



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Planning Department Conference Room
City Hall Complex, 1 Junkins Avenue
Portsmouth, NH 03801**

- 1. Welcome and Call to Order at 10:15 am (lateness due to technical issues)**
- 2. Roll Call:** Councilor John Tabor, Councilor Vincent Lombardi and Councilor Kate Cook present. Also present was the Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney Suzanne M. Woodland and City Attorney Susan Morrell.

3. Committees/Ordinances to Review

a. Public Art Policy, Public Art Ordinance and Public Art Review Committee

Councilor Cook displayed the current drafts and the committee discussed changes in wording to the Public Art Referral and Acquisition Policy. Councilor Lombardi agreed with the changes and brought up the idea of additional changes to the policy regarding the City's right to relocate or not display pieces of art.

Councilors discussed the draft language change in Article XVII, Section 1.17014 relative to exemptions. Brief discussion of potential for art on Peirce Island and the Piscataqua River as a gateway.

Councilors discussed language changes that would encourage/make clearer that the public may donate money to commission public works of art.

Deputy City Manager Woodland reviewed the various changes to the draft ordinance to establish the Public Art Review Committee followed by discussion.

Motion by Councilor Tabor and seconded by Councilor Lombardi to suspend the rules and bring forward public comment to receive any public comment on public art. All in favor.

Petra Huda 280 South Street (commented on policies and exemption and public art on Peirce Island and other suggestions and comment)

Public Comment closed.

Discussion of donations relative to art and other.

Motion by Councilor Lombardi and seconded by Councilor Tabor to bring forward the revisions to the public art polices, public art ordinance and ordinance to establish the Public Art Review Committee to the City Council. All in favor.

b. Cable Television and Communications Commission – Proposed Changes

Deputy City Manager on behalf of the Cable Television and Communications Commission indicated that the Cable Television and Communications Commission was looking for any input the Governance Committee wanted to provide. Consensus of the Governance Committee is that it supports the changes to the mission of the Cable Television and Communications Commission, no motion necessary, Deputy City Manager to convey that to the Cable Television and Communication Commission.

c. Committee Appointments Rotation Policy

Councilor Cook shared thoughts on how to improve the committee appointments rotation schedule for those committees where there is no or inadequate stagger. Review of very preliminary draft new language under Chapter 1, Article III, Section 1.302 relative to giving Mayor flexibility on terms of appointments where allowed by law to improve stagger. No impact to any sitting members. Just flexibility for future appointments.

City Attorney Morrell indicated further evaluation needed by Legal Department to review state law and consistency/inconstancy with other parts of the Portsmouth Ordinances.

Councilor Lombardi raised the issue about board and committee alternates, and those alternates having an opportunity to apply for openings.

4. Other Business

a. Auditor Rotation Policy

Discussion of draft Auditor Rotation Policy as presented and shared by Councilor Cook. Councilor Cook described the resources she consulted in drafting the Auditor Rotation Policy. There was question and answer on some of the terms in the draft auditor rotation policy.

Discussion of challenges due to limited number of audit firms serving municipalities in the State of NH. Melanson serves many of the municipalities in NH. Melanson, City's current auditor, has a rotation policy which it has implemented over the years. Councilor Cook shared that in her research there was an emphasis on rotation rather than changing firms as there are risks, errors and issues often particularly during the first year with a new auditor. Additional question and answer with the Deputy City Manager on the topic of audit.

Motion to approve prior meeting minutes by Councilor Lombardi and seconded by Tabor. All in favor.

5. Public Comment

Sue Polidura (comments on auditor rfp process and getting input from audit committee on audit rotation policy draft); Petra Huda (comment on auditing and audit rotation policy draft); Sue Sterry (audit rotation policy)

Brief additional discussion among Councilors and the Deputy City Manager regarding draft audit rotation policy.

Motion by Councilor Lombardi, seconded by Tabor to move the draft auditor rotation policy forward to the City Council. All in favor.

6. Adjournment

Councilor Lombardi moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Tabor. All in favor, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Meeting Minutes prepared by
Suzanne M. Woodland
Deputy City Manager / Deputy City Attorney

Approved by Governance Committee on: December 12, 2022