

CITY COUNCIL E-MAILS

Received: August 18, 2022 (after 9:00 a.m.) – August 22, 2022 (before 5:00 p.m.)

August 22, 2022 Council Meeting

ADDENDUM

New content:

Submitted on Fri, 08/19/2022 - 16:26

Full Name

Peter Somssich

Email

peter.somssich@gmail.com

Subject

Two-Way Traffic Study for State Street

Address

34 Swett Ave.

Message

Dear Councilors,

Thank you for your initiative to undertake a study regarding the possible change of the traffic on State Street to a 2-Way Street instead of the one direction currently. Obviously, it is not clear if this is doable and whether the changes would be welcome to most residents of Portsmouth, however, it should be looked at. The possibility of diverting through-traffic out of Market Square could have many beneficial impacts on our city including consideration of areas that could be designated as pedestrian zones only. It could also result in a more pedestrian friendly area around the redeveloped McIntyre project. Best Regards, Peter Somssich [REDACTED]

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 08/22/2022 - 13:19

Full Name

Jim Splaine

Email

jimsplaineportsmouth@gmail.com

Subject

Reorganization of Audit Committee

Address

201 Oriental Gardens

Message

I want to join those City Councilors and citizens who support the reorganization of the Audit Committee. I watched discussion of the Governance Committee on this topic, and I am especially impressed by the thoughts on the reorganization offered by City Councilors Kate Cook and John Tabor.

I much appreciate and have always encouraged the activism and involvement of our citizens in City Government. There is tremendous talent among Portsmouth's residents, and we should always find ways to utilize their skills.

In 1987 I wrote what I termed "The Year-Round Budget Approach," with 50 ideas for improved budgeting, based on best practices of other communities, and businesses. The concept of "Continuous Improvement," used throughout the years at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and by thousands of businesses, was key to those ideas. I came to know about the Shipyard administration's advocacy of that process when I was on the board of, and became President, of the Seacoast Shipyard Association.

A broad audit committee among residents of a community makes sense, and I suggested that as one of the ideas.

However, and this is an important aspect of the concept -- the audit committee of residents should not be a part of the logistical duties of government. It was with that guiding principle that I opposed the Audit Committee as currently constituted last Fall when I was on the City Council.

Fact is, any citizen or group of residents can become an audit committee, without being "appointed" by the Mayor and City Council or anyone else. And because Portsmouth's City Government and management is very transparent in budgeting and finance, any citizen or group of residents can identify and find any information needed for oversight of budgeting and financing, or in the specific duties of the Audit Committee, to recommend a professional auditing firm and follow its work in the process.

City Councilors are elected to do the job of audit oversight, and have done well in past years with the assistance and advice of the City Manager and the Finance Department. The creation of the Audit Committee as currently written in ordinance only contributes clutter to the logistics of the processes and procedures that City Councilors yourselves should function.

I think the suggestion of having three City Councilors provide the functions of an Audit Committee, working with city management and administration, makes sense and keeps the process open, honest, non-political, and "agenda-free." It can get the job done. And that job IS a job for elected City Council members, who are responsible to all of us.

I have viewed meetings of the Audit Committee, and my comments here are no reflection on the work of the talented residents who have been currently serving on the Audit Committee. They should be thanked for their commitment and time. And they should be invited to continue their involvement and interest, along with any other citizen or group wishing to be involved. They can participate and speak up at meetings regarding fiscal and auditing matters, and when they feel the need to offer suggestions -- or criticisms -- they should stand up. I'm sure city management and the Council will listen.

I know you are busy today so there is no need to respond to my comment.

Thank you for all you do, and the tremendous time you have spent to improve our community in so many ways.

Jim Splaine

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes

Submitted on Mon, 08/22/2022 - 15:33

Full Name

Jon Dickinson

Email

jon3425@gmail.com

Subject

Sagamore Sewer Funding

Address

220 Walker Bungalow Rd

Message

Dear Councilors,

I am writing in respect to the progress of the Sagamore Sewer extension.

We are on holding tank since February of 2020. Every 5 weeks the tank must be pumped at a cost of roughly \$400.

The reality is we should have been on Sewer when we moved into the newly-built house. Unfortunately, the former city council ignored the EPA mandate and delayed the project for no good reason. They made matters worse when they decided a small group would bear the financial burden of the sewer extension, getting the citizens upset and dragging out the inevitable.

On top of the prior council's mistakes, construction didn't start until late May, when it could and should have started in early April. More delays and more expenses born by us.

Please provide the funding to complete the project as quickly as possible. In kind, I would ask for a commitment from Severeno that they do whatever necessary to ensure those of us on holding tanks will be connected to the sewer this year.

If we are unable to connect this year then the fees for pumping the holding tank should be taken care of by the city until we are connected.

The people from Severeno seem to be doing a good job and are very polite with the people in the neighborhood.

Please indicate if you would like your comment to be part of the public record for the upcoming City Council meeting. Yes
