back from the State, so 70% is local general fund money which removed that restriction.

Councilor Coviello asked how parking will be monitored. Middle School Principal Stokel stated they will be using a decal system like they do at the High School. Councilor Coviello asked what happens when they drive their spouses' vehicles and park in a different space. Principal Stokel stated that they get familiar with who drives what fairly early in the year. Councilor Coviello asked why all of the reserved spaces are for teachers and not library staff. Councilor Dwyer stated they want the library patrons and visitors to the school to have the 2 hour parking spaces and the library staff is a smaller number of people. City Manager Bohenko stated they are trying to secure library staff parking with the adjacent church. Councilor Kennedy stated that since the Council hasn't agreed to the Youth Recreation facility yet, how much of that parking is set aside for that. Ms. Destefano explained that this is designed with parking along the outside parameters leaving a bus travel lane and if the Youth Recreation facility is not added, then this will become green space.

Discussion ensued regarding the distances from various lots as well as whether there were sidewalks and pathways to allow access even during the snow months.

Councilor Spear stated that he has been serving on the Parking Focus Group as a member of the Planning Board and they are trying to rethink parking strategies. He stated that the Council will be having a work session to discuss parking philosophies in September but doesn't want to slow this process down. He stated he will support this with the caveat that this won't be etched in stone and can be discussed again.

Mayor Ferrini asked when this must begin. Councilor Dwyer stated we need to go to TAC and the Planning Board this month in order to have the kids in the school on schedule. She stated that it is too soon to have the construction management plan, but expects it around November.

Councilor Hejtmanek stated it is important to make the decision and not complicate it by leaving the simple steps undone. He stated there are 3 lots and it is a question of who walks and feels that teachers should have the priority.

Councilor Lister stated he agrees and feels this is being done in phases and it may change, but we need to move this forward. He stated he wishes we spent as much time of programming as we do on parking.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh stated that she has listened to the public hearing comments from the Parking Committee and the people who spoke were residents and downtown workers who don't have any parking options and can't afford to buy permits. She stated she walked herself from the South Mill Playground lot to the school and also from the

Parrott Avenue Lot to the school and the Playground lot was a little shorter. She feels there are other alternatives and doesn't want to displace downtown workers.

Councilor Kennedy agrees.

Councilor Coviello asked if the parking could be put at the South Playground lot without any official monitoring. City Manager Bohenko stated he looks out over that lot everyday and it is actually used a lot so it would have to be posted if they parked there or any other lot.

Councilor Dwyer stated the obligation to the State is not waivable and is to provide it in perpetuity which is why we wanted it to be on land we own.

Councilor Smith stated that Leary Field spaces are used by residents that would have to be out by 6:30 a.m. He again clarified that this is not taking away parking space it is transferring them from Parrott Avenue to Parrott Avenue Lot. He stated this has been one of his main issues regarding the Middle School and as for the other lots mentioned; Miller Avenue is not owned by the City and the Church parking lot would require cars to move for funerals etc; but Parrot Avenue Lot is owned by the City.

Mayor Ferrini passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh.

Mayor Ferrini stated all of these lots are heavily used and he supports this proposal.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh returned the gavel.

Motion passed on a 7-2 roll call vote. Councilors Lister, Hejtmanek, Spear, Dwyer, Coviello, Smith and Mayor Ferrini voted in favor. Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh and Councilor Kennedy voted opposed.

2. Acceptance of Sidewalk Easement and Quitclaim Deed for Street Right of Way Request Re: 51 Islington Street LLC.

Councilor Smith moved to authorize the City Manager to accept a sidewalk easement and quitclaim deed from 51 Islington Street LLC, as presented. Seconded by Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburugh.

Councilor Coviello stated he will abstain from this vote.

Councilor Dwyer asked for clarification on this item. City Attorney Sullivan explained that this is regarding an easement to allow pedestrian access along Islington Street and the fee transfer allows Parker Street to be widened for improved traffic flow as part of a Site Plan approved by the Planning Board 09/17/09 for construction of a building at 51 Islington Street which includes sidewalk and street improvements.

Motion passed 8-0. Councilor Coviello abstained.

3. Request for approval of Bay Ring License Agreement

Councilor Smith moved to approve the request from Bay Ring for a License Agreement as recommended by the Public Works Department. Seconded by Councilor Coviello.

Councilor Smith clarified that any expense to move lines would be born by Bay Ring.

Motion voted.

<u>Informational Items</u>

1. Events Listing

Mayor Ferrini reminded everyone of the Charity Soft Ball event for Firefighter Samantha Fox being held Sunday, August 22, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

B. MAYOR FERRINI

- 1. Letter from Gerald Howe, Chair, Police Commission Re: Steering Committee
- 2. Proposed response to Police Commission on their Letter

Mayor Ferrini discussed items 1 and 2 stating that he has drafted a response to the Letter from Police Commission Chair Gerald Howe regarding the membership of the Steering Committee. He explained that he had asked that Councilor Spear also be appointed along with Councilor Dwyer, which the letter declines. The Mayor stated he has drafted a response, which is Item 2, which he is looking for Councilor approval before sending.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh moved to approve the letter, seconded by Councilor Kennedy.

Councilor Smith stated he will not be supporting the response because he feels that the Police Commission has the authority to fashion their own sub-committees as they are also an elected body. He stated the Council can go to the meetings as well. He stated he means no disrespect to Councilor Spear and asked City Attorney Sullivan for clarification if the Police Commission can determine their membership on sub-committees. City Attorney Sullivan stated this is a political issue and not a legal issue and feels the Commission needs to consider its relation with the City and the City Council.

Councilor Coviello stated he agrees with Councilor Smith, but does think that more Council involvement is needed.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh stated she respects the responsibilities of the Mayor which includes appointing people to boards and committees.

Councilor Dwyer stated she will abstain.

Mayor Ferrini passed the gavel to Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh.

Mayor Ferrini stated he wrote this letter which states his position on this matter and hopes that the dialogue will continue.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh returned the gavel to Mayor Ferrini.

Motion passed on a 7-1 vote. Councilor Smith voted opposed and Councilor Dwyer abstained.

3. Establish Host Committee for USS Virginia

Mayor Ferrini stated that Councilor Lister will Chair this Committee and Harold Whitehouse has volunteered to serve as well.

Councilor Lister stated that this is something that the City does for visiting ships and requires many people to be involved.

C. ASSISTANT MAYOR NOVELLINE CLAYBURGH

1. *City Manager Evaluation

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh read the press release regarding the City Manager evaluation which praised his leadership and commitment to the City of Portsmouth.

D. COUNCILOR DWYER

1. Joint Building Committee Report

Councilor Dwyer passed out the report from August 2nd stating that she can update some information as there has been another meeting since then. She stated that the website is now linked to CityofPortsmouth.com and that there is a lot of information provided. She then reviewed the report.

Councilor Spear stated that the design development will be presented to the Council soon with some firmer numbers.

Councilor Lister asked if the track at the High School will have any resurfacing or be repainted at least. Councilor Dwyer stated the only thing done at the track is adding more electric conduits and some cosmetic work.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh asked if there are any cost estimates on how much it will cost to run the air conditioning at the Middle School every day. Councilor Spear stated the estimate from the Engineering Consultant, assuming it will be scaled down in the summer will

be \$10,000.00 annually. Councilor Dwyer stated they have stayed on top of that issue since the experience at the High School.

Councilor Coviello asked if there would still be a green roof. Councilor Dwyer stated yes, but there has been a slight adjustment.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh asked when we will discuss the 2nd gymnasium. Councilor Dwyer stated in November when they are ready to start getting construction bids. Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh asked hasn't the Council already voted to put the piers in the ground. Councilor Dwyer stated yes.

Councilor Coviello asked about using trailers for classrooms.

Councilor Dwyer stated for Phase II they will use 4 trailers for 4 months.

Mayor Ferini asked about the playground behind the library in memory of Connie Bean and what are they planning to do with that. Councilor Dwyer stated there are no plans as it is not on school property. Mayor Ferrini stated he wants that acknowledged at some point.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Coviello moved to suspend the rules to discuss the WWI grave markers.

City Manager Bohenko stated that the Veterans Council will be holding a meeting on 08/25/2010 and will be discussing this issue and the Council representatives will be attending.

Councilor Coviello stated he will withdraw his motion.

Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh stated she attended the Judy Collins concert held recently at Prescott Park stating the estimated attendance was between 8,000 to 10,000 people. She stated it was a great event and made her proud to be from Portsmouth.

Councilor Kennedy thanked all of the Neighborhood Associations for their participation in National Night Out stating that these people make a difference and make Portsmouth a great place to live.

XIIII. ADJOURNMENT [AT 10:00PM OR EARLIER]

At 9:40 p.m., Assistant Mayor Novelline Clayburgh moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Coviello and voted.

Valerie A. French Deputy City Clerk I