

TO: JOHN P. BOHENKO, CITY MANAGER

FROM: KELLI L. BARNABY, CITY CLERK

RE: ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE PORTSMOUTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 15, 2011, EILEEN DONDERO FOLEY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, ONE JUNKINS AVENUE, PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

PRESENT: MAYOR FERRINI, COUNCILORS LISTER, HEJTMANEK, DWYER, COVIELLO, KENNEDY AND SMITH

ABSENT: ASSISTANT MAYOR NOVELLINE CLAYBURGH AND COUNCILOR SPEAR

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1. Presentation - Flag flown by the USS New Hampshire over the North Pole – Stephanie Secord and Doug Bates presented Mayor Ferrini with a Flag flown by the USS New Hampshire over the North Pole. Mayor Ferrini accepted the Flag with thanks and appreciation.
2. Acceptance of Minutes – August 1, 2011 – Voted to approve and accept the minutes of the August 1, 2011 City Council meeting.
3. Public Comment Session – There were five speakers: Jim Noucas/John Tabor (Portsmouth Listens – Sarah Farmer Peace Award); Mark Brighton, Bill St. Laurent (Discover Center Waiver & Other Fees); Jeffrey Purtell (Health Care Premium Savings); and James Boyle (Government Spending/Mismanagement).
4. Public Hearing – Proposed Charter Amendment Relative to Prohibiting Municipal Employment of Certain Elected Officials – Held a public hearing. Voted to authorize the City Clerk to place the Referendum Question, as presented, on the November 8, 2011 Municipal Ballot incorporating the following new provision in the Municipal Charter.
  - *No member of the City Council, School Board, Fire Commission or Police Commission shall apply for or become an employee of the City until the expiration of the term for which that person was elected to office.*
5. Voted to suspend the rules in order to take up Item X. A.3. – Naming of Granite Street Softball Field.
6. Naming of Granite Street Softball Field – Voted to name the new softball field the Alumni-Wentworth Field.
7. Letter from Mark Brighton, President of The Association of Portsmouth Taxpayers, regarding health care for employees/unions in the City of Portsmouth (Attached is response from City Manager to Mr. Brighton regarding this matter) – Voted to accept the letter and place it on file.

8. Letter from Marsie Silvestro, A Safe Place, requesting permission to hold a candle light vigil on Thursday, October 6, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Vaughan Mall – Voted to refer to the City Manager with power.
9. Letter from Gene Fisk, Gene Fisk & Associates, LLC, requesting the City consider selling a small parcel of land 175/177 Myrtle Avenue between Van Aken's and the bypass – Voted to refer to the Planning Board for report back.
10. Letter from Maryellen Burke, Portsmouth Historical Society, requesting a Waiver of Permit Fees for the Discover Portsmouth Center – Voted to waive the permit fees associated with the Discover Portsmouth Center rehabilitation project as requested in the letter dated August 8, 2011. Councilor Smith abstained from voting.
11. Redistricting Report – Voted that City Clerk Barnaby be authorized to submit the adjusted ward lines on behalf of the City Council to the Legislature requesting a session law change to act upon the reflected new boundaries in January 2012.
12. Acceptance of Sidewalk Easement Re: 125 Brewery Lane – Voted to authorize the City Manager to accept the sidewalk easement at 125 Brewery Lane from Saco Ave Professional Building Inc.
13. Proposed Purchase of Conservation Land Re: Island in Sagamore Creek – Voted to refer this matter to the Planning Board for report back.
14. Request for a License from Joanne Wiren, owner of Art with a Splash for property located at 82 Fleet Street to install a projecting sign – City Manager Bohenko announced that Ms. Wiren has withdrawn her request to bring back at a future date.
15. Polling Hours for November 8, 2011 Municipal Election – Voted to set the polling hours from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2011.
16. Acceptance of Drainage Easements – Voted to authorize the City Manager to accept two drainage easements from Linda Harding over Lots 1 and 2 at 1808 Islington Street.
17. Retirement Rates – The City Council agreed to place this matter on the City Council September 6<sup>th</sup> agenda for action.
18. Request to Expend \$860.00 in Funds from the Conservation Fund to conduct a Natural Resource Assessment of the Sanderson Property off Spinney Road (Tax Map Parcel 167/5) – Voted to accept the Conservation Commission's recommendation to expend \$860.00 from the Conservation Fund to conduct a natural resource assessment of the Sanderson property.
19. City Manager's Informational Item 2 – Municipal Election Filing Period – City Clerk Barnaby announced that the Filing Period for the Municipal Election will begin on Monday, August 29, 2011 and ends on Monday, September 12, 2011. (No action required).

20. Appointments to be Considered - The City Council considered the appointment of Chris Hubbard to the Peirce Island Committee and Dana Levenson to the Board of Trustees of Trust Fund and will vote on the appointments at the September 6, 2011 City Council meeting.

21. Resignations – Voted to accept with regret the resignations of Donald Coker from the Planning Board and John Connors from the Traffic & Safety Committee.

Councilor Smith requested that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to both Mr. Coker and Mr. Connors for their years of service to the City.

22. USS Virginia Report – Councilor Lister reported on the many activities that have been held for the USS Virginia and expressed thanks to all those that have volunteered their time and services. (No action required).

23. Miscellaneous/Unfinished Business:

- Comcast Internet Essentials – Councilor Dwyer reported that Comcast is offering The Internet Essentials program for the 2011 “back to school” season where eligible families could purchase a pre-configured computer for \$149.99 (plus applicable taxes). She requested that this information be supplied to the Welfare Department as part of the back to school supplies drive in conjunction with the School Department.
- Review of Little Harbour School Pick-up and Drop-off Areas – Councilor Kennedy requested a letter be sent from Mayor Ferrini to Dr. Mitchell Shuldman, Chair of the School Board with a copy to Superintendent McDonough requesting a report back at the next City Council meeting regarding the above subject matter along with addressing the issue of idling vehicles that sit outside of homes at Little Harbour School when picking up or dropping off their children.

24. Adjournment – At 8:30 p.m., voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kelli L. Barnaby, CMC/CNHMC  
City Clerk